

The Phoenix Nest

I THANK Kitty Parsons of Rockport, Massachusetts, for the following, inspired by the "Personals" of *The Saturday Review*:

THE PORT OF MISSING MEN

Last night I thought the time was ripe to cultivate my mind,
And eagerly I opened up the *SRL* to find
Some learned treatise on the books that lesser lights should read—
But suddenly, my wayward eye, which often disagreed
With higher education, slipped and in a by-path fell,
Marked *PERSONALS*, for benefit of any infidel.
I traveled down this thrilling street of rarely "cultured" men,
From "thirtyish" and "fortyish," to three score years and ten.
They all were "perfect gentlemen," all handsome and alone,
Whose aching hearts were wearing them, directly to the bone.
Philosophers, psychologists and countless beaux-esprits,
All wait for female sympathy to set their spirits free.
Some specify a Wagner blonde or ravishing coquette,
Some, just a simple country lass or able farmerette.
The ladies, scattered in amongst these manly masterpieces,
Are also out to captivate elusive Golden Fleeces.
One modest soul called "Dreaming Eyes," would hear from "Dauntless Knight,"
While others tempt these mystic males to soar to dizzy height.
Another gifted creature asks some man to share her taste
For "muffins, movies—Beethoven"; while one girl, truly chaste,
Invites "unmarried gentleman" to correspond and swears
Her answers will be guaranteed to dissipate his cares.
One, loving Schubert, ("medium brow"), has come to the decision,
She'd like to write to "brown-eyed man,"—she must have television!
They offer everything they have, and when we read on paper

About these priceless paragons, we cut a mental caper
And meditate on some choice spot where they might congregate
To form a race of supermen who would revivicate
A world grown commonplace and tame for lack of peerless males,
All hiding in the *SRL*, where scholarship prevails.

* * * *

We marvel, sir, so suddenly to find so many men
Who feel an overwhelming urge to seize a fluent pen.
This hidden tribe have surely cast aside their ancient features,
For all the "gentlemen" I've known, made me write their letters!

Mrs. Hilda McLeod Jacob, Secretary of the Maine State Library at Augusta, Maine, corrects *The Saturday Review* in its mention (*re* Pulitzer Prizes) on May 27 of "Miss Catherine Weston" as the author of "Indigo." "Christine Weston wrote INDIGO, and she is Mrs. Robert Weston."

I thank Elsa Gidlow of Fairfax, California, and William H. Riback of St. Louis, Missouri, for pendants to Cowl Rider's article on the limerick, but I have not space just at present to print their favorites. I am grateful to Fred R. Jones for numerous communications with bulletins from The Walt Whitman Society of America. He tells me he believes they have got through to Romain Rolland, "at least my Swiss newspaperman-friend assures us that he has been able to send notes to Rolland, although they have been censored before going out of the hotel where he is interned. . . . Rolland is nearing eighty and his ordeal in two world wars is something to elicit help or at least cheering messages from his admirers. The officers of the society will continue to send whatever assurances of sympathy are feasible." The executive offices of the society are at 377 Anchor Avenue, Oceanside, L. I., N. Y.

A number of people have hastened to tell Florence M. Hitchcock of Philadelphia where she can find the poem she asked for. Anne Hume, Chief Librarian of the Windsor Public Library of Windsor, Ontario, says "Easily to the old opens the hard ground" is the opening line (no pun intended) of "Exit" by the well-known Canadian poet, Wilson Macdonald, and may be found on page 19 of "Out of the Wilderness," published by Scribner's in 1926. Mrs. Austin Bothwell, Librarian of the Legislative Library, Regina, Saskatchewan, says the same (inclosing copy of poem); "Anon" of Ottawa adds that Mr. MacDonald's book was published in Ottawa in 1926 by the Graphic Publishers, and incloses copy of poem; Helen P. Siefverberg of Pa-

cific Avenue, Atlantic City, N. J., says that the poem may also be found on page 1145 of "The Viking Book of Poetry of the English Speaking World."

Edith Warner Johnson of Gladwyne, Pa., sends us these verses from a mother who knows!

RUMINATIONS IN A BOY'S BEDROOM

EDITH WARNER JOHNSON

I do not think this is a room for sleeping
But just another habitat for keeping
The knobby harvest of a boy's adaptations
With weird appliances of strange contraptions.

The pencil corded in electric wire
Will surely set the victim's words afire;
The farmer's hat ensnared in five mouse traps
Need only mice to nibble up the scraps.

