

the Phoenix Nest

THERE are a whole lot of people who know more about industry and labor unions, management and workers, than I do; but I do know that the present industrial upheaval has profound implications, and reasons that reach deep into American society. We are not doing a good human job in America, and we ought to be ashamed of ourselves, because we have every reason to be doing one, and we certainly have the brains and the common sense. The other day, January 18 to be exact, in the newspaper *PM*, I read on their page titled "Opinion" the text of a radio address delivered at the Town Hall meeting broadcast over ABC the night before. The speech was made by Millard Lampell, former sergeant in the Army Air Forces, and author of a forthcoming book, "The Long Way Home," and for real straight shooting his "What Does the Returning GI Expect at Home?" seems to me to deserve being read by everybody. I wish they'd make a pamphlet of it and distribute it widely.

In a way, Mr. Lampell's honest, refreshing speech suggested some bits in the following lines, which I have given their title because so many New Yorkers are commuters, as I was for years, and read their papers and argue about the news on their daily trains. But no one is responsible for my views but myself.

One more word. I was struck the other day by a remark over the radio by J. Raymond Walsh. It was the mild inquiry, "Why do they always speak of Labor Trouble and never of Management Trouble?" Practically the whole press of the nation, including *The New York Times*, is on the side of Management, so naturally I'm just being a crank. But here goes:

SONNETS FOR A COMMUTERS' SPECIAL

You say the President should not step in,
Sacrosanct Management not be touched at all. . . .
If they refuse to bargain, won't play ball,
And just sit tight because they're sure to win,
Because they have the money and the power
And to the labor argument present
Merely their boot-soles, reading, with evident
Obliviousness, the comics, hour by hour—

If they say merely, "This is what we'll pay.
If you don't like it, strike!" (that's what they say

In substance) you grow purple and deplore
Not *their* contumacy, but Labor's nerve.
"They got the bargaining that they deserve!"
But is that all Labor is fighting for?

The real rock-bottom issue is as plain
As the plain people: a job at decent wage,
Without paternalism or patronage,
That meets the cost of living and can sustain
A family's self-respect; a decent place
To hang your hat; have children; under God
Make yourself more than a robot or a clod;
Be a real member of the human race.



Is that so much to ask, when corporations
Bulge with their profits and their bonds and stocks?
What is it in the human mind that mocks
Fair play, till foul disaster shakes the nations?
What is it that will not reason, will not plan,
Will not respect the dignity of Man?

It costs so much to live; it costs so much
To raise a family. Above your head
Hangs still the old disabling human dread
Of age and illness. Others keep their clutch
On the employed because the unemployed,
Many and needy, persist on every hand.
Supply thus beautifully meets Demand—
The perfect balance that must not be destroyed!
Cheap labor and big profits, that's prosperity!
Let the rest perish or rot! Have no dubiety,

That's the old jungle law of our society—
Substantially, an eternal verity!
No ceiling on our prices, or the enjoyment
Of what we make—ignore all unemployment.

Sometimes, America, you seem to me
Typified by the gambler and the sport
Of the Mississippi steamboat, with a quart
In his hip-pocket, and a fancy-free
Skin-'em-alive and wolfish gaiety—
The poker-player of that famed resort,
The old Last Chance saloon, still glad to thwart
Any approach to rationality.

You live in legend, you rejoice in myth.
Our highly-colored chimeras, how we love them,
Though a world starve! But can we rise above them
Even to recognize as kin and kith
The homeless veteran, the mere man who bids
For a decent job to keep his wife and kids?

Or will our manufacturers remain
Forever in the sport and gambler class
Trusting to luck on what they may amass,
Reeling like drunkards in a golden rain,
Repulsing, with cries of agonizing pain,

FRASER YOUNG'S LITERARY CRYPT: No. 138

A cryptogram is writing in cipher. Every letter is part of a code that remains constant throughout the puzzle. Answer to No. 138 will be found in the next issue.

AWS AIQS BNDICTA ESAVSSD
TBFSDBS CDR JGAW FT JNIS
DSCIHG ANQBWSR VWSD VS
TCG AWCA TBFSDBS CHNDS
FT BCXCEHS NY KSIFYFBCA-
FND. — XWFHNTNXWG NY
TCDACGDC (ISCTND FD
TBFSDBS)—L. TCDACGDC.

Answer to Literary Crypt No. 137
POOR WHIMS OF FANCY, TENDER AND UN-HARSH. THEY ARE THE ENEMY TO BITTERNESS AND REGRET, AND SWEETEN THIS EXILE WE HAVE BROUGHT UPON OURSELVES.
—DAPHNE DU MAURIER
—REBECCA.

Demands from workers whom the system pinches—
System? What system? Do we grow by inches
 Through endless years dwarf stature to attain?

