Our Sphinx.

Goderich, May 8.

DIAMOND PUZZLE.

1 A consonant—a town in India, dreams, a plants, behind, to chasten, the haunches, a consonant.

Fusman.

DOUBLE WORDS.

1 A Hebrew measure, a contraction, a ring, around the sun, a country, a town.

2 A god, the river [illegible] shoulder, a [illegible], something that many young [illegible] have, a town in Sweden, a town in [illegible].

HOTEL PUZZLE.

A balm, a darkey's name, part of the body, gloomy, a commission getting rank but not pay, to withhold assent from a bill for a law, a sign of a future event, belonging to the mind, to agree, a northern constellation.

Sr. Mary.

RIDDLE.

To one hundred, a fifty and five,
Add twice the organ of sight;
And the word you will quickly divine,
You will find to be very polite.

Sr. Mary.

ANSWERS TO SPHINX, April 26.

Charade—Charleston.

Word Squares—

I ARES	2 P[illegible]
RITE	[illegible]
ETNA	[illegible]
SEAL	AMEN

Double Acrostics—1 Water, hound, thus: WeB, AddeR, TaIK, EvA, [illegible]. 2. Apple, peach, thus: AteP, Paris, PleA, LaC, EpocH.

Enigma—Hemagovina.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Some excellent riddles have been received from [illegible]. We must compliment the two ladies who bear this nom de plume, on the excellence of their contributions.

Goderich, Ont., April 25th, 1877.

MR. EDITOR,

In to-day's Signal there appears a communication from Hibernicus, referring out to the *Sphinx* who contributes puzzles to the Sphinx's grievous trouble in their using the word Double Acrostic. Now, if Hibernicus is as well acquainted with his mother-tongue as he seems to be with Greek, he will remember that words and phases, the use of which, by derivation be taken as the exact criterion of meaning, would at once be discarded. Acrosto-telostics may be all right enough, but Hibernicus says "The word acrostic has also a Greek root, viz., akros (*initial or extreme*," and if extreme does not mean end, I'll give it up.

As regards the word Telostic itself, I may say that I can find it in neither Worcester nor Webster (nor in any other dictionary as far as I know.) It is I suppose it is a coinage of our learned friend's brain, and a poor one at that. The latter portion of his article is an insult to the intelligence of your readers, Mr. Editor.

There is another thing I have noticed in the SIGNAL, more than once. For example, in the issue of the 18th April, there was a poem entitled "What is Noble?" preceded by the words 'For the Signal' and signed, Hibernicus. The very same poem, without the change of half-a-dozen words, is in the Fifth Book of Reading Lessons. This coincidence can only be accounted for in one of the three following ways:—1st, That Hibernicus is the author of the poem in the Fifth Book; 2nd, that he plagiarized it; or, 3rd, that it is a remarkable instance of what some people call the coincidence of great minds.

For the benefit of your readers, I would suggest (and many other contributors to the Sphinx will agree with me) that you retain the word Double Acrostic, and by so doing prevent your many readers from being frightened from the perusal of that column by the formidable combination Acrosto-Telostic.

I would propose that Hibernicus put himself in communication with all periodicals, publishing puzzles, in order that they may adopt the advantageous (?) change in the nomenclature of

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

A Musical Catechism.

From the St. Louis Times.

What is a slur? A remark made by one singer about another.

What is a rest? Going out of the choir during sermon for refreshments.

What is a brace? Two singers steadying each other when they come back.

What is singing in time? Trying to see which will beat.

What is sympathetic music? Flirting with the soprano singer behind the organ.

What is sta-cat-oh? Grimalkin in the organ during a voluntary.

What is a crotchet? A disease which the head singer always enjoys when the tune doesn't please her.

What is a quaver? A musical pseudist who "knows it all," and perhaps considers more.

What is the best stop to use in a voluntary? The full stop when the theme is exhausted.

What is a shake? Torture inflicted upon the bellows-boy who doesn't pump fast enough.

What is a shave? The church treasurer who shaves a singer's bill for salary.

What is a flat? The singer who allows the shave.

What is a chord? The pile of music which the violinist saws through.

What is a tie? The difficulty between the organist and the chorister, when one would and the other won't.

What is a discord? The choir taking sides in the dispute.

What is a harmony? Dismissing either the leader or the organist.

What is a tonic? The drink taken after the trouble is all settled.

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A number of Farms and Town Lots for Sale.

Goderich, 4th April, 1876. 1466 1yr

Odds and Ends.

[illegible] of an idiot pot-pourri? A polly-gon.

When is a fish fit for a lunatic asylum? When it is in Selne.

Many a man has ruined his eyesight by sitting in a bar-room looking for work.

[illegible] be merry at—that is the time that he cannot help.

The commentary of a severe friend is better than the embellishments of a sweet-lipped flatterer.

Among the late important State events in Europe are the deaths of Bismarck's dog and the Pope's cat.

