

No subscriptions received for a shorter period than three months. Correspondence solicited from all parts of the country. No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.

Now they're ballooning across the Alps. What's the good of Alps if you have to use a balloon, besides, to get up in the air with?

With the establishing of a press censorship in London the European war cloud took on a distinctly darker hue. Our esteemed contemporaries in the British capital now know how it is themselves.

Official reports show that the Omaha Exposition paid all expenses and left a surplus of \$400,000 to be divided among the stockholders. The men who managed that splendid enterprise certainly got a show for their money.

A soothing thought it is amid all the perturbations in the politics of this planet of ours—our wars and rumors of wars—that the calm philosophers who search the skies in the silence of the night go on finding and mapping little bits of the great Universe—now a steady-going little planet, now a vagrom comet. Dr. Brooks has just found one of the latter "right ascension, fourteen hours thirty-three minutes; declination, north sixty degrees twenty-six minutes; motion southeasterly." The little planet spoken of is nearest to us of all heavenly bodies except the moon, and it is to help us in getting the parallax of the sun a better, therefore, be have.

A committee appointed by the National Education Association to amend the spelling of certain words in common use has completed its labors and will report to the Executive Committee of the association, recommending a list of words to be spelled precisely as they are pronounced. The list includes such words as program (programme), altho (although), thoroughfare, tho (though), thore (through), thru (through), thraout (throughout), prolog (prologue), demagog (demagogue), catalog (catalogue), decalog (decatalogue), pedagog (pedagogue). The changes are certainly suggested by common sense, but who ever heard of common sense overcoming the power of usage where the English language is concerned?

The United States and Russia constitute now the two largest governments in the world in the area and population of the home country, the homogeneity of the inhabitants and in the total population. The products of both are varied and extensive, and it would not be an unnatural inference, perhaps, that an extensive business existed between the two, going to make up a part of the \$600,000,000 of imports into the United States and the \$1,000,000,000 of exports. In fact, however, the commercial business done between the United States and Russia, between two countries having collectively more than 200,000,000 population and occupying 12,000,000 square miles of the earth's area, is comparatively insignificant, as the Treasury figures show.

The kingdom of Sweden is just now agitating the question whether or not to follow Norway's lead in granting universal suffrage. Out of a population of some 1,300,000 men over the age of twenty-one, only about 300,000 have at present the right of suffrage. His yearly income is 800 crowns (\$195) and that he pays taxes on that income. The liberals are circulating petitions throughout the kingdom, to be presented to the Riksdag at its meeting this winter. Norway has just recently given universal male suffrage to its people, but in Sweden much opposition is expected from the party in power—Protectionists and Conservatives. The classes are being organized, and the advantages which the United States is believed to have found in universal suffrage will have great force.

A remarkable story is going the rounds of the press as to a weaving machine newly invented in France, says the Dry Goods Economist. This machine, it is claimed, turns out from 100 to 175 yards of fabric per day of ten hours, with the expenditure of but half the ordinary motive force. The fabric is said to show a woven effect on one side and knitted on the other. It is also stated that great economy is effected by the fact that one workman can oversee as many as six machines. The description is so mixed up as to need considerable revision before receiving credence. It seems to apply more to a knitting machine than to a loom, while many important details are wanting. The claim that one man can run six machines is not startling, inasmuch as in some cotton mills in this country one operative tends fully that number of looms and more.

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Christmas Eve

A farmer's kitchen of long ago,
With oaken rafters, and fireplace wide,
Where three small stockings of scarlet wool,
Filled to overflowing, hang side by side.
An ancient clock in the corner stands;
There are pewter dishes on dresser tall,
And fire-arms of the old-time war
Are crossed together upon the wall.
A silver pathway the moonlight makes,
In shining brightness upon the floor,
And the fitful flare of the firelight
Cast wild, weird shadows upon the door.
Into the window a rosebush peeps,
Wrapped in a mantle of fleecy snow;
And the house-cat in a high-backed chair,
Sleeps in the firelight's brilliant glow.
Before the stockings of scarlet wool,
With tender light in her eyes of brown,
Stands the mother, tall, and young, and fair,
In snowy kerchief, and homespun gown.