Pontifically our journals of "good will"
 Anoint and crown free private enterprise
 And *laissez faire*. Has God in Heaven not eyes
 To oversee and save his children still
 No matter what they do, how deaf and dumb
 They choose to be, till Atom's kingdom come!

Drone on, drone on, great editorial We!
 Shout, huge advertisements, in all the papers!
 Make monkeys of the strikers cutting capers.
 They love to strike, enjoy to disagree!
 They'd seize the plants, and don't know ABC
 About the business. Of course they're always wrong!
 They'd better get back and stay where they belong.
 Say, isn't this the Country of the Free?

The Country of the Free! I saw the sun
 Light endless fields of grain. I saw the bread
 Of life destroyed while millions went unfed,
 Unhoused, ill-clothed. I saw injustice done
 Negro and Jew; heard apes in Congress rant
 Age-old pernicious blather and stale cant.

The Country of the Free! Yes, a great land.
 Thank God that I have known it East to West
 And North to South, and still I love it best
 Of all the various world the seas command.
 I have known Americans of finest grain,
 Honest and fearless, humorous and keen.
 Beauty beyond all purchase I have seen
 In the human spirit's eminent domain.

And shoulder to shoulder now I know they stand:
 Our valiant dead and all our valiant living
 To vivify with giving and forgiving
 This Country of the Free, the impartial land
 That it might be; with heart and mind and nerve
 Its many-in-one to strengthen and preserve.

I will not see it a pen for bleating sheep
 Watched by sly wolves; or, in the new dark ages,
 Industrial feudal lords dispensing wages
 Each from his fief and his baronial keep,
 While small stockholders pull their caps and scrape
 Their little crumbs of dividends together,
 And are told they are the Owners, and wonder whether

They are caught in some strange nightmare past escape.

I will not think enormous trusts—and what
 A word is Trust!—can rack this land asunder
 To disunited states, and harrow under
 Plain human rights, all benefits forgot
 Of human toil, of the great heart and hand
 That bound the continent they call Their Land.

Land of huge fortunes and stupendous luck,
 Landgraves, manorial lords, the privateers
 (A golden sound in Israel Thorndike's ears!),
 Railroads and banks and trusts that ran amuck,
 Seizure of public earth, monopoly,
 Titanic names like Vanderbilt and Gould,
 Astor and Morgan, and other great, who ruled
 For many a year the Country of the Free—

With all your passion for the picturesque,
 With all your freedom for the Ragged Dicks
 To climb, by industry or politics,
 To wealth or fame, the picture grows grotesque
 Now, in this age, when, whatsoever the weather,
 We must fairly live together or die together.

Labor is a new giant? Yes, it's true.
 And, "What did you expect?" seems a fair question;
 And even if it gives you indigestion,
 Are giants in this land so strange to you?
 "Captains of Industry" made quite a few;
 The Oil King and the Banker and the Scot.
 Giants must Have; The Others must Have Not.
 How feels the foot inside the other shoe?

Well, Gamblers, will you gamble?
 Will you say,
 "Let's really get together; join our strength;
 Not waste in civil war! The world at length
 Is due for a big new housecleaning day.
 For human rights—come on—let's stake our pride!
 World, we are moving—all tin-horns stand aside!"

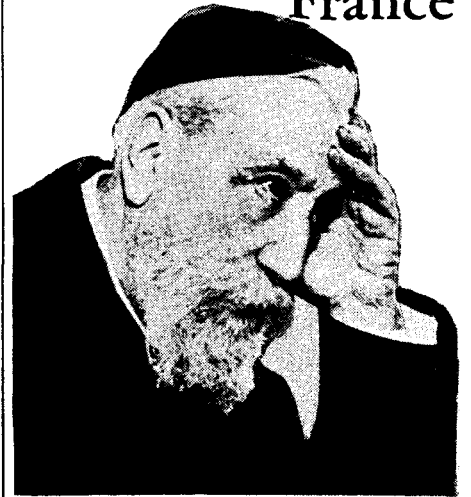
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DOUBLE-CROSTIC: No. 620

The Crostics Club

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 of 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. Read up and down the letters mean nothing. The black squares indicate ends of words; 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 (second edition).

The solution of last week's Double-Crostic will be found on page 43 of this issue.

