

AN EPISTOLARY PUZZLE.

Dear John,—

I — it — useless to try — to keep the — away; besides, the whole — was as black as the face of a — from it. I tried to — that beast as I would —. Though I did — I could not — him. I was nearly — and wanted to throw myself over the — or into the — with a — round my neck, I would even — and — like one drunk. If I wanted a — he would knock down a —, and every —, as it seemed, — a squeak of triumph, or the — would be rattled as he — along the shelf; he also made himself a — bed among my —. I got Hannah to make a — with — of a —, — neither she — without an — rod, could set it. Perhaps I did — her, when she suggested we should bait it with —; but, angry as I was I did not — or call her a — as she told you. Will — thing — own part — the — from being invaded? I am as weak as a — and as timid as a —. So good-bye. F. W. J.

The word which fills the first blank is reversed to fill the second, and the third reversed fills the fourth blank, and so on.

THE CRITIC will be sent free for one year to the person giving the only correct answer to above puzzle. When two correct answers are sent in, THE CRITIC will be sent free for six months to each of those answering correctly. Answers should arrive at CRITIC office before Tuesday, P. M., marked answer to puzzle.

Answer to Double Acrostic published last week:—

T O U R I S T
O R I N O C O
R A N C O U R
M A N I M U M
E C L I P S E
N E I L S O N
T R I S E C T

TIT-BITS.

Good temper is the essence of good manners.

True politeness has no time to think of itself.

As long as woman retains her maiden name, her maiden aim is to change it.

Herr Wilhelmj writes that he is fiddlingj happily by his own fireside at Moshbach, Germanyj.

You may speak as you will of pedigree generally, but in a sleeping-car it is a man's berth which raises him above his fellows.

Two reasons are given why some people don't mind their own business; one is that they haven't any business, and the other that they haven't any mind.

"It's through no fault of mine," complained a tired looking young man, "that I came into the world. But I am here, and the world owes me a living." "Yes," was the reply, "the world owes you a living, but you haven't energy and spunk enough to collect it."

Doctor: "I'm glad to hear, Sandy, that your neighbor, who died yesterday, was a member of a funeral society." Sandy: "Aweel ay, doctor. He jist jined it a year sin'. An' there's puir me has been payin' in ta'e't fur mair than ten o' them without bein' a penny the better o't! He wis aye yin o' the lucky sorts in' he was born. Puir Jock!"

M. Clemenceau's handwriting is to be had for four francs, M. Rochefort and M. deFreycinet rank together at five; Louis Mitchel is down at eight francs, and ex-Premier Ferry's is still worth ten. Mr. Gladstone's autograph costs twenty francs; Prince Bismarck's twenty francs for a signature alone, and 100 for a letter all in his handwriting. So reports a French dealer in autographs.

PLANTATION PHILOSOPHY.

Er man mus' keep movin'. It's de still water dat gets foul. I knowed er man wunst dat never tole but one truf, and dat was when he 'knowledged dat he had tole er lie.

Folks what puts on all de close da kon git, puts me in mine o' a sweet portater patch dat is all gone ter vines.

It ain't de stronges't pusson dat hab got de bes' holt on life. Hickory is mighty tough wood, but it rots quicker den poplar.

Succes ter er old man ain' grabbed an' 'joyed so keen ez it is wid er young pusson. De sweetes't peaches ain' dem what gits ripe in de fall o' de yeah.

It's generally de mighty sharp man dat fails in business after he's wuth many dollars. Yer ken knock er gap outen er sharp knife easier den yer kon er fro'.

I doan know why er pusson wants ter cut off er dog's tail. If natur hadn't wanted de dog to hab er tail, she wouldn't hab gin him one. It's er pityful sight to see er glad dog try ter wag his tail when he ain't got none. It puts me in mine o'er man dat hab lose bof arms tryin' ter shake han's wid er frien'. It sartainly doan imprube er dog's looks to cut off his tail, an dar oughter be a law passed ter porvent sich cruilness. Ef I wuz er boltail dog folks would hab ter take dar chances.

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B. G. GRAY.

Halifax, 5th January, 1886.

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