—Grace Hubbard.

THE MAGIC DOLL.

A Christmas Allegory.

By Margherita Arlina Hamm.



Y lady, the Princess Angelina lived in Dollytown. She was a doll—the most beautiful, delicious, lovable and lovely doll that was ever born. She could close her eyes, and say "Papa" and "Mamma." She could stand upon one leg and hold her other leg over her shoulder for half an hour. When a doll can do this, she is a royal doll and not a common doll. She had a marvelous complexion, and the more you washed it the brighter it grew. The Princess Angelina had a beautiful wardrobe. She had a ball dress, a dinner dress, a slumber gown, a bicycle suit, a golf toilet, a rainy day costume, a bib and tucker to make believe she was a baby, and four other common frocks, and her commonest suit was better than the best dresses of a great many dolls. Now, Dollytown is in the middle of New York. It doesn't begin anywhere, and doesn't end anywhere. The Princess Angelina was a magical doll. When a person came to buy her whom she didn't like she squinted with one eye and made the other turn green, so that she looked so ugly people put her down right away. Another time when some one wanted to buy her whom she didn't like, she took a hat pin out and stuck it in the woman's thumb and the woman got mad and went off and didn't buy any doll at all. This is why all the other dolls got sold in Dollytown the day before Christmas and why the Princess Angelina was not sold. It got around to evening and the Princess said, "I wonder where I'll go." Then she gave a scream because right in front of her, looking like a dear old grandfather, was Santa Claus himself. He bowed very nicely, because Santa Claus is a very polite gentleman, and said: "Good evening, Princess; I called to see if your Highness would like to take a walk."

The Princess smiled and said, "Thank you, Santa Claus, that is just what I have been wanting to do all day, but there was no gentleman around I cared to walk with," and she took Santa Claus's arm and they went walking out of the beautiful rooms where she had been living into the street.

To prevent anybody stealing her beautiful dresses, and I am sorry to say that there are bad, wicked, naughty dolls who steal other dolls' gloves and handkerchiefs and who tell lies, and do other awful things, Santa Claus packed all her dresses, bonnets, gloves, shoes, stockings, parasols, fans, umbrellas, bibs, aprons, water-proofs, handkerchiefs and bracelets into a doll trunk. He put this on his

shoulder and off they went. The street was very crowded, but it didn't make any difference. Sometimes they walked through the people, sometimes the people walked through them and sometimes they walked through each other. At one place in the street she walked right through the heart of a very pretty shop girl who had charge of rag dolls, and there she saw beautiful pictures and statues and jewelry and bands of music playing and fountains leaping and flowers waving and apples and pears hanging from the bows of the trees. They were not exactly real things she saw; they were magical things, which are sometimes more real than real things.

At another place on the street whom should they walk through but a cross old maid, who had charge of the rubber dolls in Dollytown, and again



SOMETIMES THEY WALKED THROUGH THE PEOPLE.

the Princess said "Oh," because in the old maid's heart there were green snakes and horns lizards and bats, and owls that shrieked, "tu-whit, tu-who!" The Princess was very glad to get out on the other side, and then she knew why she had always loved the young girl and always hated the cross old maid. By and by they came to a house with big doors, and a waiter at the door who let people in and out, but they didn't mind him in the least. They did not even wait for the door to open. They went through the door and through the waiter, and floated up stairs into the nursery, where there were three or four children getting ready to go to bed. They were all little girls, and they had hung their stockings upon the mantelpiece, and upon the floor with their backs against the wall they had put all their dolls. You see, they thought that when Santa Claus came he'd see all the dolls and would give each one a little present. They talked about it, too. The Princess could hear them and see them, but they couldn't see the Princess or Santa Claus. She looked up at her companion and said, "Are you going to give the dolls a present, too?" and Santa Claus laughed a little bit, turned red as if he were blushing, and said, "Yes, I guess I'll have to. They are good little girls. Wouldn't you like to stay here with them?"

