

A PLEASANT CONTROVERSY AND RETROSPECT.

By Levi A. Miller. A little foolishness now and then, is relished by the wisest of men.

"Do you remember this evening five years ago?" Mr. Rice said half meditatively to his wife, who sat gazing reflectively into the glowing, yet blazeless fire.

"Just what I was thinking about, and was in the very act of asking you the same question in the same identical words. Until you had almost finished the sentence, I was not certain it was not myself speaking. Wasn't that funny?"

"Rather," replied Mr. Rice, as he changed his position to accommodate Mrs. Rice, who had left the comfortable rocker in which she had been reclining to nestle down beside her husband, on an ottoman.

"Only rather!" retorted Mrs. Rice, half poutingly. "I think it was real funny. I don't mean funny to laugh at, but funny to—well, you know what I mean."

"Yes, Flo," I know what you mean by it, but 'funny' is not the word to express it," said Rice, tenderly.

"Oh, yes, now I know; it was a coincidence," exclaimed Flo, gleefully looking up into her husband's face for approval.

He seemed to be absorbed in deep thought, and did not appear to notice her until she placed her hand under his chin and turned his face toward her.

"Isn't that it, dear—a coincidence?" she repeated quizzically.

"I suppose so," he replied mechanically.

"You only suppose so," she exclaimed, in mock astonishment.

"Yes, dear, coincidence is a good word—better at least than funny; yet it does not express it clearly," he answered cheerfully.

"Then my dear, wise, critical Blair, what is the word that expresses it?" said Flo, with the air of one piqued.

"I don't know, my dear."

"Don't know! Why, I thought from the way you talked you knew some big word that would just fit it. I think I got it right and you don't want to admit it," she exclaimed, tauntingly, at the same time snuggling up closely to him.

"It isn't the word I am thinking about," observed Blair, arousing from the mild state of abstraction into which he had been since the conversation began, and, in fact, for some time before.

"Then what is it?" she asked beseechingly, as she drew his face toward her again.

"Just thinking about New Year's eve, five years ago. It marked a most important epoch in my life, and now, as I recall how narrowly I escaped wreck and ruin, I shudder. It was you who swung the danger signal across my path when I was on the very verge of the declivity bordering the desolate, dismal vale in which misspent lives are dragged out. Oh, no, you needn't turn your face away, because you did it with your winsome ways. Besides, it's not a thing to be ashamed of."

"Did I really save you from all?" interrupted Flo, her big, round eyes turned full into Blair's face.

"Did you? You know you did," replied Blair, patting her cheek affectionately.

"Yes, I believe I had something to do with it. And, do you know, I often wonder why I took so much interest in you. Father had you marked down among the utterly worthless young men, and my brothers were ashamed to be seen in your company. They said your family was good enough for anybody, but you, individually, were a black sheep. I knew that you were reckless, wild and dissipated, but somehow there was something about you that interested me, yet I never could tell what it was. Mother used to look so surprised when I would happen to refer to you in connection with anything decent and respectable."

"The dear old soul," murmured Blair. "She thought you didn't know what you were talking about."

"I didn't love you then. No indeed, I never thought of it; but somehow I couldn't help thinking what a great pity it was for a handsome, talented man like you to go to the bad. When I would tell mother so she would look so worried, and all I could say would not convince her that I hadn't more than a common interest in you. She often told me that you lacked some of the essential elements of manhood, and that you could never take yourself up and be a man."

"Did you think I could?"

"No, I did not. Like all the rest, I supposed you would keep ahead until your money was all gone, and then you would be kicked out of good society, and like thousands of others, go to the dogs. Yes, indeed, that is just what I thought."

"Then why did you still retain an interest in me?"

"I don't know, unless it was because I was a silly goose. That's what papa used to say."

"Goose isn't the right word, darling. Angel is better."

"It's all the same; they are a good deal alike in the guise of a woman. They both have wings, but there the semblance ceases. I don't care now which I was. This night, five years ago, you came to our house with a party of young gentlemen, and father set out the wine, as he always did on such occasions. He said that any one who couldn't resist temptation when set before him, hadn't will power sufficient to keep from seeking it. Something prompted me to put you to the test that evening, although I did not expect you to pay any attention to me."

"Then why did you do it?"

"I don't know, but when you handed me a glass of wine and proposed health, I let on that I did not hear you. But asked you to take a pledge with me. You gladly assented, but I thought you would back out when you heard it."

"But I did not, did I?"

"No, but I think you hesitated a little in repeating after me. Do you remember them now?"

"Do I?" Scarcely a day passes that I do not repeat them, and bless the inspired tongue that first gave them utterance. Remember them?"

