

A Word

Proven Wrong

IN recent years, I've been much moved,
Observing what's been done to *proved* –
 A little word, of simple meaning,
Whose fate has been so overweening.

It's banished by the broadcast media,
Whose ignorance grows ever seedier.
 Proved takes half as long to say –
 Saves a syllable on the way –
But stands accused, it seems quite clear,
 As less upmarket; gets a sneer:
Usurped while *proven*, twice as long,
Not needed, always comes out wrong.
