

the Phoenix Nest

PLE DGE

TELL this blood
that pours across the sky
and arranges itself in the form
of a sun;

tell this blood
that dries in the sand though bluebirds
sing to it, and breezes feel for it,
and poets run with a little cup;

that not only will we use
the bluebird song and the breeze,
and every new splendor still to be
born,

but also the stuff
of dawn-loving people everywhere,
of their vigilance, of their faith,

to build as its monument
a union against the silence of night,
pouring across the sky
a dawn forever;

that its monument will be higher than
mountain,
stronger than rock; now, before it
dries,
tell this blood.

AARON KRAMER.

* * *

Jesse Merritt, the county historian of Nassau County, Long Island, tells me that Marjorie Bowen wrote a splendid biography of Cobbett [What did she not write about! I have books of hers on Holland and William of Orange, her novel on John Dee who was Queen Elizabeth's naval adviser and a "skryer in the shewstone," her novel about the Massacre at Glencoe, "The Master of Stair," and others. In fact, I am a rabid Marjorie Bowen collector!] The bibliography of Cobbett, says Mr. Merritt, includes his "English Grammar," "The American Gardener," and his "State Trials"—a paradox here, because of his frequent encounters with the laws of libel. "But best of all, reflecting on the bones of Tom Paine, she [Miss Bowen] tells how they were once used for a levy by the sheriff after going to the British Isles."

However, nobody has yet quoted, Chesterton on Cobbett, the Chesterton who wrote of men of passion:

Is there not pardon for the brave
And broad release above,
Who lost their heads for liberty
Or lost their hearts for love?
Or is the wise man wise indeed
Whom larger thoughts keep whole?
Who sees life equal like a chart,

Made strong to play the saner part,
And keep his head and keep his heart,
And only lose his soul.

He didn't write that about Cobbett—but he might have! What he did write about the gallant Peter Porcupine was this, in "The Old Song," when Chesterton saw a vision of Liberty, upon the Embankment, in stormy weather:

I saw great Cobbett riding,
The horseman of the shires;
And his face was red with judgment
And a light of Luddite fires;
And south to Sussex and the sea the
lights leapt up for liberty,
The trumpet of the yeomanry, the
hammer of the squires;
For bars of iron rust away, rust away,
rust away,
Rend before the hammer and the
horseman riding in,
Crying that all men at the last, and
at the worst and at the last,
Have found the place where England
ends and England can begin . . .

and in the next and final verse he speaks of Cobbett again as:

A trailing meteor on the Downs he
rides above the rotting towns,
The Horseman of Apocalypse, the
Rider of the Shires . . .

Mr. Merritt says "us clamdiggers" are interested in Cobbett because of his residence on Long Island, and the appearance of the address "Hyde Park, L. I." on several of Cobbett's introductions.

* * *

Malcolm M. Ferguson of Sanbornville, New Hampshire, writes me *in re* Lovecraft and "the Necronomicon listings":

The interesting idea of having a supposedly hypothetical book powerful for evil is not original with Lovecraft, as he was the first to point out. I think the volume's ancestry is something on this order:—Chambers's "The King in Yellow," which has its portentous volume, and also a character named Mr. Wilde, not unnatural since Oscar Wilde's "Dorian Gray" is done in by



a book. What book? Probably the same one that corrupted the monk in Pater's "Apollo in Picardy," for Wilde was a friend, pupil and appropriator of Pater. Pater was the strongest advocate of Dorian at its appearance, however.

Are there any other ruinous books outstanding we can sic the Watch & Ward on?

