

THE STAR

REYNOLDSVILLE - PENNA.

REAL MEANING OF "MYSTIC"

One of the Most Frequently Misused of Words—Its Probable Origin Explained.

A jeweler in a small handicraft shop held out a heavy silver ring with a queerly engraved seal, saying: "I can't explain the device to you. It is made for a sea captain. He's a friend of mine, and the emblem is just mystic to him." The very fact that a word becomes so warped and common means, at least, that a great many people are becoming aware of a new matter. Something has swum into their ken, and the word that stands for the experience is bandied wildly about the world. When one pauses to reflect upon the meaning of the word "mystic," it is odd to note the base used to which it has come. All the minor poets write of "mystic gleams" and "mystic glamour"; "mystic sheens" and "mystic clamors;" its use in the sense of magic is very widespread. But there are also small railroad stations in out-of-the-way spots that rejoice in the new word as a designation. As a matter of historic fact, the noisy, ubiquitous word derives from a Greek word which means shut. A mystic was one who was being initiated into certain esoteric religious doctrines about which he must keep his mouth shut. Some conjecture that the word referred rather to the keeping of the eyes shut to all sense impressions in order that the spiritual vision might be seen. Or it might have referred to the fact that until a man was admitted to the mysteries, his eyes were shut to spiritual truth. But in all probability the first explanation is the true one, and the word simply refers to the fact that the profoundest experiences cannot be imparted. They dwell in the great realm of silence, and are truest when they are stillest.—*Harper's Weekly*.

A Graftor Sentenced.

Judge (severely)—You have been found guilty of stealing the people's money, and you are sentenced to ten years in the penitentiary, and to pay a fine of \$5,000.

Great Graftor—Yes, y'r honor.

Judge—But as you will never be able to pay the fine, the fine is remitted.

Great Graftor—Thank you, Judge.

Judge—And if you conduct yourself properly, the law will allow time for good behavior, and you can get out in about a year and a half.

Graftor—Thanks, judge.

Judge—And, by the way, if you happen to feel ill in a week or two, the court will issue an order allowing you to go home to die.

Graftor—Thanks, judge; but suppose I don't die?

Judge—Don't mention it. Call the next case.

The Cocoa Tree.

The cultivation of cocoa is at present an inviting agricultural pursuit in Trinidad and parts of Venezuela. The cocoa tree cannot withstand strong sunshine, and the young plants have to be shaded by banana or plantain trees, and later when they attain their growth, by tall trees known as "immortals" or the "mother of the cocoa." These make kind of canopy over the entire plantation. The fruit of the cocoa tree is a pod resembling a cucumber, and growing on the trunk or large branches, where it looks as though it were artificially attached. The seeds are like large, thick lima beans embedded in pulp. These form the cocoa beans of commerce. The processes of curing and drying require much attention.

The Ink Plant.

Ink of everyday life may be perhaps described as of mixed animal, vegetable and mineral origin. Sometimes, however, the juice of a plant can be used directly for writing. This is the case with the ink plant, which occurs in South America and New Zealand.

The juice of the plant is red, but it becomes rapidly black on exposure by oxidization. It gives a permanent stain on paper and can be used as ink without further preparation. All the early documents in Spanish America were written with the juice of the ink plant.—*Knowledge*.

Cut Her Hair and Saved Her Sight.

Unusual presence of mind, followed by prompt action by Miss Inez, daughter of George Emerson, a farmer living west of here, saved her sight and her face from a bad burning the other morning when her long and beautiful hair caught fire from an explosion of coal gas in the kitchen stove.

When the flames flashed out she seized a pair of scissors and cut off her burning tresses. Eyelashes and eyebrows were burned off and her neck and arms badly burned.—*Greely Correspondence Denver Republican*.

While You Wait.

"Block your hat while you wait" was the original while you wait sign dating back to before the war, and for a long time it was the only one, while now of such signs there are many. You can have your shoes repaired or your teeth fixed or your clothes pressed, your umbrella mended or your eyeglasses put in order. There is scarcely anything that you may not now have done while you wait if you want it, as witness this sign reading: "Jewelry cleaned and demands set while you wait."