Some new experiment lies within a jar
Where fatted dog ticks used to roaming far
Are now reduced to taking in air only—
(Survival of the fittest must be lonely).

And numerous are the clippings
"Sent me free,"
This liquid wax or glue he longs to see;
Sears Roebuck catalogues piled ever higher
Are dictionaries of his soul's desire.

Or here his eye has seen how bicycle clips
Can neatly hold erasers in their grips;
I cannot believe his mind can be as muddy
As nibbled pencils, emblems of his study.

The garters, rubber bands, adhesive tape,
Have lent themselves to almost any shape,
While wandering hammers and the apt screw drivers
Are from the tool chest now the sole survivors.

J. M. Hilt of Springfield, N. Y., writes—and please someone help me about the latest CEA Chapbook, I'm at a loss—

I didn't give you all the information you needed the first time but I think I have it at last.

Please tell me in the Nest where I can get the latest CEA or CETA Chap Book.

Incidentally, I'm still not convinced that the "boys" in Washington ought to be taking a vacation. I doubt if Mr. Cousins is either.

WILLIAM ROSE BENÉT.

WHY THE UNIVERSE?

By Percy A. Campbell

In this book, the proposition of Descartes that "space is substance" is reaffirmed, reconceived, and restated in enhanced form; viz, "space is the substance of the universe." To space itself is given the role of luminiferous medium (in place of the impossible "ether"). To it is given the full cosmopoietic role, the role of cosmos-maker. All that space "contains"—matter, electricity, radiation, cosmic rays, living organisms, thinking man—all this is rendered back to it in full, as its own set of manifestations, self-existing, self-acting, self-evolving space is, upon every cosmic count, the "substance of the universe." \$2.50

George Fields, Bookseller & Publisher
1419 Polk St., San Francisco 9, Calif.

BOSTON IS AFRAID OF BOOKS

(Continued from page 7)

ming up to the jury, said, "The theme of the book is immaterial, the object of the author in writing the book is immaterial, any lesson intended by the book is immaterial as far as you are concerned." An attempt was made in that year to change in the statute the words "containing obscene language" to "which considered as a whole is obscene." The Watch and Ward arranged a compromise to the present wording, "which is obscene," but this is no compromise whatsoever, for legal precedent has been used to indicate that one word constitutes obscenity, and the volume in question is still not considered as a whole.

"**STRANGE FRUIT**" was suppressed in March. The fact that Elliot Paul's "The Last Time I Saw Paris" had been absent from Boston bookstores since last summer has received almost no attention. The latter was a simple case of suggestion from Fuller that the book should not be sold; the former situation is more complicated. The statement first appeared in the papers that "Strange Fruit" had been officially banned by Sullivan, now Police Superintendent. He denied this forthright, stating merely that "certain passages" had been called to his attention. Again it seems to be the work of Fuller and the booksellers themselves, perhaps acting on Sullivan's suggestion.

During the lower court trial of Abraham Isenstadt, bookseller, and Bernard DeVoto, purchaser, in a test case of the legality of the "Strange Fruit" ban, the opinions of the police concerning the book were carefully obtained but DeVoto was allowed to express none on the excuse that "literary" opinions were of no value to the court. The judge found the book definitely to be obscene and fined Isenstadt for selling it. Then this judge, one Arthur P. Stone, had the effrontery to condemn the straightforward and above-board method Isenstadt and DeVoto had used in obtaining a test case. He is the same judge that, in the lower court trial of the Dunster House case, had praised the Watch and Ward for its back-alley methods. The Isenstadt case is now being appealed.

During the "American Tragedy" case in 1929 it was pointed out that the very character of the defendants in the case would be enough to insure the loss of the case in Boston. Clarence Darrow, the defending lawyer, for instance, was a professed agnostic and his assistant an atheist. There is

an element of that in the present case. DeVoto's share in "The Literary Fallacy" controversy was of no help to him in gaining Boston public opinion; the public seemed to miss the fact that the very books concerning which he wrote in "The Literary Fallacy" were all censored in Boston during the 1920's. He sees in the suppression of a book an even greater danger than he sees in the possibly mistaken position that book may express. Isenstadt, unfortunately, went into bankruptcy shortly after the appeal was filed, a bankruptcy hastened by his participation in the case. This, too, gives the Boston public a point at which to rationalize their torpid refusal to back him.