The Indian girl believed in the saying "Dust to Dust." She says she has lots of dust to dust in the morning.

"Are ostrich plumes worn on hot, mamma?" asked a little four-year-old, the other evening, when she saw the meteors shoot.

[illegible] that your grandfather ought to shine brighter than your uncle. Suppose I blacken it, then, Pathey?

What's the difference between the lower part of the leg and the late comet? One's shin! and bone, and the other's tail and chone.

Josh Billings says he knows people who are so fond of argument that they will stop and dispute with a guide-board about the distance to the next town.

You can always detect a bachelor by the way he handles a baby, but to be sure from loss it is well to use a borrowed baby in making the experiment.

Out in Kansas, says an exchange, they put the smaller grasshoppers in cages, teach them to sing, and sell them to the eastern tourists for Wichita linnets.

What is a young man to think when he meets a young lady shedding her eyes from the sun with a piece of music, the title of which, "Kiss Me Good-night," is turned out in full view?

"I shouldn't like to be an earsman," said Jones. "Why not?" asked Green. "Because an earsman has so many pull backs," replied Jones; and then the two youths shook hands, and went out to buy something.

A Main paper has an editorial headed, "Why Young Men Leave the Farm." We think it is because a farm is a cumbrous and incodrtenient thing for a young man to take with him.

An exchange reports "Remarkable Discoveries at Bologna." We don't know the nature of these discoveries, as those heretofore made in Bologna have consisted principally of pieces of sausage collar, onion slaws, and the like.

One of the favorite amusements of the Chinese at present, is betting at games of chance with a rifle. One goose to every five thousand shots is the odds, but the fun goes on.

How Parisian Toys are Made.

Any one who has ever walked through one of the great toy-importing houses in N. Y. at holiday time, and perhaps wondered at the taste and ingenuity displayed by the French workmen in devising all of the most beautiful playthings, would hardly imagine that waste and refuse materials, very odd ones too, sometimes, are largely used in the Parisian toy industry. Elegantly dressed dolls, fitted out in all the refinements of the latest fashion, and which fetch incredible prices in this side of the Atlantic, are frequently costumed from the cast-off stage clothing of actresses in the theatres, purchased for a mere song, or from the useless remnants remaining in theatrical wardrobes after a play has had a long run. The mountings of old purses and pocketbooks faded out of the fashion by thirty-year fashions, furnish the material for the doll bootmaker. Old cartridge boxes and cases yield their place to the manufacturer of [illegible] for guns. The little wooden or metal wheels which support movable toys are obtained from the refuse of any industry in which articles having circular openings are made. French cruet stands, usually of wood and having holes for bottles, provide thousands of such dishes, removed in making the apertures. All the solder and pewter that can be extracted from old roofing and water spouts, or workshop scraps, is pressed into service for the manufacture of dolls' knives and forks, tea sets, &c.; and even the ancient lead coffins dug out of the old cemeteries of Nuremberg, the French toy-maker utilizes in the manufacture of lead soldiers. No other nation equals the French in converting the ordinary refuse of the street and workshop into useful and ornamental products. It is this characteristic for saving which makes the french nation so prosperous.

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Signed,

THOMAS HOLLOWAY.

London, January , 1877.

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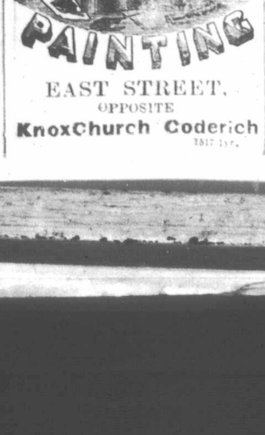

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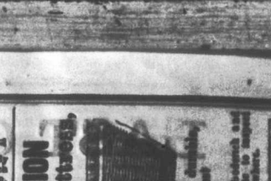

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The Crosshie Bite.

MR. EDITOR,—In your issue of 15th April I noticed a mention of the ceremony of the "crosshie bite." As few of your readers can know what it is, the following bit of my own experience will perhaps prove interesting:

I commenced my career as a crosshie apprentice in the spring of 1836, at a manufacturing house (what we called factories in the old days) called Willsbrough, Kilmarnock, Scotland. On the second day after my return from breakfast, I noticed my companions in consultation, and what they noticed me. Tom Williamson came forward and told me that this was the day I should take the "bite" and get the crosshie's word. If I did not go through this ceremony he solemnly informed me that I would never be a crosshie in this world, and on my giving assent provided the bite did not hurt me, "owre sair," Tom declared "as sure as death and double death it wunna hurt ye, but if'll maybe mak' ye spue." The preliminaries were arranged with all seriousness, and it was announced that the ceremony would be performed after dinner, Tom Cairns of the Black End being deputed to give me the bite and Jenny Ray of the White End to give me "the word."

