

# the Phoenix Nest

**N**OW, TODAY, when accusation and counter-accusation are bandied back and forth in our country; when some men try to suppress and outlaw the opinions of other men; when no one specifically defines communism but many shout that it is this or it is that; when it is a field day for every reactionary and violently prejudiced narrow mind; and when, on the other hand, we have the disturbing spectacle of men who will not speak out and affirm their beliefs or stand up and be counted; in this day of bewilderment for the old-fashioned American who believes in all the freedoms presumably guaranteed by the Constitution, and hates the atmosphere of suspicion and malevolence, threat and fear at present clouding our skies, I wish to quote the words of a man now dead, a man who loved the United States of America as few have loved it, and a man who told us why. Let us stop name-calling and wrangling a moment to listen. This man was my brother, but the force of his expression belonged solely to him.

## WE MADE THIS THING

Out of the flesh, out of the minds and hearts  
Of thousand upon thousand common men,  
Cranks, martyrs, starry-eyed enthusiasts  
Slow-spoken neighbors, hard to push around,  
Women whose hands were gentle with their kids  
And men with a cold passion for mere justice,  
We made this thing, this dream.  
This land unsatisfied by little ways,  
Open to every man who brought good will,  
This peaceless vision, groping for the stars,  
Not as a huge devouring machine  
Rolling and clanking with remorseless force  
Over submitted bodies and the dead  
But as live earth where anything could grow,  
Your crankiness, my notions and his dream,  
Grow and be looked at, grow and live or die,  
But get their chance of growing and the sun.  
We made it and we make it and it's ours.  
We shall maintain it. It shall be sustained.

STEPHEN VINCENT BENÉT.

I for one still think that this is our America. I do not believe that it is the America of hysteria, fear, suspicion, and hate; neither is it an America of divided allegiance or political hypocrisy. It is fundamentally an America unafraid because truth-telling has nothing to fear, unoppressive because it knows that no lie can stand the light; an America believing that social and economic growth is no treason, and that dictatorship can never find roots in our soil of freedom. It is an America that will survive the crackpots both in and out of Congress, who shout confusion and prophesy things infinitely dire. It will survive the bright yellow press. It will survive a mistaken few who hope to make it totalitarian. It will survive a few in public office who are its worst enemies. It will, in fact, survive.

\* \* \*

## DECEMBER EVENING

Yes, it was quiet that afternoon and evening;  
And in all our minds, suppose England, suppose all others fall.  
Then — remember — that voice that called us all,  
The fighters droning, so high?  
The machines, and you and you and I  
In the mile-long factories, and the code-bells ringing?

BERT MOORE.

\* \* \*

I am grateful to Mrs. Ted Robinson for sending me two items, a booklet published by the Rowfant Club, a local book collectors' club in Cleveland, Ohio, of which her husband, the late columnist and poet Ted Robinson, was a member, and a card—one



of a few left from those printed after the First World War. The booklet contains a tribute read at the Rowfant Club on October 11, 1946, by Carl Liggett, in honor of Robinson, and called, "The Beloved Philosopher of Folly." It is warm and graceful. The card contains Ted's poem, "Demopithekos," which originally appeared in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* in the days just after the First World War. These lines are so pertinent to affairs today that I must quote them. Robinson imagines Demopithekos speaking to him and saying:

"What I think is true.  
If you say some other thing,  
I shall punish you."

So he punishes the poet by calling him "terrible names."

I laughed at his devil,  
And he called me Atheist;  
I cursed his injustice,  
And he called me Communist.  
I sickened at his morals,  
He called me Hedonist;  
I retched at his murders,  
He called me Pacifist;  
I damned his whole ape-custom,  
And he called me Pessimist.

If Demopithekos believes  
The names he calls are bad,  
I know they must be lovely names—  
I own them, and am glad.

Ted Robinson was a much-beloved character. He was incapable of professional jealousy and incapable of sneering. He wrote thousands of verses, and some were poetry, and all were skilful. As for Demopithekos, I find him not only, unfortunately, in our own democracy, but in all totalitarianism where the attempt is made to have all people think alike, and where people are punished if they venture to express an opinion which does not jibe with a government directive or a "party line." To the end of my days I shall be opposed to this tyranny. In other words I am for that greatly American thing, free speech, which is not only attacked by those of little brain in our own country, but is always invoked by those in a minority who would by no means allow it if they were in the majority. There is only one thing to do about free speech, and that is to let it be truly free. Let in the fresh air and no falsehood can stand; lies are self-convicted even as they issue from the false mouths that utter them. Americans know the truth when they hear it and the bunk when they hear it. The politicians and the venal elements in our country can't fool them for long. Here's to the late Ted Robinson, and confusion to anyone who suppressed his right to free speech.