Laundering Our Paper Money

BY WALDON FAWCETT



HE treasury department at Washington has just completed a series of novel experiments and as a result of the outcome thereof is about to enter on a new activity which is to prove one of the most interesting as well as one of the most effective economies introduced during the present era of retrenchment in Uncle Sam's administrative affairs. The innovation is nothing short of a scheme for laundering our currency. All the processes of washing, starching and ironing will be carried out just as though the articles to be cleansed were linen garments instead of linen paper. The effect of this scheme for freshening the currency, when once the government's plant is in full operation, will be to more than double the normal life of our paper circulating medium and to save the government considerably more than \$1,000,000 per year.

That paper money can be washed successfully is not, of course, an entirely new discovery. From time to time in years gone by individuals on their own initiative have sought to cleanse dirty bank notes with soap and water. The importance of the experiments lately carried on by the government, however, lies in the fact that proof has been gained that paper money can be washed, not as an occasional bank note, receiving individual attention, but on a wholesale scale. Equally important is the finding that this rejuvenation can be accomplished cheaply, and finally there is a third triumph for present-day experiment in demonstration that laundered currency can be given the "body" and "surface" that is responsible for the crisp, crackly qualifications that endear "new money" to many people.

The treasury officials hope soon to have in full operation a laundry plant located at the United States bureau of engraving and printing at Washington—which will be capable of giving a new lease of life to soiled and wrinkled currency at the rate of 100,000 bills per day. Present estimates

of the new money. From the drying room the washed bills go to the "sizing" room, where what might be termed the "starching" process takes place. This consists in passing each bill, by machinery, through a bath of alum and glue which restores the "body" which has been lost during the washing. Next the bills are packed between

sheets of cardboard and are then subjected to the "ironing." This consists of pressure between the rollers of a powerful press just as the flat pieces in the ordinary steam laundry are run through a mangle. The operation not only renders the laundered money perfectly flat but imparts to it the distinctive surface or finish of new money.

Already the treasury officials have planned that if the laundry at the headquarters at Washington proves as successful and economical as it promises to do, similar laundries will be installed at all the subtreasuries throughout the country. Moreover, Uncle Sam is going to encourage banks, or associations of bankers in the more remote cities of the country to establish their own laundries for

washing currency instead of sending it to Washington for redemption, as is the present plan. It is calculated that a money laundry of modest capacity can be installed at a cost as low as \$500 to \$700, and it is figured that banks in many cities would save this in a few months. Of course the government redeems without charge all the worn-out currency sent in by the banks, but the banks must pay the express charges both ways on the currency, and it is figured that the express charges for many such institutions far exceed the outlay that would be required for the operation of a money laundry. One Chicago bank that sends a cart load of currency to the treasury every few days pays thousands of dollars a year in transportation charges. With a view to further aiding the banks that decide to launder their own currency the treasury department is planning to make public all its laundry receipts and formulas when it has been determined by the present tests just what are the best ingredients for cleansing, bleaching and sterilizing the money. The bleaching, it may be added is one process that requires the exercise of care lest the money in the wash be injured.

ALLIGATOR SHOOTS CHUTES.

The very last creature that the average man would select as a trick animal is the huge, sluggish alligator, yet even that deliberate brute can sometimes hit a swift pace. It has even been trained to shoot the chutes with easy grace.

The feat is performed regularly at an alligator farm in California, the big saurian waddling up the incline at the other side and sliding down

At this novel farm there are 500 or more specimens, ranging in size from the huge bull to the newly hatched, lizard-like youngsters. They are raised for their hides, although the sale of the little fellows for "pets" and the admissions to the grounds help swell the profits of this unusual business.—*Scientific American*.

KENTUCKY CHIVALRY

For once in his life a Kentucky colonel found himself in a queer predicament because of his courtly politeness extended previously to a young woman at the reception tendered by the Knights Templar of his state. Past Commander Shackelford of Kentucky was the man who suffered the unhappy quarter hour.

Answering a telephone call at the Congress hotel he heard a sweet voice saying:

"Oh, Colonel Shackelford, I am going away this afternoon. You are going to say good-by to me, aren't you?"

"I certainly am," replied Colonel Shackelford, "though I am most sorry to hear that you are going away. (Who in thunder can she be?)"

"You remember me, don't you?"

"Indeed, it would be quite impossible to forget you. (Ye gods! Who is she? Help, help!)"

"You know you said that I was the most charming girl you had met in Chicago."

"And I never retract anything I say. I was sure of it when I said it. I am surer of it now. (Say, this is awful.)"