My feelings in the interval were worked up to a high pitch, Tom's assurance staying my fears considerably. I ventured to ask Willie Gray if the bite would be a big one, but he put me off by saying "I dinna ken, but it 'll no be bigger than a ha'-penny row" (halfpenny bun.) He however bargained with me that it should be no bigger than a cushie doo's egg in consideration of my giving him my big pitcher (a brass button much prized) for his one. Dinner was eaten at two o'clock, and the thought of the approaching ordeal caused me to sup in silence. My brother Robin asked if I had taken the bite yet, to which I replied in the negative, proudly adding, however, that I was to receive it on going back to work.

"Well-then," said Robin, "just ye open your mouth and stick it right doon and there'll be nae more about it; but if your rusty they'll plaster ye all over wi' oil and tar."

On returning to the factory I found all in waiting for me. A ring was formed, in the centre of which I was placed with Tom Cairns and Jenny Ray, and having doffed my bonnet, shoes and stockings, I ran three times round the interior of the ring. Tom Cairns then held before me a piece of wool, about the size of a pigeon's egg, which had been saturated in common train oil, and addressed me thus:

"Bill, ye see this. It's the creeshie bite. If ye tak' it right into your mouth and sook it clean dry, ye may spit oot the woo', but ye maun swallow the creoshie, and ye maun doe it without a grin. If ye dae this, Jen will gie ye the word; then ye'll be fit to be chosen deacon for the creeshies, and we'll mak' ye baith a corder and piecer, but if ye grin or spatter ye'll no be fit for one o' them, and ye'll no get "the word," nor will ye ever be anything but a scribbler feeder. Noo are ye ready till take the bite?"

"Yes," I replied boldly, though trembling in every limb.

"Then open your jaws," which I did, and the unsavory morsel was dropped into my mouth.

"Noo, shut your jaws and sook till I count half a hundred," and Tom slowly counted fifty, when I spat the wool out at his bidding with great readiness. The wool was examined for a few moments, and then Tom extended his hand to me, saying, "Bill, ye've done it weel; ye'll mak' a grand creeshie yet. Jen, ye may gie him the word." Jen then whispered in my ears the following stanza:

I stood upon a wee bit creesh,
I fell upon a toad:
Sour ale and bacon pies—
That's the creeshie's word.

After repeating the lines several times to be sure that I had them correctly, I was announced as fully initiated and three cheers were given for the new creeshie.

That afternoon was a painful one to me, for I soon began to feel sick. Willie Gray stood my friend in this hour of need, and seeing me turn pale he showed me to the "Wallay belt hole," where I might spue to my heart's content, and I did with a vengeance. My uncle soon missed me from my board, and finding where I was and what was wrong with me, he first had a hearty laugh at my expense, and then he got me a sup of whisky which soon brought me round.

This was the mode of giving the "creeshie bite" fifty years ago, but what it is now I do not know.

CREESHIE CALLANT.

Goderich, April 25, 1877.

Knowledge is Power.

This is a nation of enlightened freemen. Education is the corner-stone and foundation of our government. The people are free to think and act for themselves, and that they may act wisely it is necessary that they be well informed. Every individual gain increases public gain. Upon the health of the people is based the prosperity of a nation, by it every value is increased, every joy enhanced. Health is essential to the accomplishment of every purpose; while sickness thwarts the best intentions and loftiest aims. Unto us are committed important health trusts, which we hold not merely in our own behalf but for the benefit of others. In order that we may be able to discharge the obligation of our trusteeship and thus prove worthy of our generous commission, it is necessary that we study the art of preserving health and prolonging life. It is of paramount importance to every person not only to understand the means for the preservation of health, but also to know what remedies should be employed for the alleviation of the common ailments of that. Not that we would advise every man under circumstances to attempt to be his own physician, but we entreat him to acquire sufficient knowledge of his system and the laws that govern it, that he may be prepared to take care of himself properly, and thereby prevent sickness and prolong life. In no text book will the people find the subjects of physiology and hygiene, or the science of life and the art of preserving health, more scientifically discussed or more plainly taught than in "The People's Common Sense Medical Adviser," by R. V. Pierce, M. D., of Buffalo, N. Y. It is a volume of over nine hundred large pages, illustrated by over two hundred and eighty two engravings and colored plates, is elegantly bound in cloth and gilt, and is sent, post-paid, to any address, by the author at the low price of one dollar and fifty cents a copy. Nearly one hundred thousand copies have already been sold, and the present edition, which is revised and enlarged and more especially adapted to the wants of the family, is selling very rapidly. It treats of all the common diseases and their remedies as well as of anatomy, physiology, hygiene, human temperaments, and many other topics of great interest to all people, and is truly what its author styles it "Medicine Simplified."

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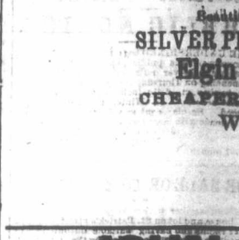

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