

alarmed me, especially as I felt how feeble her pulse was; but at last we succeeded, and Mrs. Johns kindly assisted the stewardess to undress and put her to bed. I went to the surgery to get her some medicine, inwardly anathematizing myself for having behaved so foolishly as to take down the letter as I did; but who could have foreseen the consequences?

On my return, I found her lying with her eyes wide open, but noticing nothing; and it was a long time before I could make her understand the letter was not from her father at all, but from Glasgow. When she did at last comprehend it, she exclaimed: "From my uncle! Oh, thank God! My dear mother!" and burst into tears.

I am afraid you will think my patient a regular Niobe; but you must remember what I have told you of her excitable disposition, her present state, and all she had gone through.

When I saw her next morning, I thought she seemed a little better, but alas! I was mistaken; the shock had been too much for her, and she became worse and worse until we arrived at Suva.

I was terribly anxious then as to what effect the heat of the Red Sea in September would have upon her, but at the same time knew it was out of the question thinking of landing her in her present state, so determined to do the best I could for her, hoping that, once the terrible sea was passed in safety, the refreshing breezes of the Indian Ocean would pull her round a bit before we reached Colombo.

The heat of the Red Sea was truly fearful, the little wind there was being after us, so that the smoke from our funnels ascended in a perfectly straight column; and confess that more than once I thought of her dream, and how fearfully probable it seemed that it would come true.

The captain gave up his cabin on deck to her, which, being fitted with a punkah and jalouses that opened all round, was by far the coolest place on the ship, especially as we had the roof covered with canvas kept wet, which somewhat tempered the rays of the fierce sun, which seemed to burn right through our double awnings. With some trouble, we succeeded in moving her, bed and all, up here; and Mrs. Johns, who was kindess itself, and the stewardess watched by her in turns. But she seemed to get lower and lower, and at last one Saturday night, as Mrs. Johns and myself were sitting by her, she gave one sigh, and all was over!

I went to report the fact to the captain, who was terribly cut up. Just imagine our feelings. Putting aside our grief for her who was gone, how could we meet the young husband at Madras, who was now probably counting the hours until his beloved wife would be with him, and tell him we had left his darling in the Red Sea, that terrible Sea, where so many of England's loved ones lie sleeping till the day when the "sea shall give up her dead!" Of course we could break the news by telegram from Aden, but even then there were all the sorrowful details to be given.

We went together to look at her. Mrs. Johns and the stewardess had done what was necessary; and as we gazed on her, she appeared more like one in a quiet sleep than a dead creature.

"How beautiful she looks!" said the captain.

"Yes," replied I; "so young and lovely to be taken, while the old and haggard are left. What a mystery it all is!"

Day was now breaking, and the captain arranged that she should be buried that evening. The forenoon passed on, and each of the passengers having visited and taken a silent farewell of the dead, nothing now remained but to provide the shroud, before committing the body to the deep, so I sent for the old sailmaker to perform his melancholy part of the business. He had taken the measure and again left the cabin, and all was still, when, as I was leaning over the side, looking at the water and thinking of her who was gone, I was startled by the captain rushing with staring eyes from the cabin, shouting:

"Doctor, doctor! she's not dead. Come and see; she moved just now."

I hastened with him to the cabin, and saw at once what he said was true. Her hands, which had been folded across her body, were now apart; and the captain explained, that having wished to take a last look at her before the sailmaker completed his work, he had gone into the cabin, and that, as he was leaving, he had stooped to

press a kiss on her hands, when they had moved to the position I saw them.

My yarn is already longer than I intended, so I will not trouble you with a description of how we brought her round, but tell you that in a few hours' time she was able to speak, when, to our horror, she told us that she had never lost consciousness, but had heard all we had said from first to last, though unable to move, or of course to see, as her eyes were closed—that she had actually felt the sailmaker taking her measure; and was quite aware that in a few hours, unless she made some sign, her burial would take place; and it was only at the last moment, by a supreme effort, she had been able to move her hands as described.