"What are they?"

Lifting Flo to her feet, and drawing himself to his full height, Blair placed his left hand to his heart and extending his right as though holding a glass, began:

"Standing within the departing shadows of the old year, and looking upon the misty dawn of the new, I with you in a solemn pledge that I will taste no intoxicating liquor henceforth except that proffered by your fair hands, and this upon the honor of a gentleman."

"Then you started to put the glass to your lips and I took it from you and placed it upon the sideboard."

"Yes, and I said that this one does not count, but you insisted that the pledge was binding from the time it was uttered, and I graciously accepted your decision. Something told me that it was right, and, do you know, from that moment forth I saw myself in an entirely different light. Previous to that time I could not bear the least bantering from my associates, nor resist an invitation to drink; but after that I rather enjoyed being bantered, as it gave me an opportunity to show that I had some manhood left. The victory was not won, however, without a struggle, because the fiends had a good hold on me, but the thought of you was sufficient to drive them off, even when they came in force. Sublime admiration, then love. I don't know how, but it did."

"Say, Blair dear, you are squeezing me awfully hard," exclaimed Flo, between gasps for breath.

"Pardon me, angel Flo, but I could not help it."

"Oh, no, put your arms back again, but don't be quite so energetic. Let's not bother about the past, but look hopefully to the future."

Bang goes the bell—Happy New Year. Another coincidence.

It's a great pity that more don't follow in the footsteps of Blair and Flo.

WILLIAM PENN HOUSE IN PARK TO WELCOME ALL SESQUI TOURISTS.

Visitors to the Sesquicentennial International Exposition here next year will find the little house of bricks made in England, in which William Penn lived after his arrival in America on October 27, 1682, among the many objects of historical interest to be seen in a tour of the city. The quaint structure has been removed from its original site in Letitia Court and erected in west Fairmount Park where all visitors are welcomed.

Penn Treaty Park, in the waterfront section of Philadelphia, known as Kensington, where he bartered with the Indians for the immense territory they claimed as their own, also will attract Sesqui tourists, especially Pennsylvanians.

A model of the "Welcome" will be a Sesqui exhibit.

Contrary to general belief, Penn did not make his first landing at Philadelphia, the city he founded and where next year, the Sesquicentennial Exposition will be held to celebrate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, but went ashore at New Castle, where the town authorities surrendered their power to him as the new active head of the colony.

Later Penn proceeded to the town-site of Philadelphia where he established his residence in the cottage in Letitia Court, and a short time after in Pennsylvania Palace. Material for the two dwellings had been shipped from England with the first colonists to Pennsylvania.

Not all the colonists who left England with Penn on the "Welcome" reached their homes in the new world. Historians tell us "They were so unfortunate as to have smallpox break out among them a few days after leaving England in August, and more than one-third of the company of one hundred who filled the ship died from the plague."—Philadelphia Record.

Plan to Force Gypsies to Stop Wandering.

Moscow.—A bill providing permanent settlement for Gypsies and forbidding them to continue their wandering customs, is now under discussion by the council of commissars.

A report by the commissariat of agriculture shows Russia had before the revolution nearly 60,000 Gypsies. The annexation of Bessarabia by Rumania, it is estimated, reduced this number to 40,000.

Before the revolution, Gypsies had no land and could not live the life of a peasant working in agriculture. Considering that according to the labor code of the Soviet republic every citizen must participate in useful productive work, the commissariat of agriculture proposes to assign a special area of land in the southwestern districts of Russia for the settlement of Gypsies.

According to the project, all Gypsies in Russia must within three years from the date of publication of the decree, take up a special place of abode, either in the towns or in the villages; failing that, all Gypsies will be deported to the far outlying districts of the federation, where free land will be assigned to them.

Should they desire to avail themselves of the government's offer, they will be afforded similar privileges to those extended to emigrating peasantry. The government will bear all the cost of transportation and part of the initial expenses for homesteaders.

Japanese Thrive on Rice.