The Princess thought for a moment and answered, "No, I thank you, Santa Claus. There are so many dolls here their talking would prevent my thinking."

Clara, who was a very kind man, would forgive her. The little girl looked relieved and said, "If Santa Claus will forgive me, I'll never break another doll again!" and from the folds of her little dress she pulled out the remnants of a doll which had lost one hand, one foot, its nose and half an ear.

The Princess grew very indignant at the sight, and said: "If you please, Santa Claus, I don't like such people. Let us go somewhere else." Santa Claus nodded silently, and again they floated through the walls, out into the street, and into other homes. It wasn't until the hundredth call that the Princess noticed something. It was this, that whenever the children wished for something very much and their mothers and fathers smiled, Santa Claus nodded and took something out of a pocket and dropped it in a closet. This something was like a little cloud of smoke, such as comes when you strike a match, but it grew



THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS.

and grew and became hard and took the form of just what the children had been talking about.

But the Princess was getting very tired. They stopped finally in a little room where there was a big bed and a little crib. There was a sweet-faced woman putting a little girl to bed. The child said her prayers, then lay down and closed her eyes. She opened them again and said softly: "Mamma, do you think Santa Claus will bring me a doll? I don't want a big one, just a wee little one," and the mother, who was dressed all in black, said: "I hope so, darling." Then silence came upon the room. The clocks tolled midnight and the mother fell asleep. The Princess turned to her guide and said: "Santa Claus, if you please, I think I'll stay here." Santa Claus nodded, but said not a word. Then the Princess climbed into the crib, although she had on her ball-room dress, her bracelets, her fan and her gloves. She got under the bedclothes and put her head upon the child's arm and her arm around the child's neck. Then she closed her eyes and fell sound asleep. And she was still sound asleep in the morning when the child awoke and found the Princess in her arms.

Service of the Holly. A picturesque shrub, especially useful at this time of the year, is the holly, with its tough and shining, spiny leaves and its pretty little full round berries. It is the only plant appropriate to this happy period that relieves the dead green and monotonous white of the non-flowering plants and vines supposed to belong to Christmas and the days that follow until Epiphany. Like the mistletoe, most of the holly exposed for sale in American markets comes from Great Britain, although some species of the plant grow in the Southern States. The commercial holly, however, is cut in Scotland and sent here in bags. It is most valuable to work up in combination with laurel, ivy and mistletoe, to wreaths, anchors, stars and other designs, while for running decorations, that is, long festoons and great sweeps of green, a few of the bright red berries wound in at regular intervals heighten the effect and relieve the eye. The favorite manner of arranging holly for sale is to make it up into some one of the numerous designs appropriate to the day and the season, and thus most of the plant offered this year is fashioned. Holly is not so expensive as the mistletoe and is more hardy and lasting.

A Sure Thing. Cooper—"I've been married twelve years, and I don't believe I ever succeeded in getting my wife a Christmas present that really pleased her." Hooper—"Ever try a check?"—Chicago Journal.

The Plum Pudding. Take two pounds of Sultanaraisins. Wash a pound of currants. Chop fine a pound of beef suet and two ounces each of candied orange and lemon peel. Blanch two ounces each of sweet and bitter almonds. Grate three nutmegs and one pound of bread crumbs. Squeeze the juice from one lemon. Weigh three-quarters of a pound of flour and a whole pound of powdered sugar. Measure a tumbler of tart jelly—currant is the best—and use nine eggs with this recipe. Use a large mixing bowl, putting in the eggs first, beat the jelly into them, add the suet, then the flour, a little at a time, putting in the fruit, nuts, crumbs, etc., and, last of all, put in half a teaspoonful each of powdered ginger root and salt. Let all hands take part in the stirring. Have ready a large piece of muslin, well washed; wet it and sprinkle with flour; tie the pudding loosely into this cloth, and put it into



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PUZZLE DEPARTMENT.

The solutions to these puzzles will appear in a succeeding issue.

