

each of them tranquilly smoked his pipe, and seemed lost in contemplation of the blue and white tiles with which the fireplaces were decorated; wherein sundry passages of Scripture were piously portrayed—Tobit and his dog figured to great advantage, Haman swung conspicuously on his gibbet, and Jonah appeared most manfully bouncing out of the whale like Harlequin through a barrel of fire.

The parties broke up without noise and without confusion. They were carried home by their own carriages, that is to say, by the vehicles nature had provided them, excepting such of the wealthy as could afford to keep a waggon. The gentlemen gallantly attended their fair ones to their respective abodes, and took leave of them with a hearty smack at the door; which, as it was an established piece of etiquette, done in perfect simplicity and honesty of heart, occasioned no scandal at that time, nor should it at the present. If our great-grandfathers approved of the custom, it would argue a great want of reverence in their descendants to say a word against it.—*Diedrich Knickerbocker.*

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## HOW TO WRITE FOR THE PRESS.

THE swiftness with which the lightning telegraph transmits information is not its only merit. It teaches the important and much neglected art of word-pruning. Countless reams of paper and gallons of ink are wasted by writers who do not understand the art, or do not think fit to practice it. The pith and substance of many an octavo volume might be comprised in a pamphlet; the ideas in many an editorial column compressed into a paragraph. Were waste of stationery the only evil of prolixity, it would be a trifling one; but the time of the public is shamefully taxed by scribblers, who either regard verbosity as a literary accomplishment, or are too lazy to condense. Some men think in short-hand, and in committing their thoughts to paper, never use a phrase that does not tell; but even diffuse thinkers may, if they choose, solidify what they write by a critical revision. If authors had to pay for every superfluous word in their works at the telegraphic rates, what a blessing it would be to the reading