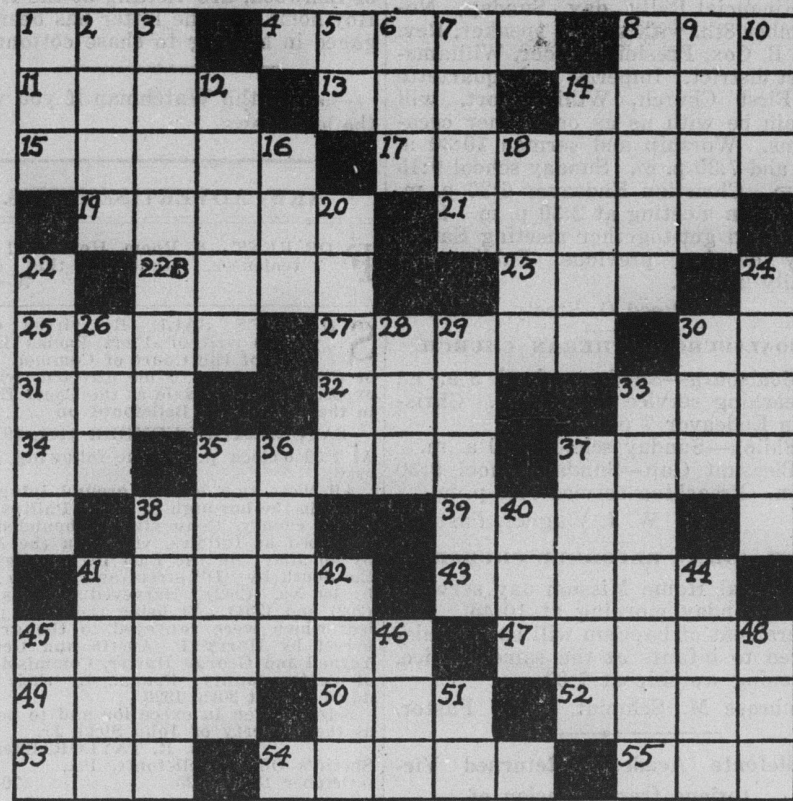
Any doubt as to what is the staple food-stuff of Japan is swept away by the report of the Transportation Bureau of the Railway Office which reveals that Japan consumes 403,485,000 bushels of rice annually. Of this amount approximately 60,000,000 bushels is imported.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

HOW TO SOLVE A CROSS-WORD PUZZLE

When the correct letters are placed in the white spaces this puzzle will spell words both vertically and horizontally. The first letter in each word is indicated by a number, which refers to the definition listed below the puzzle. Thus No. 1 under the column headed "horizontal" defines a word which will fill the white spaces up to the first black square to the right, and a number under "vertical" defines a word which will fill the white squares to the next black one below. No letters go in the black spaces. All words used are dictionary words, except proper names. Abbreviations, such as initials, technical terms and obsolete forms are indicated in the definitions.

CROSS-WORD PUZZLE No. 1.



(©, 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

Horizontal.

- 1—Droll person 4—Large raft 11—Makes a mistake 14—Small particle 15—To instruct 17—Beverage (pl.) 18—Negative ion 21—Openings in wall 22B—Roman senator's apparel 23—Small, electrified particle 25—Sharp name 30—Boy's name 31—Country of south Asia (poetic) 32—Ex-soldier 33—Long, narrow inlet 34—Addition to a letter 35—An appointment to meet 37—Uncanny 38—Nickname for Beatrice 39—Auditory organs 41—Lyrics 45—Elector 48—Murmur of a feline 50—To point 52—To allow of the use of 53—Answer (abbr.) 54—Officer of a church 55—To observe

Vertical.

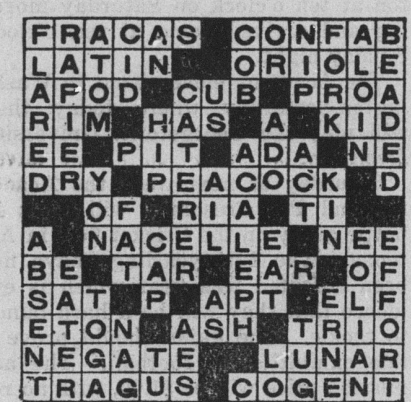
- 1—Damp 3—Allowed 6—Bird of fable 8—Severe 10—Printing measures 12—Hair 16—Swine 20—In England, a laborer on railroads, canals, etc. 22—Runs off 23—General drift of thought 24—Tatters 37—Potential energy (physical term) 38—Ill-bred persons 40—Atmosphere 41—To avoid 42—An impression made on wax 44—To partake of dinner 45—Certified public accountant (abbr.) 46—To free from 48—A short poem suitable to be set to music 51—Personal pronoun

Solution will appear in next issue.

FARM NOTES.

