

# CONVERSATION

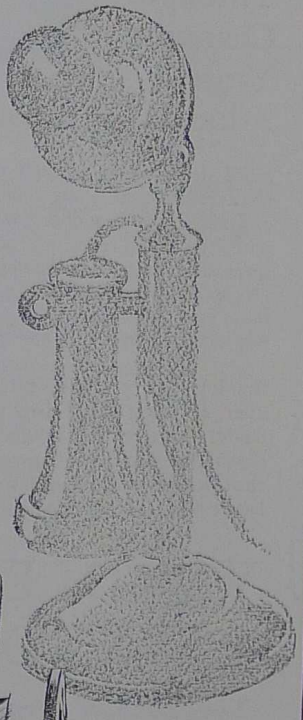
*"Language may be considered the chief distinctive mark of humanity."* —ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA

**HENRY DAVID THOREAU** is reported to have said that he would rather walk fifteen miles than write a letter: suggesting that in the letter lurked a thousand possibilities of being misunderstood, or understood too well!

Think of the hours spent and the reams of paper used to explain the simplest proposition. Except from a trained hand, one cannot always see on the paper the smile, the

good-fellowship, the brotherly intention... the telephone, however, transmits the chuckle, the tone of displeasure, the forgiving voice, the firm intent. At once the reaction on the part of the listener at the other end of the wire can be detected, and the sails of conversation be trimmed, as necessary, to meet an unfavourable, or propitious reply.

The telephone stands today at the head of humanizing agencies.



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already thoroughly conversant with the styles shown by the sports and outfitters (or haberdashers as Canadians call them); and thoroughly familiar with the fashions worn by men who are considered the best-dressed among his acquaintances. He, therefore, proceeds to dress himself and his ideal in conformity with what he knows is acceptable. He finds that what is considered by another man's position as that may be, in his opinion, is at least to realize that it is poison when one sees it. He discards much as being unbecoming to making him appear as he wishes to appear—his complexion is not to wear a red tie or too many stripes—a green one—his figure is not a check suit or too thin—his stripes—his stature is short or port or heightened if tall—his waist—his double-breasted waistcoat—his turned-down collar—his neck—his rather thick neck—his neck makes his thin neck grow. But patience—Exercise—can—and with perseverance he finds that distracting jumble of quantity—himself!  
—the well-dressed man! What he tells his friends in his opinion (that is, if he is a gentleman) he gloats over his secret. He speaks for him and invites him to go treasure-hunting. He is an example and—just a little proud of this (which gives him a dignity) he quite revels in it. He is now clothes-conscious. From fearing rivalry, he has turned to competition.