

READS TWO WAYS.

Punctuate This Letter and Get Widely Different Meanings.

A letter, so constructed without punctuation that it can be read in a number of different ways, giving directly opposite meanings, was printed in an Indiana newspaper in 1855. The letter follows:

"He is an old experienced man in vice and wickedness he is never found opposing the works of iniquity he takes delight in the downfall of the neighborhood he never rejoices in the prosperity of any of his fellow creatures he is always ready to assist in destroying the peace of society he takes no pleasure in serving the Lord he is uncommonly diligent in sowing discord among his friends and acquaintances he takes no pride in laboring to promote the cause of Christianity he has not been negligent in endeavoring to stigmatize all public teachers he makes no exertions to subdue his evil passions he tries hard to build up Satan's kingdom he lends no aid to the support of the gospel among the heathen he contributes largely to the evil adversary he pays no attention to good advice he gives great heed to the devil he will never go to heaven he must go where he will receive his just recompense of reward."—Indianapolis News.

A LOFTY GYMNASIUM.

Fine Exercise in the Great Dome of the National Capitol.

It would not be suspected that the great dome of the capitol could be made a gymnasium, but it is used by not a few people in Washington, and especially by some of the employees of the capitol, for purposes of exercises and the like.

Its chief apparatus in that line is the many winding steps to the top of the lantern—287 feet in the air. You go round and round and round and climb and climb. That sort of thing makes for firm muscles and is said to be the best anti-fat cure to be had anywhere, and especially in Washington. You can lose ten pounds in one trip.

The thing is done at record speed, however. It is not a slow going up and a slow going down, although with other people this seems most ample labor, but doing the thing in five minutes and less. It is a rush up and a rush down.

People who climb the stairs for slight-seeing purposes are astonished to see the Mercuries rush in the ascent or the descent, but of course they do not know what it is all done for.—New York Sun.

Wanted a Haunted House. The following curious letter was recently received by a house renting agency in London:

"Have you a reputed haunted house on your books? I am not afraid of ghosts. I do not as a matter of course believe in their existence, and I am willing to live in a house for a long or short term by arrangement, of course rent free. Should there be no ghost, then, if you wish it, I shall be willing to testify on oath to the fact. But should I see an apparition I will keep the matter secret and only acquaint you with the circumstances. I will pledge myself not to pander to local gossip. I have a small income on which I can subsist. My sole object in thus applying to you is to be allowed to live in a place in which I do not need to pay any rent."

The inquirer was informed that the firm had no haunted houses on its list, but would inform him when it had.

Quaint Old English Ceremony.

On the last day of each October the city solicitor of London, with an assistant, attends upon the royal remembrancer, when by proclamation "the tenants and occupiers of a piece of waste ground called the moors, in the county of Salop," are commanded to "come forth and do your service upon pain and peril that shall fall thereon." The solicitor chops in halves two fagots, one with a latchet and the other with a bill hook. Afterward comes the summons to the tenants, etc., of "a certain tenement with a forge" in the Strand and the payment of six horse-shoes, with sixty-one shoe nails, by the solicitor. This forge has long ceased to be, and the same shoes and nails are used year after year, the shoes being at least two centuries old.

Salty Savored Speech. The natives of the coast town down east discuss every phase of life or death in terms of the sea.

A fisherman had recently laid his wife, Della, to rest in the village cemetery. He visited the spot a few days afterward with the undertaker, and found another newly made grave directly behind that of his wife. Regarding it curiously, he said to the undertaker:

"Wal, s'r, Si, who's that buried that astarn o' Dele?"—Youth's Companion.

Cause For His Tears. "It has been a long time since I have read any contemporaneous poetry that moved me to tears."

"Only the other day I read a poem that moved me to tears."

"How did it move you so?"

"I wept because I couldn't get at the author."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Mean Retort. He—These jellies you put up all taste alike to me, dear. She—But you can tell the difference by the labels. He—Oh, I never thought of tasting the labels, dear.—Yonkers Statesman.

PIDGIN ENGLISH.

Language Used In Shops and Homes In Chinese Ports.

In Shanghai in all shops one finds Chinese familiar with English, but often using much pidgin English. "Pidgin" is supposed to be derived from several changes on the word "business," which was first shortened to "busin," then through the form of "pishin" and finally became "pidgin." Pidgin English is the language used in trade and households in the ports of China, where the Chinese and foreigners deal with one another. It is similar in its origin to the mixture of languages known as Lingua-Franca in the Levant and in other parts of the Mediterranean. It is a direct translation of Chinese into English and strictly idiomatic. For instance, they say, "That book, pay my," instead of "Give me the book."

The Chinese tailors speak fluently in this odd English. An American lady went to a Chinese tailor in Shanghai to see him regarding putting feather interlining in a muff. The tailor seemed a trifle dazed as to what she wanted and said, "B'long allo same chicken fur?" He wanted to prove his intention of treating his customer right and told her, "My b'long allo same you, you b'long allo same my—b'long my velly good flend," and later, wishing to ask after one of the lady's daughters, remarked, "Miss A., have catchee master?" When this was said China had not come out for woman's suffrage.—Amy W. Hotchkiss in National Magazine.

ELIZABETH ISLAND.

Its Curious Little Colony of Zoological Total Abstinens.

Recent investigations on the little known and rarely visited Henderson or Elizabeth island have led to the discovery of a complete and curious little colony of zoological total abstinens.

The island, which is uninhabited, is situated about 120 miles northeast of Pitcairn island—itsself sufficiently out of the way, but famous as the home of the descendants of the mutineers of the Bounty.