—Think of alfalfa. Then plant it. —The first step toward securing poor yields is buying cheap seed. —The best way to hit stumps is not with your plow but with dynamite. —Certified potato seed is the kind that best grows buy, plant, and depend upon. —It costs no more to feed a good cow than a poor one; the difference all comes in the returns. —Rape stimulates gains in pigs and saves feed, especially the purchased supplements, such as tankage. —It is much cheaper to buy a little water glass now to preserve eggs than to buy high-priced eggs next winter. —Rape is ready for pasturing when it has reached a height of eight or ten inches. From then on it furnishes abundant pasturage. It makes an especially valuable summer forage to succeed blue grass. —Iris may still be planted the latter part of October, but see that the roots are well spread out and the rhizome fairly well covered. Firm the soil around them but do not allow any manure to come in direct contact with the roots. —Plan to send your best birds to the State Standard Poultry Show at State College, November 5, 6, and 7. It will be good advertising with an opportunity to match your birds for some substantial prizes and beautiful loving cups. —Pennsylvania vegetable growers will have four big days of their own on the program of the second annual Horticulture Week at The Pennsylvania State College, November 17 to 20. Those who were not at the first one last year should come; those who were there will be back, too. —The second Horticulture Week will be held at The Pennsylvania State College, November 17 to 20. Last year a large number of the fruit and vegetable growers of the State profitably enjoyed the first event of this kind and enthusiastically asked for a repetition. You will enjoy it, too. —Remove grass from around the young fruit trees. It is now time for the mice to build their nests, and the grass about the trees provides an ideal place for them. Shield the trees from these pests by using galvanized screening, and veneer protectors, or ordinary newspapers. The last named protection should be removed in the spring but the wire may be left on all year. —The Thanksgiving turkeys should be well started on their own private feast by this time if they are to present the best appearance at the Thanksgiving table. Fed at night and in the morning, and just enough so that the birds will go away still slightly hungry. The quantity of feed should be increased gradually until they are getting all they can clean up three times a day during the week before marketing. —Where there is no storage cellar on the farm, vegetables may be pitted in the field or in a partitioned portion of the house cellar, say vegetable gardeners of The Pennsylvania State College. For small amounts of roots and cabbage a barrel laid on its side is satisfactory. This is covered with alternating layers of soil and straw or leaves, closed by the barrel head, and this "door" covered with a thick coat of leaves or straw. For larger amounts conical heaps of vegetables in the field are covered much the same way as with the barrel.

Solution to Crossword Puzzle No. 6.



—Leaf mold or other rich soil should now be placed in a box and stored in the cellar before the ground freezes. This will come in handy for repotting plants during the winter. —The prevailing question at the present time in the minds of many Centre county fruit growers is "Shall I plant young trees this fall or shall I wait until next spring?" This question has been answered Yes and No. Some species of trees are transplanted with the greatest degree of safety in the fall but this group includes the evergreens which function more constantly than do deciduous trees. Fruit trees are in the deciduous class, and they present a different problem. There are good points in both fall and spring planting but generally spring planting has a slight advantage over fall planting. Trees ordered for fall planting are usually less mature than trees lifted later in the season. The wood is not hardened in many instances, the lenticels have not corked over, and in many instances the nursery man has steamed or sweated the trees in order to remove foliage. The removal of the leaves by force is an indication of immaturity. In fall planting the soil is frequently in a very dry condition; it is more or less porous when packed around the roots. This condition permits the air to come in contact with the roots and with extreme temperatures freezing causes winter injury and frequently death. Trees delivered in the spring have fared better than fall planted trees. They are permitted to mature in the nursery row. The leaves are not removed before they produce the maximum amount of plant food while in storage. The temperature and humidity of the atmosphere is kept under control which favors a greater degree of security than the fall planted tree enjoys when subjected to variable temperature. The soil in the spring is in a better state for vegetation development. The soil can be packed around the roots to a better advantage where climate conditions are favorable. It is true that in some sections fall planting is practiced exclusively, but as compared with spring the losses sustained are greater. From all indications, the present growing season will undoubtedly be the cause of an exceedingly large loss of fall planted trees. Lack of rain will permit deep freezing and an extremely dry spell followed by a wet period will foster secondary growth, both of these conditions favor a large loss from winter injury. The commercial grower or even the grower of fruit for home consumption, will be more certain of a stand if he delays planting until spring.

—In a town in the west there is a church that has a bright young pastor, but the attendance is unfortunately small. Among the parishioners there is an agreeable young widow. One evening, as she was leaving the edifice, she was addressed by a deacon. "How did you like the sermon?" "I think it was perfectly lovely," was the enthusiastic reply. "But there were so few of us that every time the

parson said 'dearly beloved' I positively blushed.

—Keep pig pens clean, dry and well ventilated. As soon as possible get the pigs out on clean ground so that they can take a lot of exercise. If pastures are available the sow and litter should be placed in them when the pigs are about two weeks of age.

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