* * *

And thus Earle Walbridge:

The letter from Kenneth Porter on duplicated book titles in the Dec. 21 Nest was most interesting; so is the fact that ten miles from Sterling, Kansas, where Dr. Porter received his bachelor's degree, Coronado is believed to have ended his search for the fabulous Seven Cities of Cibola. (Elementary, my dear Phoenix: "Directory of American Scholars" plus the WPA "Guide to Kansas.") But Dr. Porter's mention of "R. N. Stephens" is so casual that I wonder whether he missed reading all the books by Robert Neilson Stephens (1867-1906) in his youth. Not I! The "Dictionary of American Biography" neglected Stephens; so (inexplicably) did the "Oxford Companion to American Literature"; but he's in Vincent Starrett's "Buried Caesars," and that admirable poet Stanley Kunitz, co-editor with Howard Haycraft of "Twentieth Century Authors," allowed me to write him up for the latter work.

You, certainly, will remember "An Enemy to the King," with Henry of Navarre ("The Bright Face of Danger," mentioned by Dr. Porter, was a sequel to that); "A Gentleman Player," introducing Shakespeare in person; "Captain Ravenshaw," illustrated by Howard Pyle and other artists; and "The Road to Paris" (which I expect to see Bob Hope traversing any day). They were the best type of cloak-and-sword romance, and Stephens was just as good with the American historical scene. My especial favorite was "The Continental Dragoon" (1898), dramatized for William Faversham as "Miss Elizabeth's Prisoner." That high-spirited Tory damsel—not the last of her kind to be found in Westchester County—carried on in no less a house than Philipse Manor, now an historic show place in Yonkers. (There are five portraits of Washington in the house, three with brown eyes and two with blue eyes.) I was never able to ascertain definitely where Stephens died. One source said Boston, another England, where he spent much of his later life. His physical appearance, besides his name, was curiously like R.L.S.'s.

* * *

And Owen Cameron of Whitmore, Calif., informs me:

In the December 21 issue Kenneth Porter writes that Humphrey Cobb's "Paths of Glory" had almost the same title as a book by Edward Frankland. Last year, rebuilding my burned library, I sent away for "Paths of Glory," by Cobb. That's what I got: "Paths of Glory," by Irvin S. Cobb. For a while I thought my memory was failing!

* * *

Don't fall out of any windows!

WILLIAM ROSE BENÉT.

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(Continued on page 34)

PERSONALS

(Continued from page 33)

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DOUBLE-CROSTIC NO. 672

By Elizabeth S. Kingsley

DEFINITIONS

- A. Last name (see Word O) of American woman writer ("Young Mr. Disraeli," N. Y., 1937).
- B. A pioneer.
- C. American historian (1823-93).
- D. Baubo (Gr. Relig.).
- E. A raid or foray (Anglo-Ind.).
- F. Costly porcelain manufactured at a national factory in France (2 wds.).
- G. Character in "Twelfth Night."
- H. A sudden inundation.
- I. American woman poet associated with the Isles of Shoals (1835-94).
- J. Strait made famous by Leander and Lord Byron (Angl. name).
- K. Abstruse; confined to a select group.
- L. A candle snuffer.

WORDS

1 11 163 100 79

88 131 68 41 49 45 78 72 98 121

93 70 112 38 175 30 129

20 137 24 172 125

116 2 40 25 65 8 82

21 126 119 61 76 138 103 77 51 114

15 132 85 23 46 6

59 14 67 186 140 174 122

10 39 146 109 31 63 152

69 120 97 66 18 176 110 182 167 7

12 155 87 28 108 157 133 53

147 60 96 62 161 124

DEFINITIONS

- M. To make sensitive; to soften.
- N. Writer or singer of a polyphonic choral composition on a sacred text.
- O. First name of author in Word A.
- P. A salmon about two years old, when it first descends to the sea.
- Q. Character in "The Mikado" (Comp.).
- R. Tree in Shropshire in which Chas. II hid in flight after Battle of Worcester.
- S. Fifteenth letter of the Greek alphabet.
- T. To cause to become a Roman.
- U. Character in "Ivanhoe."
- V. Given in charity or alms.
- W. Volume of poems by Kipling (With "The"; 1896).
- X. Attainments in science or literature, formerly in classical literature.

