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BY THE WAY

The Colonial had gone to make his daily visit to his friend in the hospital, says the "Scottish American," but this time arrived too late. All was over. He felt that he must seek consolation. Walking down the street, he read a card on a door, "—, Medium," and entered the little room. "I want to hear some news of a pal o' mine," he said to the spiritualist. "Ah, yes," was the sympathetic reply. A few moments later the medium was speaking in dreamy accents: "I am in touch with the person you wanted. He says he is very happy, and has met Napoleon, Mark Twain, Henry the Eighth, Mary Queen of Scots, and Beethoven." The Colonial gasped. "Gee!" he said. "Jake always was a hustler. He only died an hour ago."

The man who asks questions of school-children sometimes gets unexpected and disconcerting answers. A school inspector, an exchange says, asked, somewhat pompously: "Now, my little man, what do five and one make?" No answer. Inspector: "Suppose I gave you five dogs and then another dog, how many dogs would you have?" Small Boy (confidently): "Seven." Inspector: "Tut, tut! How would you have seven?" Small Boy: "Course I would. I got a dog o' my own at home."

An American aviator in France says, referring to his first meal in barracks: "We had a very excellent supper of soup, followed by a savory roast of meat, with mashed potatoes and lentils. Afterward, cheese and beer. I was slightly disconcerted physically on learning that the beef was horse-meat, but — convinced me that it was absurd to let old scruples militate against a healthy appetite. Furthermore, the roast was of so delicious a flavor and so closely resembled the finest cuts of beef that it was easy to persuade one's self that it was beef, after all." So much for French cooking.

The vexed historical question as to the brand of General Grant's whisky (alluded to by President Lincoln when he said he would like to find out what it was, so as to furnish it to some of the other generals) is brought up again by the publication of Mark Twain's letters in "Harper's Monthly." "The only time General Grant ever mentioned liquor to me," writes Mark Twain, was about last April, or possibly May [1885, the year Grant died]. He said: "If I could only build up my strength! The doctors urge whisky and champagne; but I can't take them; I can't abide the taste of any kind of liquor." "Had he made a conquest so complete," asks the writer of the letter, "that even the taste of liquor was become an offense?"

If the English soldier, who has been nicknamed "Tommy Atkins," is thus provided with a surname, why are not our "Sammie" and the German "Fritz" equally blessed? asks a correspondent. "Sammie," the friendly appellation given by the French to our soldiers, appears to be an affectionate diminutive of Uncle Sam, who has no surname and needs none; Fritz is an equally affectionate name applied by the Germans to their soldiers or rulers (as "Old Fritz" for Frederick the Great and "Unser Fritz"—our Fritz—for Frederick William), and is merely a familiar national name generalized and given to a class or an individual. "Tommy Atkins" is perhaps in the same class with

By the Way (Continued)

"John Doe" and "Richard Roe"—a familiar name that has been fastened on a group—perhaps, as a dictionary of nicknames suggests, through its use in making out blanks for military accounts.

On a stretch of desert road in the Southwest a warning sign reads: "Do Not Attempt this Route Without Ample Supplies of Water, Gasoline, and Oil." None of these necessities to the motorist can be obtained for a distance of forty miles. A sign on one of the roads leading into the Yosemite Valley reads: "Dangerous Road! Examine your Brakes! Do It Now!" Automobile clubs that put up such signs are public benefactors.

Between Cannes and Nice is the town of Cagnes. This place, says Mr. H. A. Gibbons, offers the American visitor a challenge as to his ability to pronounce French. The cab-driver profits by his inability, for "you bargain for the long trip to Cannes, and are attracted by the reasonable price quoted. In a very short time you are at Cagnes. Impossible to rectify your mispronunciation without a substantial increase of the original sum of the bargain." Another writer says that French soldiers good-naturedly tried to "stump" some visiting Americans by asking them to pronounce the word *heureux*, but the Americans had the laugh on the Frenchmen when they asked them to say "My father is withered with age," for as the Frenchmen pronounced the sentence it sounded more like "My fazzer is wizzered wiz age."

A medical journal publishes in its humorous column the following specimens of reporting from the non-medical press: "Anton Schleifer left last Monday for Rochester, where he is in consultation with physicians regarding his death" (Owatonna, Minn., Press). "Travelers from over across the plains bring the news of a fatal death at Knowles last Tuesday. One of the daughters of F. E. Isaac, age thirteen years, had a horse to fall on her" (Roswell, N. M., Star). "G. G. Helfert is suffering from a complication of ills the chief of which is inflammatory rheumatism. Leakage of the heart and a rupture of jugular vein are conditions that add to the seriousness of his case" (Julietta, Idaho, Independent).

Harvard University, through its School for Health Officers, is to award a Research Fellowship in plumbing as related to sanitation. The "Nelson Prizes in Plumbing" have just been awarded—the first prize, \$100, to T. J. Claffy, of the Health Department of Chicago, for a paper entitled "Plumbing;" the second prize, \$50, to J. W. Anderson, a student in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, for a paper on "Pipes Used in the Disposal of Rain Water;" and the third prize, \$50, to W. G. Ward, of North Dakota Agricultural College, for a paper on sanitary plumbing. The significant thing about these announcements is the indication they afford of the interest that is being taken by universities in educating men for practical pursuits that are of vital importance to the public welfare.

Pitcairn Island, according to a correspondent of the New York "Times," has recently received its first regular mail delivery from the United States. In addition, the lonely islanders received \$2,500 worth of presents, including a church organ, dresses for the women, and a suit of clothes for each man.

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Through a business deal I became the owner of a residence property in an adjoining State.

The place was so run down that it would have required \$500 or \$600 to make the house habitable.

As the property was so located that I could not live on it, and, being unoccupied, brought me no income, I was, of course, anxious to dispose of it as quickly as possible.

Never having tried to sell any real estate, and knowing no better method to pursue, I placed the property in the hands of a local real estate agent.

This agent, following out the usual methods of the average small-town real estate man, put a "For Sale" sign on the property and then sat down and waited for some one to come along and inquire about it.

After several months had elapsed without any word from the agent, I wrote and inquired as to the prospects of a sale. He replied that he had been unable to do anything with the property and had come to the conclusion that it was impossible to sell it in its present run-down condition, and advised me to spend \$500 in repairs.

Not having any money to spend on the place, and having lost all faith in the agent's ability to find a buyer, I decided that if anything was done I would have to do it myself.

Fortunately for me, about that time, I learned of "The Simplex Plans for Selling Real Estate" that had just been brought out by a New York publishing house. These I secured, and much to my delight, I found they contained *seven definite plans* for advertising and selling just such a property as mine.

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