

the Phoenix Nest

SO far I haven't had any leave-out couplets that are really good enough to print, or so I believe. I said that I would quote something on Jerusalem Garters. In the *Seventeenth Century News Letter*, a periodical edited by James M. Osborn of Yale and others, the suggestion is made that Christopher Morley compile, as a companion volume to Midriff Poems, one of Garter Poems, appropriately dedicated to the Knights of that ancient Order. To start it, the editors contribute this excerpt from a rare seventeenth century poem "to the best of our knowledge yet unedited and anonymous."

TO MRS. A. G. . . . WITH A PRESENT OF JERUSALEM GARTERS

These trifles, though far fetch'd, not
dearly bought,
And therefore but half good for ladies'
thought:

The pilgrims of Hierusalem beg
More consecration from your leg;
The Order of the Garter we renew:
Title and honour it shall take from
you.

Some virgin did these letters braid
For a devout and learned maid
There, where the best of virgins made
abode,

Mysterious flowers upspringing where
she trode,

Th' experienced nuns thus take de-
light

To weave a fairer hand than we
can write;

So may these holy bands embrace
About your tender gart'ring place,
Themselves in time reprinting there
again,

And set forth new editions in your
skin.

As for Mr. Morley, lately he told
us that he was humming to himself,
after sprinkling ashes "on our slip-
pery slopy little driveway,"

We climbed the steep ascent of
Heaven
With ashes on the grade.

He says, too, that having been likely
the first to try to put back into the
print Walt Whitman's 1855 Preface,
in a little book that "everyone but me
and Jo Davidson have forgotten," he
was startled that Dorothy Thompson
or Norman Cousins printed it in the
SRL as of 1857, so he looked up his
little copy of that "Two Prefaces"
(Doubleday, Page: 1926) and what did
he find there but a clipping of the
Old Mandarin (See *SRL* of April 11,
1936) "where is printed, yes in letters
and ink":

Some are troubled
Because Walt Whitman's birthplace
Has not been bought as a Memorial.

But any great poet is also born
In the heart of the reader
Discovering his magic for the first or
thousandth time.

One of Walt's birthplaces
Is room 1906 at the Congress hotel
Where, last Sunday, Endymion and I
Read the 1855 Preface
In a glory of laughing denial and
tumultuous assent.

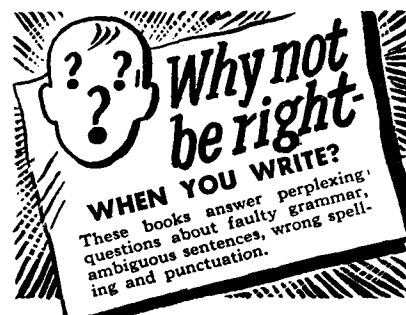
Words are stronger than houses;
They are raised from silence
And born again.

He wishes much to know How,
When, Where, Why, Dorothy Thomp-
son came across the 1855 Preface.
"Would she write us and tell us?"
Also Jesse Merritt, the County His-
torian of Nassau County, Long Island,
says Mrs. Townsend who wrote con-
cerning "Ticonderoga" has a good
Long Island name of three centuries.
And he wonders whether R. L. S.
picked up the name Ticonderoga when
at Saranac? And we do remember
the Clam Diggers when we visited
Adelphi Village with Chris. "We" were
then the editorial "we."

I have now taken up art in a se-
rious way and have just completed my
first oil painting, "Kit Carson's Dream."
The Phantom Horse is good, anyway!