WORDS

99 115 144 134 91 102 170 177 180 158

165 141 54 185 86 130 179 178 160

3 81 42 34 168 50 136

164 89 64 26 71

169 105 5 73 16 52 145

75 43 47 90 183 56 83 107

171 19 55 156 149 118 143

151 92 13 135 104 9 35

4 150 142 33 101 166

117 173 74 94 44 36 154 27 57 159 106

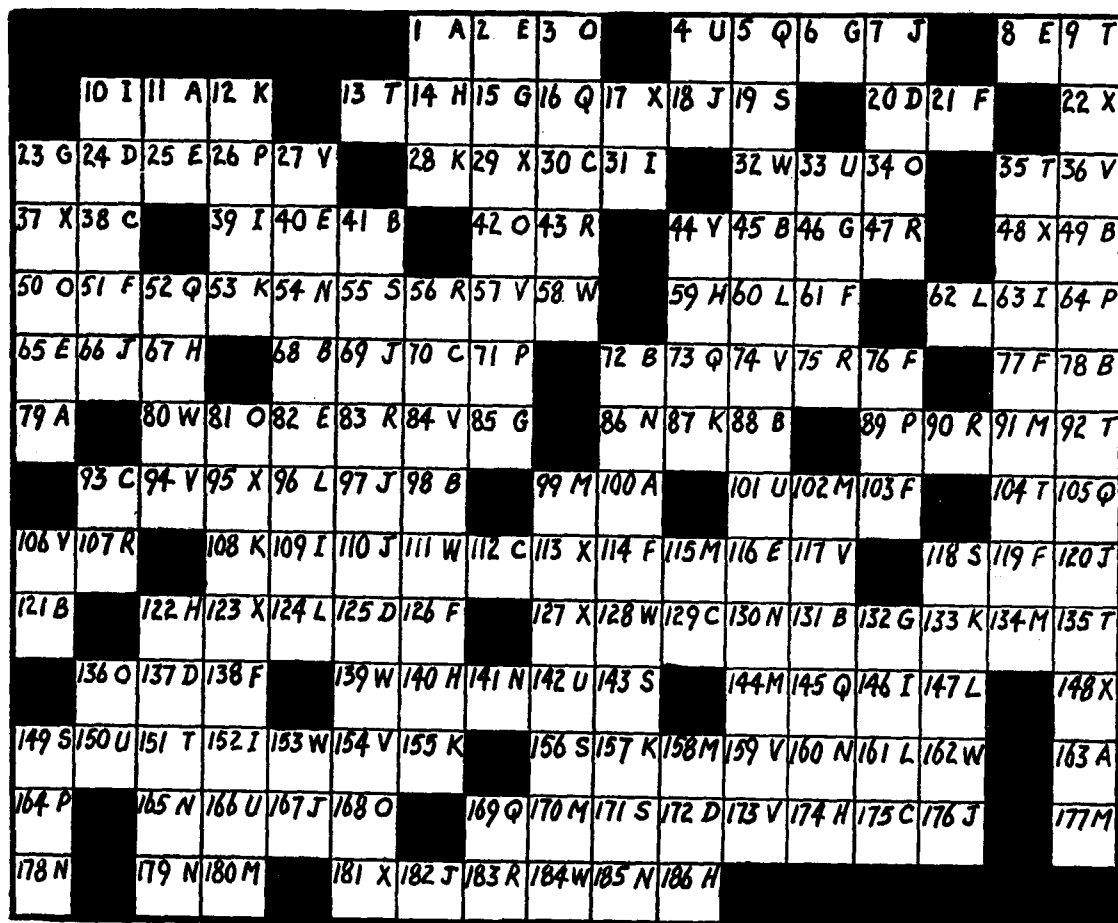
162 128 184 153 32 139 111 80 58

22 127 123 95 17 48 37 181 29 113 148

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 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).



Solution of last week's Double-Crostic will be found on page 17 of this issue.