

[illegible]

only in physicians' prescriptions, I believe. Where the French use *j* it has the power of *a* as we use it in the word "vision." What nation was the first to use it as a letter in an interesting manner? The English. In the year 1550 in a like manner the printers and language makers of the latter part of the sixteenth century began to recognize the fact that there was a sound in spoken English which was without a letter to represent it. They gave it the label of a sign or character, as the first sound in the word "wet." Prior to that time it had always been spelled as "vet," the *v* having the long sound of *u* or two *u*'s together. In order to convey an idea of the new sound they called it "vet," "weat," "we," etc., with two *u*'s, and as the *u* of that date was typical of the three words above looked like this: "Vvet," "vveather," "vveeb." After a while the type found that it had come to stay, so they joined the two *u*'s together and made the character now so well known as the *w*. I have one book in which three forms of the *w* are given. The first is an old

young Vanya (vny), the next one in which the first stroke of the second and the third is the common we use today. -
New York Mercury.

Richard Was Made.

Richard Harding Davis, according to Vanya, is not an ardent admirer of Irving and Miss Terry. When he recalls his quarrel with Edward Irving, he writes in the New York Herald, "It is not surprising that he should not like Miss Terry, for on meeting him she told him how glad she was to know him, how much she enjoyed his work in the past, and how much she enjoyed his work in the future." In his last book, "Chalmers Fadden," which was so well-speak of Mr. Irving, also made a mistake when Davis, at a dinner given to Mr. Irving, said that he had never seen him. Davis had arrayed himself with rows of orders and medals presented to him by the Sultan and the President of Bolivia and various other dignitaries.

never without than be would without
is tooth-brush. It was with the great-
est satisfaction, therefore, that he saw
they attracted the attention of Mr.
Loring, and the guests all gathered
around him, and he, in turn, scanned
them closely, and, alas, for Mr.
Loring! all the guests heard Mr. Irving
exclaim: "How interesting. I always
like to see college badgers!"

Mystery of a Shoe Store.
A Boston man tells of a servant girl
his family who recently purchased
a pair of shoes for the pair of shoes
she had worn, and, having taken them
home, was astonished to find in the toe a
penny envelope containing \$7. The name was
inscribed on an East Boston corporation
and they said she was only eight years
old. How did the money get into the rubbers? My friend
had an ingenious theory that the wife
of the laborer purchased the pair of
rubbers and tucked the envelope into
the shoe before she had been conveyed
home. He must have concluded that the rub-

ber, and we come to speak of writers
the blundering printing press, or, seeing
of Mr. Loring, and the guests all gathered
around him, and he, in turn, scanned
them closely, and, alas, for Mr. Loring!
bible, wheel round from one political ad-
vice to the other in one night, we speak of the
the lampy, and the empiricism, and the
scene collocation of the printing press
of the world, and you have never
never heard—the immeasurable and everlasting
ing blessing of a good newspaper. Thank God!
for to gather the thoughts of the world
that do not wake, like the Athenians, to
the world, and the world, and the world
of the day, since the omnivorous newspaper
does both for us. The grandest temporal
of the world, and the world, and the world
century is the newspaper. We would have
better appreciation of the meaning of
the world, and the world, and the world
the exasperations, the anxieties, the wear and
of a good newspaper. Under the in-
pression that almost anybody can make
of the world, and the world, and the world
ists every year enter the lists, and conse-
quently during almost every day. The dis-
cussion is epidemic. The larger papers now
of the world, and the world, and the world
minnows at one swallow. With more than
7000 dailies and weeklies in the United States

did not sit, and forgetting all about the pay envelope returned them to the store, where by some chance or other they were again in the hands of the clerk. It was nearly three years. This is certainly a clever explanation and for want of a better I will accept it. The laborer, by the way, cannot be found.

* * *

Long ago in a Back.

Some years ago a porter named Fulmer, employed at Billingsgate Market, London, had been in the habit of coming from London bridge tied in a sack, his only stipulation being that he should be provided with a knife, which he was not to open till he touched the water. He succeeded in accomplishing the feat, and when picked up by some friends in a boat was none the worse for his dive.

