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Amendment to the Constitution Pro-

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—Representative William A. Stone, of Pennsylvania, introduced a joint resolution to-day proposing an amendment to the constitution, declarDemocratic Watchman.

Bellefonte, Pa., Jan. 28, 1898.

Althabet Oddities.

Origin of Many of the Letters we Use in Printing Resemblance of the Letter M to an Owl. Orthograph of Coffee Years Ago-Eccentric Devices Made by Peculiar Arrangements of Letters.

To invent and bring to perfection the score or so of spoken sounds which we call an alphabet have proved to be the most arduous enterprise on which the human intellect has ever been engaged. Its achievement tasked the genius of the three most gifted races of the ancient world. It was begun by the Egyptians, continued by the Semites and finally perfected by

the Greeks. Writing began with ideograms (pictures representing either things or thoughts), which afterward developed into phonograms (the graphic symbols of sounds). Although our own writing has reached the alphabetic stage, yet we still employ a number of photographic and ideographic signs. The digits I, II, III stood as pictures of fingers. The V was from the fingers. gers collected and the thumb apart; VV ouX represents the two hands, while IV and VI are only pictures of the hand, with the subtraction or addition of a finger. Ideograms 6,000 years old, and which we are showing no possibility of improving on, are such printers' signs as the index,

exclamation and parallel. If the history of any one of our alphabetic symbols be traced back, it will be found to resolve itself ultimately into the conventionalized picture of some object. The letter M, for instance, was the picture of an owl, the conventionalizing process of 6,000 years having left only the two peaks, which are the lineal descendants of the two ears of the owl, still retaining between them a not inapt representation of the beak, while the vertical

strokes are all that remain of the outlines of the breast. The letter F is derived from the horned Egyptian asp, the two bars being the survival of the two horns, while the vertical

stroke represents the body. The letter Y descended from the same picture, the two horns and body being retained. Then, too, in those days there was a four horned asp, which has come down to us in the letter W, the four strokes necessary to its making representing the four horns, although 6,000 years seem to have been a few too many for the body, yet that of a Kansas grasshopper may be found supplemented by the people 6,000

years from now. The letter A was originally the picture of an eagle, Egypt being the eagle's real home land, and R was taken from a picture of the human mouth. D was evolved from a picture of the hand, and so on through the pictorial origin of all our let-

The immediate parentage of our English alphabet is most difficult to deter mine. By a series of easy steps the forms of the very letters the reader sees before him on this printed page may be traced back for some 25 centuries. These "Roman types," as they are appropriately called, have not varied appreciably in their forms from the types used at Rome and Venice by the Italian printers of the fif-

teenth century. The puzzle of all English literature is giving 26 letters an arrangement by which they will present some new impression to the mind. The more brilliant that arrangement the more successful the writer. The writers of the English dictionary alone have been able to fit more than 40,000 words constructed from these letters out much effort. The language is said to contain 100,000. The confusion of English sounds and letters is well illustrated by spelling coffee without one correct letter-kauphy, which spelling is nearer the original than the one in use, for a pamphlet was printed in Oxford in 1659 on "The Nature of the Drink Kauphy, or Coffee.

Many eccentric devices of literature depend upon the peculiar arrangement of letters. Some of these have fine sounding names and are recognized as famous recreations of the learned. The palindrome, which is a line that reads backward and forward, is one of the most difficult of all feats of letter juggling and has engaged the attention of the world's cleverest brains.

The anagram has occupied a most pre tentious place in literature. Wits and wiseacres of the olden times looked into the names and places for satires and for omens. Several astronomers have used anagrams to secure the credit of discoveries which they did not wish to reveal. Louis XIII retained in his service an anagrammatist named Thomas Bullon, with a pension of 1,200 livres. It was deemed a prophecy of fate when it was found that the name of Louis de Boucherat could be transposed to "est la couche du roi" (is the mouthpiece of the king); that of Francis de Veloys to "de facon suis royal" (of royal strain). The fascinating Marie Touchet procured a liberal pension for the writer who deduced from her name "Je charme tout" (I charm all).—Detroit Free

International Cigar Store.