Donald Marshall of the city desk
of *The New York Times* writes that
he has a copy of the first issue of *The
Saturday Review of Literature*. "I
don't know whether these are plenti-
ful or scarce around your office, but
if you or a colleague have any use for
it, I should be glad to send it on."
He deposes further:

The recent poetic exchanges, in
your column, about *The New York
Times*, remind me of some tomfool-
ery on the same subject in which



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an erudite friend of mine indulged some years ago. The occasion was the failure of *The Times* to print, in its daily edition, a reproduction of Titian's "Venus and the Lute Player," along with its story of the Metropolitan Museum's acquisition of this canvas; and its later publication (nine days later) of the picture in the Sunday art section. I commented on this inconsistency in a bit of doggerel, which I sent to my friend, a professor at Columbia, who responded with the following:

VENUS MAKES THE TIMES AT LAST

Concealment of the frankly sexual
Is flouted by the truly intellexual.
Witness *The Times*, which feels 'tis
not its mitian

To help suppress a masterpiece by
Titian;

Though possibly some editorial ruction
Explains nine days' delay in reproduc-
tion.

Still, reproduction even sensual
Requires a period novimensual;

If Venus makes *The Times*, then, in
nine days,

The Times may well deserve a crown
of bays.

Congratulations, *Times*! Though I
confess

Venus could "make" me in a good
deal less!

Experiment, 79 Q Street, Salt Lake City 3, Utah, offers a prize of \$25 for the best unpublished poem submitted by February 1, 1945. You have a few days still. The judges will be three noted poets, Thomas Hornsby Ferril, William Carlos Williams, and Genevieve Taggard. *Experiment* is a quarterly of new poetry published coöperatively by fifteen poets residing in different parts of the country.

WILLIAM ROSE BENÉT.

ANSWERS TO LITERARY QUIZ

1. Edward Ponderovo, in "Tono Bungay," by H. G. Wells.
2. Psmith, in "Leave It to Psmith," by P. G. Wodehouse.
3. Sherlock Holmes, in "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle," by A. Conan Doyle.
4. Little Buttercup, in "H.M.S. Pinfore," by W. S. Gilbert.
5. Mrs. Jarley, in "The Old Curiosity Shop," by Dickens.
6. Theodore Gumbriel, in "Antic Hay," by Aldous Huxley.
7. Roger Miffin, in "The Haunted Bookshop," by Christopher Morley.
8. The Duke of Bilgewater, in "Huckleberry Finn," by Mark Twain.
9. Andy Hawks, in "Show Boat," by Edna Ferber.
10. The Countess of Nosh, in "Gertrude the Governess," by Stephen Leacock.

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The Crostics Club

IT is not my intention to utilize this column for lapses in precision of English usage, but in view of the comment I made some time ago as to the flagrant misuse of *that* and *which* so common among good writers, I should like to quote a paragraph from the Jan. 6 issue of *The Publishers' Weekly* and raise the question of your agreement with me. The section is titled "Little, Brown Sells Textbook List to Heath," and the following is the second of two paragraphs: "Heath, Little, Brown and the Atlantic Monthly Press are working out arrangements under which textbooks published by Heath, which have a potential market as trade books as well, will be issued in trade editions by Little, Brown. Trade books or manuscripts originating at Little, Brown and the Atlantic Monthly Press, which seem suitable for textbook editions, will be published as textbooks by Heath, in addition to the regular trade editions issued by Little, Brown." As the wording stands I claim the use of *which* implies that *all* textbooks published by Heath have a potential market value as trade books as well, and similarly with the other *which*; whereas the writer means *only those* that have a potential market as trade books as well. The commas, too, support my contention. This is not a matter of taste in usage but of clearness. Now, recently I received an unsigned letter from a California puzzler inveighing against my "utterly absurd" use of the word *phase* in "that phase of the *SRL*," sending her "condolences at my having contracted the flu that is going the rounds in the use of this word" and adding: "One would surmise that a writer whose profession is that of handling, observing, studying, and scrutinizing words would be inoculated against 'catching' any of these diseases in the press, etc." I can say only that I lay no claims to such perfection, that I have little time to scrutinize in general the press, that the smoke, if there was any, was scarcely worth such acrimonious fire, and that I consider unsigned invectives cowardly in that they give the recipient no fair opportunity to answer personally. Hence this exposure!