Can you imagine anything more awful! And yet, strange to say, it had no ill effect on her mind, though one would almost have thought it would have driven her mad.

From that day, she seemed to recover, and by the time we arrived at Colombo, was able to sit on deck, and, on our reaching Madras, to welcome the husband she never expected to see more.

By her own earnest wish, no one told him the whole facts of the case, only that she had been very ill, as she wished to tell him all herself when they were alone.

My story is rather a melancholy one; but it is true in every respect, except that names, dates, and places are altered, for the lady is still alive, and the happy mother of a family.

Preventive Trees.

Ezekiel, the Hebrew prophet, speaks (47: 12) of trees whose leaf shall be "for medicine." John, in the Revelation (22: 2) writes of the tree of life, whose leaves "were for the healing of the nations." Whatever may be the interpretation of these expressions, it is evident that the words are based upon the ancient opinion that the leaves of certain trees possess a healing energy.

But apart from this remedial virtue, it is certain that trees play an important part in preventing disease. The Eucalyptus of Australia, vulgarly known as the gum-tree, is said to prevent malaria. Its efficacy is ascribed to its thirst, whereby its roots are made to drain the soil for yards beyond that in which they extend themselves. But its preventive power may also be due to its large leathery leaves. These exhale a volatile aromatic oil, and often extend their edges, instead of their sides, towards the sky and the earth, thus exposing each side to the light, and, it may be, intercepting the malarious germs.

Be this as it may, a fact recorded by an English officer, who served many years in India, shows that trees do prevent malaria.

The troops at a certain station in Bengal were so often attacked by sickness that it was determined to remove them to a more healthy locality. The officer referred to was ordered to select a suitable site for a camp. As he was unable to find a more healthy site in the neighborhood, he thought that a re-arrangement of the Sepoys' barracks might secure their health.

He had noticed that between the officers' quarters and a large swamp there were several large trees. He also observed that there was no sickness among the officers or their servants except in the case of the inmates of one house, which, being unprotected by the foliage, was exposed to the wind that blew over the swamp.

Some little distance from the parade-ground there was a belt of trees. To the rear of this belt he removed the Sepoys' huts, so as to shelter them from the miasma of the swamp. The regiment thus located remained free from fever for several years. Then the trees were cut down, and malaria immediately attacked the men.

The officer also records that at Prome, Burmah, one company of soldiers were free from malarial fever, whilst their comrades suffered severely from its attacks. Investigation showed that the healthy company were sheltered from the miasma by a mound covered with trees, which interposed between their barracks and the neighboring swamp. The sick soldiers lived in barracks which were unsheltered from the wind when it blew across the malarial swamp.

Old age is a tyrant that forbids the pleasures of youth on pain of death.

THE SPHINX.

"Riddle me this and guess him if you can."
—Dryden.

Address all communications for this department to E. R. Chadbourne, Lewiston, Maine, U. S.

NO. 133.—A PHONETIC CHARADE.

(A Word of Five Syllables Having More Vowels than Consonants.)

By sounding my first you will mentally see,
That I really belong to geography.
For if you remove to a far distant state,
'Twill be found that I'm useful the fact to relate.

My second is that which in every home—
No matter if over the world you may roam,
You will constantly think of, and love, and adore,

Though many by it have been made very sore.

And my third stands for wealth, and affluence
Or misery, disaster and poverty sour;
Or shrewdness, ability, greatness, success;
Or the most criminal waste, and sad want-
onness.

Whilst my fifth is a plant that is relished as food,

And many who eat it pronounce it real good.

Now my last is a word that is frequently used

By Africans, Yankees, and Frenchmen, and Jews,

Though an orthoepist would say, 'tis the English abused;

It is certainly never found in able reviews.

Now my whole is a work that has taxed many a mind,

And I will leave it to all, my name out to find.

Toronto.

S. J. B.

NO. 134.—AN ANAGRAM.

"Crape Cages" is the name of one
Who no good deed has ever done;
Reckless, wild and fond of riot,
He needs a cage to keep him quiet.

NELSONIAN.