- 13.—A Decapitation. 1. Behead part of a vessel, and leave a tree. 2. Behead to cut, and leave a tree. 3. Behead to remain in liquid, and leave a tree. 4. Behead to think, and leave a tree. 5. Behead a slice of beef, and leave a tree.

- 14.—Transpositions. Transpose a tree into part of a win low. Transpose a malediction into a receptacle. Transpose an object of interest to explorers into a legal claim. Transpose a certain kind of food into that which cooks it. Transpose the part of a plant of which paper is made into a document written on paper. Transpose something that lives under water into something dreaded by ships on the water.

- 15.—A Diamond. 1. A letter used to express number. 2. A dweller in the city. 3. What a narrow street is called in England. 4. A kind of puzzle. 5. A word formerly used to designate a standing place. 6. Termination. 7. A letter used to express number.

16.—An Endless Chain. (Every syllable appears twice, forming the end of one word and the beginning of the next, thus forming a chain. The end of the last word is like the beginning of the first, thus making the chain endless.)

- 1. Unproductive. 2. Income from property. 3. An old way of keeping accounts. 4. A vice. 5. A hearth. 6. According to law. 7. French. 8. A Roman official. 9. A mutilated trunk. 10. The subject of a famous poem. 11. Found on a polished diamond. 12. Pertaining to a whale. 13. A confection. 14. To transfer shoots. 15. Part of a roof. 16. A fungus growing on grain. 17. Obtained. 18. Part of the body. 19. A beast. 20. The most important part. 21. A kind of bow. 22. Bended. 23. A poem. 24. A kind of bird. 25. To prevent.

SOLUTIONS TO PREVIOUS PUZZLES.

- 9.—A Ladder-- N D Z E A S A H O U R I O W S L U N G L E
- 10.—A Square-- P O S T O N C E S C A N T E N T
- 11.—A Diamond-- H O S A L A D H O L I D A Y D A D D Y

12.—A Letter Puzzle—From 1 to 23, "Field Flowers," Eugene Field. 1, Fowler; 2, defies; 3, lounge; 4, defile.

1.—Things Learned in a Lawyer's Office. A prominent lawyer, whose office is in the Franklin Building, went to the phone the other day and, after a tactful parley with the haughty maid at the central office, succeeded in getting his stationer. "Send up to me half a dollar's worth of the same kind of paper I got the other day—and send a half dollar along with the boy," said the lawyer. A student sitting near by let his "Brewster's Practice" fall unheeded to the floor as he gazed in wide-eyed astonishment at the lawyer. "Great guns, Mr. P—," exclaimed the youth, "I expected to learn how to do many queer things in a law office, but I never dreamed that even our profession had a way of getting both goods and money at the same time!" He was quite disappointed when Mr. P— explained that he wanted the half dollar sent along in order to change a dollar bill he already had.—Philadelphia Record.

A Remarkable Name.

The following is a true story told of a Mr. Ottiwell Wood, who was a minister of the Gospel, and whose son, Mr. John Wood, for many years chairman of the board of inland revenue, vouches for its correctness. Mr. Wood had to appear as a witness in a north country assize court, and was asked and gave his name in due course. "What?" asked the Judge peevishly, being rather deaf. Mr. Wood repeated his answer. "Can't hear you; spell it out," snapped the Judge. "O, double T, I, double U, E, double L, double U, double O, D." The Judge threw down his pen in despair.—Household Words.

A Jeweled Globe.

The Shah has in his palace at Teheran a twelve-inch globe, upon which the various parts of the world are set out in jewels of various colors—England with rubies, India with diamonds, the sea with emeralds, and so on.

LOOK OUT FOR IT.

Your heart would still be happy, and you would never have no woe. If you looked out for the engine when you heard the whistle blow! You wouldn't kee fer summertime—you wouldn't mind the snow. If you looked out for the engine when you heard the whistle blow!

I don't kee what you go— I kee what you go— You must look out for the engine when you hear the whistle blow! Fer time—it is a flyin'—no river stops its flow; So, look out for the engine when you hear the whistle blow! —Frank L. Stanton.

HUMOR OF THE DAY.