* * *

He was proposing to the Boston girl, and in the fervor if his plan he leaned over her anxiously. "Pardon me," he said, "are you not getting a trifle too fat?" "No," she replied. "You are," he said. "Yes," she said; "as the philosopher would put it, 'deum'." — Philadelphia Press.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

The Squirrel Pest. A primitive form of pneumonic squirrel with some contagious fatal disease is offered by the Commercial Association of Portland, Oregon, and it is believed that the squirrel is the most dangerous pest that organizations will add to the sum offered. The squirrel is a very common animal and as to how to mitigate the plague of squirrels. Tons of strychnine have been used in the past to exterminate them, but by poisoning them, but little relief is had from this or any other method heretofore used.

The Cocoon Volcanoes. seventy-five miles southwest of Yuma, Arizona, were in violent eruption a week or so since. The larger ones were about the size of a small volcano, some flames, and the smaller ones were throwing out quantities of water, stones and mud. The eruptions could be seen for about twenty miles or more.

Man is never too old to love or count on.

[illegible]

ADDITIONS TO THE ALPHABET. Their entire business is to look and report. They are full of optic nerves, from axle to neighborhood. They are like those spoken of by

Letters of Which Our Fore-
fathers Were in Total Ignorance.
It is a fact, not so well known but
which it may be said to be curious, that
the letters j and w are modern additions
to our alphabet. They were not only
not only known into Europe during the
commonwealth, say, between 1640 and
1658. From 1680 to 1646 its use is ex-
ceedingly rare and I have never yet
seen a book printed prior to 1653 in
which it appeared. In the century im-
mediately preceding the seventeenth
century, the letter j was used almost
when Roman numerals were used, in
this example: viij. for 8 or xij. in place
of 12. This fashion still lingers, but
is confined to physicians' prescriptions, I be-
lieve. Where the French use j it has
the power of i. What nation was the first
to use it as a letter is an interesting
question, but perhaps an unanswerable query.

In a like manner the printers and language makers of the latter part of the sixteenth century began to use the letter v where there was no sound in spoken English which was without a representative in the shape of an alphabetical sign or character, as the first instance in the word "weave." The letter w was used for words spelled at "vet," the v having the long sound of u or two's together. In order to convey an idea of the new sound they began to spell such words as "weather," "wealth," etc., with w instead of v; so that we have the typical v three vowels above look-like this: vvvee, "vweather," "vwealth." After a while the type founders recognized the fact that the double consonant combination was too cumbersome to set together and made the characteristic now so well known as the w. I have one book in which three forms of the w are given. The first is an old

the first stroke of the second and the new York Mercury.

Richard Was Mad.

Richard Harding Davis, who to Vanity, is not an ardent admirer of Henry Irving and Miss Terry, once recalls his quarrel with Edward W. Townsend over the "Major Mac" article. It is not surprising that he did not like Miss Terry, for on the subject of her high heels he wrote: "I knew him, how much she had enjoyed his work in the past, and how much she had anticipated reading it is last book, 'Chimie Fadden'.

[illegible]

Mystery of a \$6000 Stove.
A Bostonian tells of a young girl in his family who recently purchased a pair of rubbers at a bid department store, and, having taken them home, was astonished to find in the toe a pay envelope containing \$7. The name was traced to an East Boston corporation which had been in existence for years or for eight years. How did the money get into the rubbers? My friend had an ingenious theory that the wife of the laborer purchased the pair of rubbers and tucked the envelope into the toe of the shoe. But he has concluded that the rubbers did not fit, and forgetting all about the pay envelope returned them to the shoe store.

[illegible]

Because the latter is multitudinous do not exclude it is necessarily superficial. If a man should from childhood to old age see only his Bible, Webster's Dictionary and his newspaper, he could be prepared for all the duties of this life and all the happiness of the next.

Again, a good newspaper is a useful mirror of the times. It is a pity that the Legislature, in session at Trenton, has just passed a bill to suppress the sale of machinery in the harvesting of the luscious waterbury, known more popularly as the waterbury cherry. The cherry industry in Philadelphia is esteemed almost as highly as the waterbury cherry, and using a sort of scorp in stripping the cherries.

It is to be feared that the same argument is also used in the gathering of cranberries, a considerable industry in the State. The cherry growers are afraid that the scorp is too anxious to return to the old system of hand picking, and they are therefore anxious to have any hand-picking agreement that may be entered into; hence the appeal to the Legislature. The cherry growers, however, law declares it a misdemeanor, punishable by fine and imprisonment, to pursue the huckstering system of cherry picking, and make the aid of any mechanical device whatsoever.

[illegible]

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