There is no water on it, not even a swamp, and it is only six miles long, yet it harbors quite a menagerie—a kind of rat, a lizard, described as very abundant, and no fewer than four kinds of birds, all peculiar to the island. These are a fruit pigeon, a lorikeet or honey eating parakeet, a little rail or crane and a reed warbler.

The strange thing about the inmates of this curious little natural aviary of coral rock, surrounded by waves instead of wires, is that two of its inmates are birds, one especially associated with fresh water—the rail and the warbler. These, like the rest, must do without drinking unless the dew can slake their thirst or they have acquired toleration for sea water as a beverage.—Argonaut.

Flight of a Great Nebula.

One of the most striking spectacles revealed by telescopes is that of the great nebula in Orion. In the complexity of its glowing streams, spirals and strangely shaped masses, intercepted by yawning black gaps and sprinkled over with stars arranged in suggestive groups and lines, it has few rivals in the heavens. The impression of astonishment made by the sight of this nebula is heightened by knowledge of its enormous size. The entire solar system would appear as a tiny speck beside it. Yet this tremendous aggregation of nebulous clouds and starry swarms has been proved by the researches of the astronomers to be flying away from the earth and the sun at the rate of eleven miles in every second. But so vast is its distance that 100 years reveal no visual effects of the great nebula's swift retreat.

Not Really Lost.

Bertie's sister, who is five years older than Bertie, is trying to teach him to take care of his books. The other day she could not find "Robinson Crusoe" on the nursery bookshelf.

"Where is it?" she asked. "I haven't seen it for several days. What have you done with it?"

"I know where it is," said Bertie, trying to speak with assurance.

"Well, where?"

"Why, it's only lost a little," he faltered; "kinder in the barn, or round outdoors, some'eres; p'raps up garret, or behind the woodpile, I guess!"—Youth's Companion.

A Faulty Statue.

Perhaps the worst equestrian statue in the world is that erected in front of Trinity college, Dublin, to the memory of King William III. Among other faults one of the forelegs of the horse is straight, and the other curved considerably, yet both hoofs meet side by side on the pedestal.—London Spare Moments.

Such Is Life.

"Happiness is unattainable."

"How now?"

"It was always my dream to get rich and have a cast iron dog on the lawn. It took me forty years to get rich and now cast iron dogs are out of style."—Washington Herald.

Queer Job.

"Here's a man who has a queer job," said the cheerful idiot as he looked up from his paper.

"What does he do?" asked the boob.

"He is bookkeeper for a bookseller," replied the cheerful idiot.—San Francisco Chronicle.

The wise man is informed on what is right, the inferior man on what will pay.—Confucius.

Swindler Claims Bellefonte as Native Home.

WILMINGTON, DEL., Dec. 9.—Mystery surrounds the case of James N. Patterson, who was arrested in this city yesterday on a general charge of using the mails in attempts to defraud. Beyond the fact that he is known to have been in correspondence with the John A. Roebling Company, of Trenton, N. J., under an alleged connection with the Delaware Holding Corporation, with an alleged purpose to contract to a large extent, the Federal authorities here have no positive knowledge of any serious dereliction by the prisoner. Postoffice Inspector M. S. Plummer, who made the arrest, is in Philadelphia today conferring with the Federal authorities of that city about the case.

Patterson, who is confined at the county workhouse maintains a strict silence about his doings and especially about his personal and family connections. The statement that he is a son of a former member of the United States Senate is neither denied nor confirmed by him, and there is no evidence on hand to sustain the statement. He says he is a native of Bellefonte, Pa. One victim of a recent swindle in Philadelphia saw Patterson, but failed to identify him as the man who had wronged him.

The Delaware Holding Company, which Patterson claimed to represent, was not chartered in this State. There is a concern known as the Holding Corporation of Delaware, but its local representatives have no knowledge of Patterson.

Patterson will have a hearing next Monday before United States Commissioner Mahaffey, by which time the Federal officers hope to have definite information to support the general charge of using the mails to defraud, under which he was arrested.

Quick Pace.

"I suppose that your son is developing space."

"Yes, and a pace that is much too fast for one of his years."—Buffalo Express.

Business of a Jury.

Willie—Paw, what is a jury? Paw—A body of men organized to find out who has the best lawyer. my son.—Cincinnati Enquirer

Coral Tooth Powder.

The debris left from coral made into articles of jewelry, etc., is crushed, scented and sold as tooth powder at a high price by east Indian perfumers.

To be always fortunate and to pass through life with a soul that has never known sorrow is to be ignorant of one-half of nature.—Seneca.

Unhealthy Exercise.

Almost everybody rides the wheel to-day, and there is a certain ambition in most bicyclists to show a good record of "runs." Both men and women aspire to records of "centuries." It is always doubtful whether so protracted a run as a century run is not too great a strain upon the body. But even ordinary runs may be an injury rather than a benefit if the physical condition is weak. Exercise benefits only when the condition is healthy. When there is weakness, es-

Hood's Sarsaparilla.

My Blood

"Seemed thin, poor, without any sustaining strength. HOOD'S SARSAPARILLA gave me the appetite I needed, restored strength, gave me natural, healthful sleep." Mrs. C. K. Tyler, Burlington, Vt.

"MY BLOOD was in bad condition, I had cramps on my hands, the left one so bad I had it in a sling 3 months. I believe Hood's Sarsaparilla saved my hand, for when I had used 5 bottles it was all healed up and I felt better every way." Mrs. Alice Stockwell, Worcester, Mass.

"I tell any friends who are beset with dark-brown feelings that Hood's Sarsaparilla will set them up and make them full of life and health. I always feel like 21 after taking a course of this medicine." J. D. Gates, Chicago business man, 510 So. State St. It is HOOD'S that helps. 58-47

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