Louie—"Did you hear about that golf cut of mine?" Heard—"Yes, I heard it."—Yonkers Statesman.
Papa—"The rattlesnake gives warning before it strikes." Johnny—"What a chump it is, papa!"—Puck.
"Young man, you'll spend your days in the poorhouse yet." "Oh, well, I sleep all day, anyhow."—Indianapolis Journal.
"My employer is so queer; I can't tell when he's pleased." "Well, you can tell when he's displeased, can't you?"—Chicago Record.
Susie—"Papa, what makes a man always give a woman a diamond engagement ring?" Her Father—"The woman."—The Jewelers Weekly.
The Boston Herald says the woman golf champion has a man's arm. Well, that's certainly a good thing to have about her.—Cleveland Leader.
Her father was a druggist. She was cashier in his store; And the other girls all envied The complexion that she wore. —Chicago News.

Ancient Adorer—"I could sacrifice all my riches to win your love!" Young Adored—"If you did anything so foolish I should never love you."—Judy.
Woman (suspiciously, to milkman)—"I believe you water your milk." Milkman—"Don't talk nonsense! Why, water's scarcer than milk!"—Fun.
"Doctor, is it very difficult to put a person in the idiot asylum?" "Oh, no. Most patients go there under very simple conditions."—Indianapolis Journal.
Mamma—"Oh, dear! Johnny, I don't believe you know what it is to go good." Jimmy—"Yes, I do, mamma. It's not doing what you want to do."—Truth.

Little Miss Muffet. She sat on a tuffet. Eating up curds and whey; A microbe espied her, And slipped down inside her. And she had influenza next day. Johnnie—"Pa, where does a man get a theory?" Pa—"In his head, my son." Johnnie—"Well, doesn't it hurt his head when a theory is exploded?"—New York World.

"Speaking of business mays and bargain hunters," said Williams, "they are about the same thing. One is a centre of trade and the other is a trade centre."—Chicago Tribune.
"I see some college out West is about to confer a degree on Spend-thrift, the author," said Cashly. "Good," said Landorby. "What is it to be? I. O. U.?"—Harper's Bazar.
"I am going to send my boy to college. I want him to come out on top of the heap." "But you can't be sure of it, you know; football is such an uncertain game."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

"A Dangerous Illustration."

Here is a story illustrative of the ignorance of the colonies that once prevailed in the Colonial Office and is not yet entirely banished from Downing street. As we all know, the late Lord Carnarvon, when Colonial Secretary, officially recorded his opinion of Sir George Gray as "a dangerous man." Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, on one of his visits from Victoria, called upon Lord Carnarvon in Downing street, and in conversation chanced to introduce a reference to Sir George Gray. "A very strange and incomprehensible character," said Lord Carnarvon, with a shake of the head; "I hear he has now withdrawn to an island off the coast of New Zealand and surrounded himself with a number of wallabies." "Oh, yes, I think that is not at all improbable," replied Sir Charles. "You surprise me," rejoined Lord Carnarvon; "what must be the state of morality in a country where you make light of such a proceeding?" "Why, my Lord, what do you suppose a wallaby to be?" "A half-caste female of course. Is that not so?" "Certainly not; a wallaby is simply a small kangaroo."—London Chronicle.

The Tea Plant of China.

The Chinese tea plant is an ever-green shrub, growing from three to five feet high. It is not indigenous to China and for a long time its origin was unknown, but a native tea-tree was found in Assam, India, which is now generally regarded by botanists as the parent of all the cultivated species. It is a real tree, attaining a height of from fifteen to twenty feet, but growing in the midst of moist jungles and in shady, sheltered situations. A rich and luxuriant growth is necessary to secure the best results from this species, which attains its best development in a moist and equable climate. Formerly the tea plant was supposed to require a temperate climate and a site on steep-sloping ground, and most of the Chinese plantations are so located.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

Sugar Cane in Delaware.

It is said that sugar cane grown in Delaware will yield 3200 pounds of refined product to the acre, compared with 2800 pounds, the best results from beets in California. This statement is made after experiments in the Delaware Agricultural Station.