At Nogales, A. T., there is a famous cigar store and drinking resort, patronized openly and above board by even the fed-eral authorities, that is built exactly plumb with the international boundary line. It boasts a little bay window abutment on the southern wall that pays taxes to the Mexican republic. In the bay window is a choice selection of Mexican eigars that are smoked chiefly in the United States without ever paying a cent of import duty. John T. Brickwood is the proprietor of this place. Mr. Brickwood claims to be the youngest living man who came to Arizona voluntarily and permanently remained there. You enter his house from the United States, pass over into Mexico, buy a cigar or a bunch of them at Mexican prices and then go back into Uncle Sam's domain and smoke them.—Chicago Times-Herald.

A Case In Point.

Hargreaves-After all, I believe there is something to the superstition about walking under a ladder being a hoodoo. I started out to borrow \$5 this morning and met Ferry-

-And he refused you, and then Wallaceyou found you had walked under a ladder without noticing it? "No, but Ferry walked under the ladder and let me have the \$5."-Cincinnati

Enquirer. Usually.

"My wife and I have our little quarrels once in awhile," said the man who lives, with others, in the Pasteboard flats, "but they are all over in a few minutes."
"I presume you mean all over the ing that no State shall grant the right of house?" said the other man, who had had suffrage to any person not a citizen of the some experience in flat life. - Indianapolis

The Retired Burglar.

low He Once Stepped Through a Ceilng and What

"Once," said the retired burglar, "1 stepped through the ceiling of a room from a room above, where there was no floor laid. Seems as though I ought to had sense enough to kept out of that room, but I didn't. It was the upper room in a two story extension that had never been finished. They'd laid boards down on the floor beams in one part of it and stored some stuff there, and I was foolish enough to go over and see what it was. Coming back I stepped off a beam, and then before I knew it my other foot slipped and both feet went down good and solid plumb through the ceiling and left me setting there astride of the beam.

"Well, this place was over the kitchen, and I had great hopes on that account, but I'd made a lot of noise, laths breaking and plaster dropping, and when I come to move I made more. But that wasn't the worst of it; when I tried to pull my legs up, they wouldn't come; the ends of the laths stuck into them like the barbs of a fishbook. If I'd have had both legs together on one side, I could have crowded on down through easy enough. I guess I'd have gone through of my own weight, but as it was I'd got to get one leg up, anyway. I reached down and tried to hold the laths down on one side enough to let me pull my leg through. I thought if I couldn't do that I could manage to whittle the laths off with my jackknife, but pushing the laths away I knocked down a lot more plaster, and the next minute I heard a door open from the main part of the house, and an old man with a white beard came in with a lighted lamp. couldn't see him then, but I heard his voice, and a minute later I saw him when he stood under me, and looked up through a small hole that I'd made in pushing and

hauling, alongside of one of my legs. "'Well, you have got yourself in a fix, haven't you?' says the old man, cool as a

"And I allowed that things did seem to be a little bit complicated.' " 'And I guess we'll have to let you stay there, right where you are, till morning,' says the old man. 'How are you;

pretty comfortable?'

"And I said I was comfortable enough as far as that was concerned. "" 'Well ——, 's ays the old man, starting off and coming back presently with a closeline, 'I reckon we'll sort of tie your legs here, so you won't fall, and then I'll go back to bed. But you won't have to

wait long. I'm an early riser.' "And with that he picked up the light and left me there sitting on the beam with my head and body in the room above and my feet tied together below and hoping that he would sleep sounder in the last half of the night than he had in the first, because then there might be a pretty fair chance of my getting away, after all. But the old man hadn't more'n closed the door after him before it opened again, and the light came in again, carried this time by a young man, the old man's son. He'd come to stay, and I reckon you can guess the rest, can't you?"—New York Sun.

A Village Temperance Society.