WILLIAM ROSE BENÉT.

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# A Christmas Letter from Mrs. Kingsley

THIS opportunity to send you greetings I welcome in that it gives me the chance to suggest that you ask Santa Claus to leave in your stockings one or all of three of the following: that wholesomely unique story by Valentine Davies, just published, though run as a movie earlier in the year, "Miracle on 34th Street"; or the American Collegiate Dictionary published last month; or as a family offering, if you don't already own it, the indispensable Webster's New International Dictionary. If you feel that the last is a bit too steep for the family purse, the abridged American Collegiate is a magnificent buy for only \$5. Of course an abridged dictionary always has to omit whole sections of material, like colloquial and slang words, which some day will be authoritative. I haven't taken time to examine this volume as intently as I'd like, but inasmuch as biographical and geographical words are distributed in the body of the book and words coined during the war are included, and the print does not suffer thereby, it seems to me a vast improvement over other abridged dictionaries. If I had owned it sooner, I should not have been put to the trouble indicated in the next paragraph. Or may I add another suggestion that has just occurred to me: namely, a subscription to the Mercantile Library, \$6, 17 East 47th St., New York. I don't know what I should have done this past summer in my DCing without their mailing service for current books. All these suggestions are decidedly spontaneous with me. The parties concerned with their sale know nothing about my thoughts on the subjects.

Failing to note the source of the word *gung-ho*, used in Series No. 22, when I came to define it, I was in a quandary. It sounded Chinese and geographical, but it was in no atlas in my library. Finally I was driven to visit the general reference desk at the New York Public Library. They are such an intelligent, helpful group that I felt sure of assistance. Mr. Brunner discovered it to be the name of a pamphlet on Chinese cooperation. Mr. DeWeese sent me to Dr. Mitch, head of the Oriental Department of the Library. His assistant confirmed its meaning of working together, and added that it was the slogan of Stillwell's raiders during the war. So that was that. Then the name of one of Charles Reade's plays, "Sera Nunquam," needed explaining, and I could find the title in none of the books dealing with Reade's plays

which Mr. DeWeese secured for me from the stacks. As I had mistakenly used only part of the title, *Nunquam*, in my puzzle, I finally decided to keep it as a Latin word, meaning *never*, and I wrote to the Merriam Company to ask the source of the title. Their references are helpful, but the expert could not understand why the Latin title was not given in the works we had consulted. If any one of our DCers is interested in following up the investigation, I'll be glad to turn over the letters to him or her.

Speaking of words, when I used *Dobbin*, meaning an old nag, I hadn't the faintest idea that I should define it as the capable Secretary of the Navy, 1853-57, until I came across that fact in my WBD while hunting for another name not at all connected. And the other day in reading about present excavations in Nebraska I appropriated the word *artifacts* with which, in turn, to puzzle you.

That reminds me that after Sherwood Larned, formerly of Chicago, now of Saugerties, N. Y., had finished No. 705, he wrote me of an anecdote connected with his friend James Breasted. It concerned an experience Breasted had when working in King Tut's tomb. Writes Mr. Larned:

He was working with that notebook your quotation refers to, with a large gilded statue of King Tut himself standing alongside watching him. Happening to look up he imagined that the King winked at him. He looked again and saw the wink again. He began to wonder if all the prevalent ghost stories were affecting him. A little nervous, he got up to get a closer view and found that a small flake of gold leaf had come loose from the eyeball of the statue and was hanging by a spider web. As it twisted and turned in the draft it at times gave a reflection from the light he was using. So a perfectly good spooky story was spoiled.

Changing the subject, Mr. Larned adds, "I am glad that at least once a month the SRL gives us your DC on paper that will show a pencil mark. My octogenarian eyes find it hard to see the marks I make on that glazed paper." Many of you from your let-



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ters want, I know, to add an "amen."