Bostonians are full of excuses for inactivity in regard to literary suppression. Perhaps one of the favorite excuses is that the Catholics are responsible for the bannings, that they control the city and there is nothing anyone can do about it. The major premise is simply untrue. The Watch and Ward was and is a Protestant organization. The Reverend Dr. Sterling was an Episcopal minister. The Fuller organization is predominately Protestant. The Catholics have been active enough in the suppression of plays and public meetings, especially when the latter have dealt with birth control, but the suppression of literature has been almost completely Protestant.

Naturally the only solution lies in a change of the law, and probably the only way to bring this about is to get the booksellers, the very censors themselves, anxious to change it. It could be done with a little economic pressure. Bostonians are already in the habit of sending to New York for suppressed books; if a sufficient number of them could be induced to send away for all book purchases the booksellers would soon put a stop to suppressions.

Already the disease has spread and the fight now is to prevent the Post Office from transforming the whole of our country into a shabby Boston. In that town all is quiet on the literary front. Isenstadt is reopening his store and awaiting his appeal. There is no telling what the booksellers will next remove from their shelves. The old Watch and Ward is inert but hardly dead. In their last annual report Literature is to be found listed between Brothels and Burlesque.

BUY WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

PERSONALS

ADVERTISEMENTS will be accepted in this column for things wanted or unwanted; personal services to let or required; literary or publishing offers not easily classified elsewhere; miscellaneous items appealing to a special and intelligent clientele; jobs wanted, houses or camps for rent, tutoring, traveling companions, ideas for sale; communications of a decorous nature, expressions of opinion (limited to fifty lines). All advertisements must be consonant with the purpose and character of *The Saturday Review*. Ads of a strictly personal nature are limited to an exchange of correspondence, thus also enabling an exchange of reference. Rates: 10 cents per word including signature. Count two additional words for Box and Number. Payment in full must be received ten days in advance of publication. We forward all mail received in answer to box numbers. Address Personal Dept., *Saturday Review*, 25 West 45th Street, New York City.

GENTLEMAN, 50, single, excellent personality, references. Employed by large firm. Interests nature, photography, philosophy, metaphysics. Desire country or travel opportunity. Ambition creative writing. Box 786-J.

BEE AND THISTLE INN, Old Lyme, Conn. Ideal for vacation—charming inn, finest food. Trains to Saybrook. Tel. 388. Write for folder.

"OH WAD SOME POWER THE GIFTIE GIE US"—Get a caricature, of yourself or friends, 8" by 11", framed. Drawn by a well known American artist. Postpaid anywhere in U. S. for \$5.00. Send a photograph, list of characteristics, hobbies and any other revealing information. MacDougal Studio, 127 MacDougal Street, New York 12, N. Y.

ATTRACTIVE VERMONT HOME. Century charm. Quiet. Good food. Tray breakfasts. Reasonable. Hood House, Chelsea, Vermont.

YOUNG LADY, varied interests, invites correspondents. Box 787-J.

LONG LETTERS in small penmanship appreciated by bookworm. Box 807-J.

HISTORICAL ASSISTANT, preferably woman Ph.D., desired for large work, late eighteenth century United States; salary \$200 month. Send professional references. Box 808-J.

CARETAKER—University professor, taking year leave for writing, seeks simple home for five. Atlantic states preferred. Box 790-J.

SEMI-PRO actor wants thought on theatre, acting, drama. Box 791-J.

YOUNG MAN, twentyish, seeks correspondence with another sincere, intelligent, and probably somewhat perplexed young man who has discerning tastes in literature and music. Box 792-J.

WOULD you care to discuss communal colonies for intellectuals, writers and artists? Write Box 793-J.

PROFESSIONAL country gentleman would like correspondence with women. Box 794-J.

INTELLIGENT, lonesome young man wishes to correspond with young lady. Box 795-J.

WILL take care of your New York City personal or business matters. Box 796-J.

WHO can accommodate helpful, feminine, paying weekend guest at small country place, environs New York City? Box 797-J.

TALL, comely, intelligent, traveled woman, irked by psychological restrictions of middle age, would correspond with calm, worldly-wise gentleman of culture and catholic tastes. Box 798-J.

COLONIAL SUMMER HOME—\$3,000. View, 7 rooms, bath, fireplaces, half acre. Schoonmaker, Middlefield, Mass.