NO. 135.—ABSURDITIES

1. Take five hundred from a fool and leave what all are anxious to get.

2. When is a ballet dancer like a circus chariot?

3. On taking a chair that a dog has just vacated—what surgical operation might it suggest?

S. J. B.

NO. 136.—A STUDENT'S QUIZ.

Are you a student of conchology?

If so, come walk upon the beach with me;
Let us inspect a certain small crustacean,
A charming subject for your contemplation.

It has five eyes, though round enough to burst—

An apron wears—it is a lady first.

A fine example for our human maids!

'Tis not progressive—no! It retrogrades.

And are you fond, my friend, of botany?
I hope you are. Come see my last with me,
A plant the vulgar have entitled all.

Can you its scientific name recall?
O fie, for shame! The question strikes you dumb!

The plant is *Panicum Proflisum*!

That youth alone his fellow far surpasses,
Who knows the names and natures of the grasses!

J. A.

NO. 137.—AN ENIGMA.

My first and last great numbers are,

My whole is least of all;

I sometimes dwell in harmony,

Or mean a person small;

Whilst many a faint and fleeting breath

I've helped to snatch from cruel death.

S. J. B.

NO. 138.—A BRACE OF QUERIES.

1.

What is the longest and yet the shortest thing in the world—the swiftest, and yet the slowest—the most divisible and the most extended—the least valued and the most regretted—without which nothing can be done

—which devours everything, however small, and yet gives life and spirits to every object, however great!

11.

What is that we receive without being thankful for—which we enjoy without knowing how we received it—which we give away to others, without knowing where it is to be found—and which we lose without being conscious of our loss?

MRS. LAYLAND.

NO. 139.—A SELECTION.

A man once launched a vessel large,
And live acock, too, he took in charge;
He did not barter, buy, nor sell;
Whichever wind blew, pleased as well;
He sailed at random, was to no port bound,
His only wish was to run aground.

MRS. LAYLAND.

FOR CONTRIBUTIONS.

1. A cash prize of five dollars will be awarded for the best original contribution to this department before the close of 1885.

2. A prize of two dollars will be presented for the best variety of original contributions furnished during the same time. This prize will not be awarded the winner of prize No. 1.

THE PRIZE FOR JUNE.

To the reader forwarding the best lot of answers to the Sphinx of June will be presented a copy of Chambers' Dictionary.

Each week's solutions should be mailed within seven days after the date of TRUTH containing the puzzles answered.

ANSWERS.

119.—Cat.

120.—1. Maquerader. 2. Troublesome.

3. Tremando.

121.—Red-head.

122.—The letter E.

123.—The imagination.

124.—Box wood wood box.

125.—M-isle-d.

In Spite of Surroundings.

All along the history of humanity there are great epochs, where some upward step marks a new era of civilization, such as the invention of the printing press. Yet the envioning circumstances did not encourage such inventions. Every adventurer met at once with opposition. It was a square issue, with such men whether their inward light or their outward environment was to prevail; and the greater the opposition the firmer their determination. Had Livingstone surrendered to circumstances he would have remained a factory hand all his life; it was because he defied his surroundings and conquered them that he rose to eminence. It is a doctrine of fatalism that we are what our forefathers, our climate and other influences have made us. One might say: "How can I be better? I am a child of godless parents, surrounded by thoughtless people, driven by business, worldly-minded,—such is the atmosphere in which I live." But such was the atmosphere in which John Lawrence, Governor General of India, found himself when he first trod the streets of Calcutta. He set his face like a flint against luxury, intrigue, profligacy. He took up the challenge of circumstances. With indomitable will he fought, crushing mutiny to day and righting an injustice tomorrow, until his patient heroism won him the title of the saviour of India.

In delicate souls love never presents itself but under the veil of catem.

Give freely to him that deserveth well and asketh nothing; and that is the way of giving to thyself.

A wise and good man does nothing for appearance, but everything for the sake of having acted well.

I have seldom known anyone that deserted truth in trifles who could be trusted in matters of importance.

Money in your purse will credit you; wisdom in your head will adorn you, and both in your necessity will serve you.