It is pleasant to reflect that among our own puzzlers can come material for my DC's, like the Thanksgiving one, so pat for my purpose when I was turning the leaves of one of Norman Corwin's radio volumes. Do you recall the storm roused some time ago when I quoted in a DC Kenneth Roberts's opinion of Maine chowder as compared with the French *bouillabaisse*? Thus we are not surprised to note in an ad of a recently published Maine cookbook an introduction by Kenneth Roberts.

Roscoe Grant, retired high school administrator, now of Hempstead, L.I., dropped in by invitation recently and sat down to see what he could do with a situation that stumped me temporarily. "I'll take that letter B home in my pocket," he said of the troublesome letter left over. A jolly solution, wasn't it? But after he left I solved the DC by changing just seven words.

Some of you, among you a newcomer, Pearl L. Porter, Rapid City, S. D., wish that the answers were not included in the book, and some have told me that you paste them together to avoid temptation. I hope that you unpaste them after puzzling the whole book, for I like to think of those fifty selections, now multiplied by twenty-one, as so many anthologies; for I do give thought to the type of excerpts that go into the book. At present for Series Twenty-three I'm using letters written by Americans and it was most provoking and time-consuming when I came to Jefferson to find that the selections I most wanted were written by James Madison or John Jay, when one J is often a stumbling block in my search.

I have just learned of a shameful error of fact in word P, DC No. 713. The poet whose sonnet is quoted on the Statue of Liberty is not Grace Aguilar but our American Emma Lazarus, 1849-87. We are indebted to Rabbi Milton Steinberg, New York City, in a most gracious letter, for giving us this information. When I used Aguilar in the DC I was a bit shaky, but none of my reference books helped me out. I recalled merely my surprised delight when a few years ago I read that quotation on our great monument to find that it was by a minor poet, and a woman at that. I remembered her Jewish ancestry; I was familiar from girlhood-reading with Grace Aguilar's "Home Influence"; but I did not know Emma Lazarus's work, and I guessed wrong! I do hope the seven-letter word I gave you did not make your holiday puzzling too confusing. I do apologize to you in sackcloth and ashes.

ELIZABETH S. KINGSLEY.

Reg. U. S. Patent Office  
By Elizabeth S. Kingsley

By Elizabeth S. Kingsley

### DIRECTIONS

To solve this puzzle you must guess twenty-odd 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 beaded 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).

						1 R	2 E	3 Q			4 J	5 P			6 T	7 E	8 G	9 L	
10 B	11 H	12 F			13 H	14 A	15 I			16 R	17 V	18 T	19 C	20 W	21 G	22 J		23 S	
24 K	25 J			26 K	27 E	28 F			29 P	30 T	31 W	32 C	33 X		34 I	35 D		36 K	
37 S		38 D			39 T	40 Y	41 F	42 L			43 D	44 A	45 S		46 C	47 U	48 G	49 P	
50 O	51 N	52 V	53 W			54 X	55 F	56 O	57 I	58 N	59 C	60 L	61 G	62 M	63 E			64 S	
65 O		66 P	67 L	68 I	69 F	70 T			71 W	72 B	73 L	74 T	75 N	76 Q	77 S			78 A	
79 I		80 S	81 Y	82 M			83 F	84 W	85 T	86 I	87 B	88 M			89 A	90 E	91 V		
92 P	93 S	94 D			95 F	96 H	97 O	98 M	99 J		100 L	101 D	102 K	103 H			104 J		
105 U	106 F	107 L	108 N	109 M			110 I	111 P			112 U	113 H	114 T	115 V	116 X	117 E	118 R	119 O	
120 P	121 L			122 U	123 L	124 E	125 F			126 S	127 I			128 G	129 Y	130 L	131 E	132 B	
133 W	134 T	135 X	136 Y	137 L	138 M			139 M	140 A			141 K	142 O	143 J	144 M			145 L	146 W
147 M		148 V	149 U	150 H	151 E	152 G	153 Q	154 R			155 W	156 T	157 C	158 V	159 G	160 H	161 F		
162 X	163 Q	164 L			165 B	166 H	167 P	168 Y	169 K	170 D	171 Q	172 I	173 T			174 V	175 S	176 G	
177 D		178 C	179 Y	180 B	181 E	182 X	183 R	184 Q	185 I	186 J									

**Solution of last week's Double-Croctic will be found on page 14 of this issue.**