THERE is no doubt that letters from an attractive man give a lady's life a tremendous lift. A pretty New Englander would be happy to answer a few. Box 799-J.

UNASCETIC YOUNG NEW YORKER implores data. Where can he frolic among young, lifelike vacationists? Box 800-J.

(Continued on page 22)

PERSONALS

(Continued from page 21)

"GREEN SHADOWS," Lyme, Connecticut. Delightful, informal New England rooms, cottages.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT? Information discreetly developed; any matter, person, problem; anywhere. International facilities. Established 1922. William Herman, 170 Broadway, New York.

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YOUNG AMAZON craves greater knowledge. At work on serious literary project, socio-economic, art background. Desires correspondence with good-natured philosopher, scholar. Box 801-J.

THE ISLAND PRESS, first author's co-operative in America, is looking for young writers who wish to learn and practise the business side of literature. Requirements: Good educational background, enthusiasm for books, typing and shorthand. Please write for appointment, mentioning expected salary for full time or half time work. ISLAND PRESS, 470 W. 24th Street, New York 11, N. Y.

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MAN, personable, 44, varied experience in finance, industry and business, wants permanent job. Accustomed to responsibility. Go anywhere. Box 804-J.

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ONE-ACT PLAYWRIGHTS' GROUP forming. Every Wednesday night at 8:00. Genius Club, 111 W. 45th St., N. Y. C. Selected original scripts produced.

GRADUATE LIBRARIAN, now employed clerical capacity, N. Y. State hospital, wishes library work in similar institution. Willing assist recreational director or social worker. Box 814-J.

GENTLEMAN, receptive and responsive to stimulating contacts, will exchange correspondence dealing with provocative ideas and interesting activities. Box 811-J.

THIRTYISH, fortyish males wanted to write interestingly to alert, attractive young woman, capable of adequate response to congenial, intellectual stimulus. Box 809-J.

BACHELOR, fortyish, personable, intellectual but not bookish, substantial but far from bourgeois, would hear from unshallow, articulate, emancipated, slightly young lady. Box 810-J.

PERSONALS

YOUNG WOMAN, master's degree in English, wishes teaching, editing, or research position. Experience. Box 812-J.

CULTURED Southern woman in her forties, who neither smokes nor drinks, and who enjoys good literature and music, seeks correspondence with members of either sex of similar tastes. Box 813-J.

PATRON wanted for gift or loan to complete serious play. Brilliant young playwright. References. Box 773-J.

IF YOU LOVE GOOD BOOKS, and good music; if you like to live in charming country home, 40 miles from New York; if you can tolerate bad jokes but can laugh anyway; and if you are willing to accept a fair salary for making yourself useful around a house, then call BR. 9-4275. N.Y.C.

SCIENTIST wants part-time services of housekeeper, cook, and typist. Westchester (N.Y.) Box 816-J.

IS THERE a children's librarian who would like to live and work in pleasant suburb of 68,000 with attractions of large city near by? Good salary for right person. Must have professional training and experience. Box 817-J.

WANTED: May 16, Sept. 19, 1942; and Oct. 30, 1943, issues of SRL. Will pay 25c plus postage for first two issues; 15c plus postage for other issue. Write Personal Dept., SRL.

DICTAPHONE OUTFIT practically given away, including shaver, transcriber, cylinders. Country-bound author without electricity will accept \$125. Inspection midtown N. Y. Box 818-J.

WRITER, New York, experienced handling biographical material, to collaborate anonymously on book, part-time basis. Box 819-J.

WANTED: Small dog boarder. Country home, fenced in yard, meat, milk, eggs, and love guaranteed. Ruth Farr, Lebanon, N. H.

WIDOW, Latin, desires to correspond with gentleman, sixtyish, who has some knowledge of tailoring. Box 821-J.

SAN FRANCISCO COUPLE desires quiet apartment or cottage, in or near San Francisco. Would like also to hear from other SRL readers in California. WEST 1959, Box 822-J.

BACHELOR, 30, will share particularly attractive midtown apartment (N.Y.C.). Piano, terrace. Box 823-J.

BUSINESS WOMAN, Midwest, single, extremely occupied with job, would like to exchange letters with man, fiftyish, sixtyish, New England preferred, who has sense of humor, mellow-minded, and interested in fine art of living. Correspondence friendship not romantics object. Box 824-J.

WANTED: Competent cook-houseworker who loves the country. Our family is small (no children); the house is small. No serving, no laundry. Kindly treatment, generous time off, \$125 per month. We're in the Berkshires, eight miles from Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Box 825-J.