"Well, I expect to meet some friends in the parlor in half an hour, and I shall hope to see you. Now don't forget. Good-by."

"Good-by. I shall be there. Good-by."

First he implored some other Kentuckians after pledging them to secrecy, but they could not help him and one said:

"Why, Shackelford, you said the same thing to about a dozen women at the reception."

So at the appointed time Colonel Shackelford went forth to the parlor, and when he returned his face was wreathed in smiles.

"How about it?" was the anxious query.

"Gentlemen, as a member of the Masonic fra-

ternity and as a southern gentleman—let us talk about the weather." Then he smiled some more.

WHITE RAINBOW A RARITY.

What is known as a white rainbow is an extremely rare phenomenon. It was observed at the Montour observatory at Paris by M. Louis Besson. It was an almost colorless bow and was seen at 2:10 p.m., dying out and then reappearing at 3:15, reaching a maximum brightness at 3:25, then disappearing five minutes later. The bow had about three degrees width and was not a pure white, but somewhat tinged with rose color at the outer edge and violet at the inner. The angular height of the summit was 40 degrees 8 minutes on the average. There have been often observed in the mountains of the polar regions white bows upon fogs or clouds composed of liquid drops.

The explanation of this phenomenon, known as the "Ullio circle," was given by Mascart. It is only a special case of the general theory of the rainbow as given by Airy, which allows of supposing a mixture of the colors so as to approach white, at the same time as a widening of the arc and a diminution of the radius, when the diameter of the drops becomes smaller and comes near to 41 u.—*Scientific American*.

BALKS EFFORTS OF INVENTORS.

Machinery plays little part in the glass trade. Visitors to glassworks have time and again remarked upon the apparent awkwardness and antiquity of the processes employed. Inventors have for a long time exercised their wits to devise machinery calculated to supersede the glass-blower's lungs, but to no avail.

DOCTOR ADVISED OPERATION

Cured by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

Galena, Kans.—"A year ago last March I fell, and a few days after there was soreness in my right side. In a short time a bunch came and it bothered me so much at night I could not sleep. It kept growing larger and by fall it was as large as a hen's egg. I could not go to bed without a hot water bottle applied to that side. I had one of the best doctors in Kansas and he told my husband that I would have to be operated on as it was something like a tumor caused by a rupture. I wrote to you for advice and you told me not to get discouraged but to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I did take it and soon the lump in my side broke and passed away."—Mrs. R. R. HUEY, 713 Mineral Ave., Galena, Kans.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, made from roots and herbs, has proved to be the most successful remedy for curing the worst forms of female ills, including displacements, inflammation, fibroid tumors, irregularities, periodic pains, backache, bearing-down feeling, flatulence, indigestion, and nervous prostration. It costs but a trifle to try it, and the result has been worth millions to many suffering women.

If you want special advice write to Mrs. Pinkham, Lynn, Mass. It is free and always helpful.

Headache

"My father has been a sufferer from sick headache for the last twenty-five years and never found any relief until he began taking your Cascarets. Since he has begun taking Cascarets he has never had the headache. They have entirely cured him. Cascarets do what you recommend to do. I will give you the privilege of using his name."—E. M. Dickson, 1120 Resiner St., W. Indianapolis, Ind.

Pleasant, Palatable, Potent, Taste Good. Do Good. Never Sicken, Weak, or Grind. 10c, 25c, 50c. Never sold in bulk. The generic tablet stamped C.C.C. Guaranteed to cure or your money back.

BLAIR'S PILLS. CELEBRATED ENGLISH REMEDY FOR GOUT AND RHEUMATISM. SAFE AND RELIABLE. AT YOUR DRUGGIST.

ENGAGEMENT NOW OUT.



Ethel—Weren't you surprised when you heard about my horse running away with me?

Ernest—Not very. I'd do the same thing myself if I got the chance.

New Version.

"Now, Harry," said the Sunday school teacher to the brightest boy in the class, "can you tell me how Elijah died?"

"He didn't die at all," replied the youngster. "He was translated from the original Hebrew."

A friend in need is a friend we usually try to dodge.

"The Smack" of the "Snack"

Post Toasties and Cream

A wholesome, ready-cooked food which youngsters, and older folks thoroughly enjoy.

Let them have all they want. It is rich in nourishment and has a winning flavor.

"The Memory Lingers"

POSTUM CEREAL CO., LTD., Battle Creek, Mich.