We have a very flourishing so called 'temperance society" in the village, and the result is seen in the increased comfort of the cottagers. I used sometimes to show my interest in the cause by taking the chair at a meeting now and then, but I have given it up since ladies have begun to appear on platforms, for ladies recognize no rules of the game. In the middle of a passionate address they think it not indecent to appeal to the chairman to set a good example by taking the pleage. At the last meeting I attended a lady speaker, the wife of a clergyman, told how her husband used always before his evening service to ear an egg beaten up with brandy, which made him bilious; but since he had left off this drunken habit he had also left off his bilious attacks. This was more than old B. could stand, for he roared out: 'Twere the egg, marm, what made he

bilious. You tell your mister to take the brandy wi'out un." One of the villagers at this meeting made a mysterious speech, in which he gave as his reason for taking the pledge that there was only in a pint of beer as much goodness as would lie on a shilling. I have one story that I used to keep in lavender for these occasions. I had it of the doctor. When he was walking the hospitals, there was a brewer's drayman who had broken his leg, and in six weeks the bone had not set. So they questioned him about his diet. "Was he accustomed to drink beer?" "Yes, a little." "About how much?" "Oh, not more than three gallons a day." So they allowed him a couple of quarts, and the leg began to mend at once.—Cornhill Magazine.

The Late Dr. Burton.

In The Congregationalist Richard Bur ton tells this story of his father, the late Dr. N. J. Burton, pastor of the Park church, Hartford: "Among my father's effects was found an old check, yellowed by age and torn across, the date 1870 or thereabout. It had been sent by the editor of The Independent, with an urgent request for a contribution, the amount of the honorarium to be written in according to the contributor's judgment and pleasure-s rather dangerous liberty to allow some of the literati. But the check remained, never filled out, in his pocketbook. The incident is typical. It was fairly pathetic to see how distrustful he was of his own accomplishment, how self depreciating. Yet at rare intervals, in moments of sudden creative enjoyment, he realized he had done something not ordinary, and then in fitting privacy and with a beautiful frankness would say so. I remember, when he was lying on a sickbed in what was to be his mortal sickness, how unfeignedly he was pleased at the news of his appointment as preacher to the American board meeting of the next year. No man was more appreciative of such recognition. Yet more than likely he would have sent in a declination. Conceit and he lay asunder like pole from pole." Trouble at the Start.

"Henrietta," said Mr. Meekton, "there is one thing that I wish to say to you frankly. So far as the affairs of this family are concerned you are to have your own way in every particular." Then he stood back and waited for a

smile of joy to brighten her face. But there was a frown. "Of course," she answered. "That's just like a man. If anything goes wrong, you want to be sure of having somebody to blame for it."-Washington Star.

Practical.

Caughey-Who on earth is trying to play the piano, Carcline? Mrs. Caughey (proudly)—It is Arabella. She is learning to read music! Caughey (testily)-Well, ask her if it is

About Camphor.

How the Odoriferous Drug Is Obtained From the

Notwithstanding the comparatively narrow limits of its natural environment the camphor tree grows well in cultivation under widely different conditions. It has become abundantly naturalized in Madagascar. It flourishes at Buenos Ayres. It thrives in Egypt, in the Canary islands, in southeastern France and in the San Joaquin valley in California, where the summers are hot and dry. Large trees at least 200 years old are growing in the temple court at Tokyo, where they are subject to a winter of 70 or 80 nights of frost, with an occasional minimum temperature as low as 12 degrees to 16 degrees F. The conditions for really successful cultivation appear to be a minimum winter temperature not below 20 degrees F., 50 inches or more of rain during the warm growing season and abundance of plant food, rich in nitrogen. In the native for-ests in Formosa, Fukien and Japan cam-phor is distilled almost exclusively from

the wood of the trunks, roots and large branches. The work is performed by hand labor, and the methods employed seem rather crude. The camphor trees are felled, and the trunks, larger limbs and sometimes the roots are cut into chips, which are placed in a wooden tub about 40 inches high and 20 inches in diameter at the base, tapering toward the top like an old fashioned churn. The tub has a tight fitting cover, which may be removed to put in the chips. A bamboo tube extends from near the top of the tub into the condenser. This consists of two wooden tubs of different sizes, the larger one right side up kept about two-thirds full of water from a continuous stream which runs out of a hole in one side. The smaller one is inverted,

with its edges below the water, forming an airtight chamber. This air chamber is kept cool by the water falling on the top and running down over the sides. The upper part of the air chamber is sometimes filled with clean rice straw, on which the camphor crystallizes, while the oil drips down and collects on the surface of the water. In some cases the camphor and oil are allowed to collect together on the surface of the water and are afterward separated by filtration through rice straw or by pressure. About 12 hours are required for distilling a tubful by this method. Then the chips are removed and dried for use in the furnace and a new charge is put in. At the same time the camphor and oil are removed from the condenser. By this method 20 Department of Agriculture.