COMPANIONSHIP IMPERATIVE! Widow, writer, active, fifties, personality (University Wisconsin, Yale Drama), wants share country home (and expense) of woman similar tastes. Prefers Westchester, Connecticut. Good driver; neat, ethical, loves cats, dogs. Understands healthful, vegetarian living. Highest references exchanged. Box 826-J.

CLASSIFIED

ADVERTISING RATES for this Department are: For twenty-six insertions, 7c a word; for thirteen insertions, 8c a word; for six insertions, 9c a word; fewer insertions, 10c a word. Forms close Friday, eight days before publication date. The Saturday Review of Literature, 25 West 45th Street, New York 19, N. Y.

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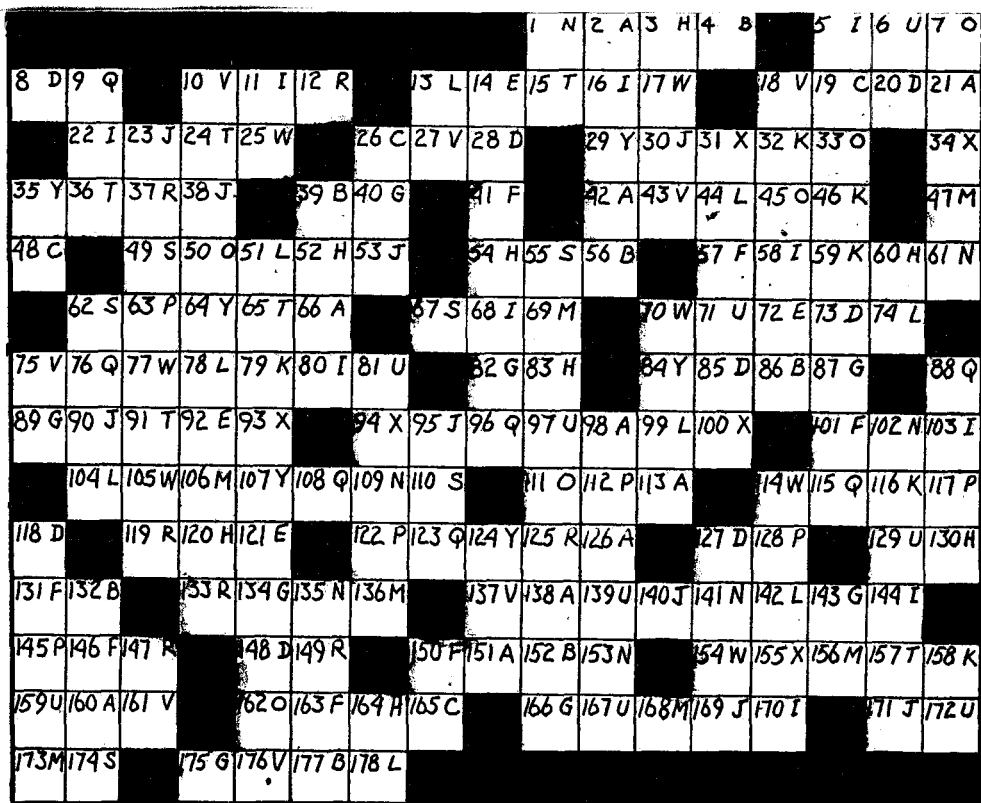
The Crostics Club

AS I understand Wallace Davis's suggestion, he wants the answers to the DCs printed upside-down, so that if he has fallen behind in the solution of the DC in the previous issue, he'll be spared seeing the answer in the current issue. I did not, apparently, state his point of view clearly; for with the one exception of Ruth Martin, Glen Ridge, N. J., including names already mentioned, Jean W. Turnbull, Norfolk, Conn., Carl Czermak, West Orange, N. J., and Mrs. Bertha Borden, New York City, all speak of the temptation to "peek." How can peeking enter the question? Further, since the page on which the answer to the previous DC is always noted in the little box beside the DC of the current issue one might suggest that you omit that page until you have done the DC of the previous week, but for the fact that the page may contain the continuation of an article in which you are interested. I can't see how printing the answer upside-down is going to interfere at all, and personally I should like to experiment with Mr. Davis's suggestion. It may help others who have not thus far been articulate on the subject.