From Walter Schafer, Hartford, comes an intriguing suggestion and I think I shall try it out after the sheaf of DCs already done through February is exhausted. "The fun," he writes, "resulting from the confusion of definitions in a recent Double Crostic in the *SRL* has given me the idea for a variant in the puzzles that you may wish to consider. The idea is to have an unkeyed word in each puzzle." Mr. Schafer explains in detail how such a scheme would work out, concluding thus: "Such a 'numberless child' wandering around amid the other correctly keyed words would create some interest and add, I do believe, to the fun which your acrostics always arouse."

E. S. K.

															I	G	2	P				3	R	4	O	5	L				6	A	7	Q			
8	I	9	R	10	E			11	R	12	A	13	Q	14	L	15	E			16	S	17	L				18	V	19	H	20	G					
21	U	22	Z	23	N	24	E	25	Y	26	I	27	L			28	N	29	U	30	I	31	F				32	A	33	S	34	Z					
35	W	36	R	37	H	38	N			39	R	40	V	41	A	42	P				43	C	44	H	45	M				46	F	47	H	48	P		
49	I	50	N	51	Q	52	W	53	L	54	A	55	K	56	R	57	X				58	K	59	H	60	M	61	V				62	F	63	V		
64	Q	65	N	66	O	67	U			68	D	69	F	70	O	71	M				72	U	73	M	74	W	75	J	76	P			77	C			
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146	W	147	L	148	Y			149	E	150	G	151	D	152	X	153	J	154	N	155	Z	156	K	157	O	158	F				159	D	160	R			
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174	M			175	Z	176	W	177	S			178	C	179	T	180	Y																				

Double-Crostics: No. 566

By ELIZABETH S. KINGSLEY

DIRECTIONS

To solve this puzzle you must guess twenty-six 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 23 of this issue.

DEFINITIONS

- Character in "The Merchant of Venice."
- Largest island of the Kazan Group.
- Czech conductor and composer (1824-76; opera "Bluebeard").
- Cry of encouragement to foxhounds (Hunting).
- Norwegian novelist, holder of 1928 Nobel prize in literature (1882-).
- Luncheon (orig. India).
- Coronilla varia*, European vetch naturalized in eastern U. S.
- Wife of Solomon and mother of Rehoboam.
- Chief of the Götterdämmerung (Wagner: "Götterdämmerung").
- Low, chirping notes.
- Irish-born American journalist and historian (1883-).
- The Mount haunted by the boar of Hercules' Third Labor.
- A white Madeira wine (named from the grapes).
- Impracticable.
- Seat of treaty ending War of 1812 (Dec. 24, 1814).
- Selfhood.
- Novel by Disraeli (1870).
- Frequently for a space of time (Poetic).
- Composer of opera interpolating Moore's "Last Rose of Summer" (with von).
- One of the largest of the northern Marianas.
- Birds of the family *Sittidae* (long wing, short tail, tree-climbing).
- Mother of Meleager and Dejanira (caused his death with firebrand).
- Black varnish tree; or the varnish from it.
- List of books prohibited or restricted by church authorities (R. C. Ch.).
- A wafer, esp. of altar bread (Hist.).
- English music critic and writer of studies of Wagner, Elgar, etc. (1868-).

WORDS

32	165	54	12	6	41	85
105	142	81				
127	101	136	88	43	178	77 91
116	159	68	151	97	86	
120	113	24	15	149	10	
158	133	46	62	110	31	
1	150	106	20	131	128	
44	126	59	37	47	19	
8	124	49	129	145	26 30	
153	95	107	75	137	102	
58	94	164	103	156	83 55	
5	14	104	166	53	17 99 147 78 27	
60	163	82	45	174	73 100 71	
143	23	154	80	123	38 109 50 167 28 65 9	
114	4	66	157	70		
122	76	2	93	48	172 42	
64	90	161	51	13	7 134	
36	160	3	11	9	112 39 56 140	
171	125	16	79	33	177	
179	169	92	135	130	96 69	
67	29	121	89	132	111 21 84 138 72	
119	115	18	162	40	61 63	
146	173	52	176	144	35 74 87	
152	168	57	141	108		
170	117	25	148	180		
139	118	34	155	22	175	