Ancient Barbers. The cult of the beard, according to the ancient Jewish writers, started in the garden of Eden. Adam, they tell us, was several miles in height, and was furnished with a prodigious beard which reached to his middle.

The ancient Jews, presumably on account of this believed Edenic origin, held the beard in such high esteem that they considered it a greater insult to seize a man by his beard than to tread on his corns. They cherished the hair on their faces as the callow youth of today does his adolescent mustache, trimmed it in various forms, perfumed it with odorous substances and cut it only as a sign of great affliction. So far did they carry their veneration for its dignity that laws were actually passed regarding the manner of its wearing. This was probably done, however, in order that the chosen people might not imitate the neighboring races that made hair offerings to their gods, nor their former masters, the Egyptians, who

were great patrons of barbers. The barber's lot was a happy one in the land of Egypt, where the people had such a high regard for the tonsorial art that the majority of the men shaved not only the face, but the entire head, and capped their bald pates with wigs, while the priests went even further and shaved the entire body every third day. With this constant scraping of chins going on the barber's trade was an important one in the home of the pharaohs, and its followers were kept busily running throughout the length and breadth of the land from early morning until sunset. They carried their tools in an open mouthed basket and their razors were shaped like a small hatchet with a curved handle.—Francis J

Ziegler in Lippincott's.

General Washington's Courtesy. The author is a granddaughter of the youngest daughter of General Nathanael Greene, and she tells the following story in the words of her grandmother concern ing a visit of the latter to Washington at Philadelphia:

"One incident which occurred during that visit was so comical in itself and so characteristic of Washington that I recall it for your entertainment. Early in a bright December morning a droll looking old country man called to see the president. In the midst of their interview breakfast was announced, and the president invited the visitor, as was his hospitable wont on such occasions, to a seat beside him at the table. The visitor drank his coffee from his saucer. But lest grief should come to the snowy damask he laboriously scraped the bottom of his cup on the saucer's edge before setting it down on the tablecloth. He did it with such audible vigor that it attracted my attention and that of several young people present, always on the alert for occasions of laughter. We were so indiscreet as to allow our amusement to become obvious. General Washington took in the situation, and immediately adopted his visitor's method of drinking his coffee, making the scrape even more pronounced than the one he reproduced. Our disposition to laugh was quenched at once.' Paddy Pottawatomy.

Edwin Forrest once produced a play called "Metan:ora." Supers were engaged to personate Indian warriors, and among them was a bright Irish lad who had a deep admiration for the great trage- 42-37-1y dian At a point in the play where Metamora

asks, "Am I not the great chief of the Pottawatomies?" the supers are supposed to grunt "Ugh, ugh!" The stage manager had carefully drilled them in what they were expected to do, but on the night of the performance the young Irishman was so transported by Forrest's acting as quite to forget that he was impersonating an Indian.

When Forrest turned to the assembled warriors and thundered forth, "Am I not the great chief of the Pottawatomies?' the Irish boy's enthusiasm broke through all restraint. He leaped into the air with a wild shout, and, twirling his tomahawk about his head, replied, "Begorra, ye are!" -London Standard.

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-Rev. John Hall, for thirty years pastor of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York, announced his resignation to the congregation on Sunday. He was born in Ireland 1829; came to America as delegate to the old Presbyterian Assembly 1867; was invited to preach at Fifth Avenue Church and was called as pastor and accepted. His salary as pastor was \$15,000.

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-Three different waiters at a hotel asked a prim, precise little professor at dinner if he would have soup. A little annoyed, he said to the last waiter who asked the question," "Is it compulsory?" "No, sir," said the waiter; "I think it's mock turtle."-Tit Bits

Medical.

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Few people pass through the winter months without a cold. Often without any known cause there will be headache, sore throat, cough and symptoms of fever and we realize we have "taken cold." The truth is, the body is insufficiently nourished. The blood is impoverished. Hood's to 40 pounds of chips are required for one pound of crude camphor.—United States it purifies and enriches the blood. It tones, invigorates and fortifies the whole system, enabling it to resist the effects of exposure to which a debilitated and run down system quickly yields.

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