The latest member, and perhaps the youngest, of the Armed Forces to be heard from is "an anonymous ex-college student and confirmed admirer of DCs, Keats and Emily Dickinson," stationed at present in Florida. (We are flattered to be considered in the same pen-stroke as Keats and E. D.!) What pleases me greatly in his youthfully exuberant letter is the following: "No. 532 led me to a find. The word Ethelfleda brought me to an excellent five-volume History of England in the Red Cross Building library here. So now I am following quite fanatically the three hundred year struggle of the Britons against the Angles and Saxons and loving every page of it." An argument, is it not, for supplying the Forces with good books?

Talking of English history, I'm still lingering over Mattingly's "Catherine of Aragon" and I certainly do recommend it to you who enjoy picturesque, painstaking historical studies of a breathtaking period in a style that may be classed as literature.

It occurs to me that we are indebted to military men for the letter-index we use in the boxes of the DCs. The first book had none, and so one had to glance down all the words to find the word in which the particular quotation number resided. If I recall aright after these nine years, a retired rear-admiral of Philadelphia and a captain in a Colorado hospital, at the same time, each without acquaintance with the other, suggested such an index. Series 2 contained it, but the SRL was hesitant about adopting it for some time. E. S. K.



Double-Crostics: No. 538

By ELIZABETH S. KINGSLEY

DIRECTIONS

To solve this puzzle you must guess twenty-five words, the definitions of which are given in the column headed DEFINITIONS. The letters in each word to be guessed are numbered. These numbers appear under the dashes in the column headed WORDS. There is a dash for each letter in the required word. The key letters in the squares are for convenience, indicating to which word in the definitions each letter in the diagram belongs. When you have guessed a word, fill it in on the dashes; then write each letter in the correspondingly numbered square on the puzzle diagram. When the squares are all filled in you will find (by reading from left to right) a quotation from a famous author. Reading up and down the letters mean nothing. The black squares indicate ends of words; therefore words do not necessarily end at the right side of the diagram.

When the column headed WORDS is filled in, the initial letters spell the name of the author and the title of the piece from which the quotation has been taken. Authority for spelling and definitions is Webster's New International Dictionary (1940 edition).

The solution of last week's Double Crostic will be found on page 18 of this issue.

DEFINITIONS

- The flicker (local U. S.)
- Members of the Congregation of Jesus and Mary founded at Caen, France, 1643.
- Having a true lustre when uncut—of precious stones.
- A genus of anomuran crab in polar waters.
- The taro or its roots.
- A kind of double veil worn by Mohammedan women when not in their private apartments.
- Give or take—used by persons drinking together (3 wds.)
- Americans born in America before the Declaration of Independence.
- Civil War series of fights between the Confederate and the Federal Armies (May 5, 6, 1864).
- In a stated manner (3 wds.)
- Playing cards of cheap grade with King Henry VIII. on the wrapper.
- To excel; drive away.
- A circle; plumpness.
- Goddess of peace and fertility (Teut. Myth.)
- Swift; darting; piercing.
- Unless; only; just (now dial.)
- To waste or fall away.
- To form a rope by twisting strands together clockwise (comp.)
- Right of a belligerent to take over neutral ships in case of necessity.
- A kingdom of North Africa destroyed by Belisarius.
- Scholarship.
- Shakespeare's Stratford residence from 1598 to 1616.
- Valiant—used with a hint of burlesque.
- The bases for a comedy by Shakespeare—in title.
- American author, actress, educatress born in England (1762-1824).

WORDS

2	98	42	126	21	151	138	113	66	160
132	152	56	39	4	86	177			
165	26	19	48						
8	85	20	118	148	28	73	127		
92	121	72	14						
150	41	146	163	57	101	131			
87	134	166	82	143	40	89	175		
54	120	52	164	83	130	60	3		
5	58	11	103	80	16	68	144	170	22
30	53	95	171	140	90	169	38	23	
79	116	32	59	46	158				
44	51	78	104	13	74	142	99	178	
136	47	173	69	106	168	156			
102	109	153	1	61	135	141			
111	7	45	50	162	33				
112	128	63	122	145	117				
108	88	123	96	9	76	115			
12	147	149	125	37	119	133			
67	55	174	62	110	49				
65	15	24	91	157	36				
139	97	159	81	167	129	172	6	71	
27	161	18	137	43	10	75	176		
114	77	70	25	105	154	17			
100	34	155	31	93	94				
124	64	84	29	35	107				