DEFINITIONS

- A. Long-handled medieval weapon with a long convex edge.
- B. A close-fitting, usually double-breasted, jacket.
- C. Unequal-sided (Biol.)
- D. Ancient or antique (Bib. origin).
- E. Famous diamond, surrendered to the British Crown in the Punjab, 1849.
- F. Woolly.
- G. Go away; be off (Slang, Brit.)
- H. Aztec hero of a deluge myth; husband of Nana.
- I. Low chirping notes.
- J. Yield of any commodity, esp. of manufactured goods.
- K. Of the waist, slender.
- L. An excessive, unwarranted request or burden.
- M. Laid aside (Comp.)
- N. Supple; flexible.
- O. Very small quantities or degrees.
- P. The infernal regions.
- Q. To study absorbedly (U.S.; 2 wds.)
- R. Actor born in London whose interpretation of Hamlet as a man of action was influential (1824-79).
- S. Umpired.
- T. A host whose identity is in doubt (origin in Gr. Myth.)
- U. Knotted.
- V. Having acute mental penetration (Comp.)
- W. A disease of the sweet orange, called also "scaly bark" in Florida.
- X. Pledged (an item or such).
- Y. Roving.

WORDS

- 24 104 165 134 75 175 38 130
- 77 135 142 36 151 27
- 128 100 152 172 162 74 71 106 94 16
- 50 164 101 158 46 48 181 21
- 22 47 4 33 99 51 37 57
- 166 25 82 23 107 15
- 121 174 49 168 89
- 129 169 119 137
- 70 163 153 112 126 149
- 28 64 115 131 148 3
- 52 56 8 140 10 32 19
- 5 41 123 117 59 159 66 13 98 35
- 173 160 176 96 124 29 62
- 43 146 31 127 63 1 84
- 116 34 18 144 125
- 72 105 78 145 6 53 161
- 180 60 93 136 139 17 170 68 85
- 61 110 143 88 73 171 177
- 111 91 87 2 141 44 67 83
- 80 109 42 103 20 9 65 102 120 157
- 182 108 155 133 122 178 58
- 7 30 156 118 55 81 12 39 179 92
- 132 76 54 138 86 90 173 11
- 97 14 26 114 45 69 40 150
- 154 147 79 95 167

IT was most pleasant to meet recently Mr. and Mrs. David S. Stern, Elkins Park, Pa., on to New York for a brief change. Both on the side are composers of light verse. You may recall about a year ago the publication in the SRL of an amusing poem by Mr. Stern in protest against being disturbed for DC's when he needed sleep, and her equally clever rejoinder in this column later. Mrs. S. is a most comfortable DCer, taking whatever comes and liking everything—so she says.

Although I haven't had time to look it over critically, I am glad to receive through Morris Needleman, a DCer, and one of the collaborators of the publication, the new handy "Outline of American Literature," companion volume to the two similar ones on English literature (Barnes and Noble). I still have somewhere among my effects a meagre little outline pamphlet of American literature, compiled by Katherine Lee Bates for a brief course in that subject she gave us almost a half century ago and for which no adequate textbook was available. It has been most useful through the years.

I was just beginning to wonder what had become of our poet, Elizabeth Underhill, when along comes the following, titled "To Dear Mrs. Kingsley in a Flippant Mood, Mine Not Hers":

Oh where, oh where has our owt-
chah gone,
Oh where, oh where can he be?
Through years of DC's he's weath-
ered the course.
Oh where, oh where is he?
I just love that hound—he's from
Russia, of course—
Oh where, oh where can he be?
Though he's awful to spell and as
big as a horse,
Oh where, oh where is he?
Please bring back that doggie of
dynamic force—
Oh where, oh where can he be?
I'm sure all true puzzlers my plea
will endorse—
Oh where, oh where can he be???

Samuel D. Davis, San Francisco, writes to inquire the source of Kipling's "We and They" (DC #614), for although he has been a student of Kipling since college days he has never come across it. That was my experience until I found it in that choice "Definitive Edition of Kipling," 1945 (highly prized for itself and as a gift from the SRL when I happened to mention a craving for it last year). It is also to be found in his volume "Debits and Credits" after, I think, the story "A Friend of the Family." I hope that you will all read the whole poem, for it is de-li-cious!

Lt. Commander USN (Ret.) P. W. Yeatman is another who has called my attention to the mistake in regard to Abel P. Upshur. He says that there is or was a destroyer named for Upshur. Now, at least, if you meet it you will have heard of the one for whom it is named.

															1	N	2	S	3	J	4	E	5	L	6	P	7	V	8	K
9	T	10	K	11	W																									
		23	F	24	A																									
36	B	37	E	38	A																									
		50	D	51	E	52	K																							
63	N	64	J	65	T	66	L	67	S	68	Q	69	X																	
77	B	78	P	79	Y	80	T	81	V	82	F	83	S	84	N	85	Q													
91	S	92	V	93	Q	94	C	95	Y	96	M	97	X	98	L	99	E													
106	C		107	F	108	U	109	T	110	R																				
120	T		121	G	122	U																								
133	U	134	A	135	B	136	Q																							
148	J	149	I																											
		163	I	164	D	165	A	166	F	167	Y																			
		176	M	177	R	178	U	179	V																					