# Everybody reads everything in the FREE PRESS.

### WHAT HE WANTED.

German (to druggist)-I owe de firm ten cents.

Druggist-Very well; you can pay it to me. (Perplexity of German, who wants ten cents worth of iodoform.)

## OFFICIAL EMBLEMS.

#### (From Judge.)

Foreigner-Has not the President of your country some emblem of office like European rulers?

American-Yes, sir; the shotgun and fishinrod.

#### A USEFUL VOLUME.

Mrs. Booklore-You have a great treasure in this old volume of Shakespeare, Mrs. Thrifty. Mrs. Thrifty - Oh, my, yes! Mr. Thrifty prizes it no end, and I find it invaluable for pressing my laces.

#### A LUCID EXPLANATION.

"Pa, how can one laugh in his sleeve?" The little boy interrogated. "Because, my lad," replied his dad, "The funny bone is there located."

# JUST THE THING.

First Friend (of intending bridegroom) -Well, we'll have to give them a present. What will it be and how much shall we spend?

Second Friend-I don't know. I'll go as deep as you.

First Friend-Let's send something that will make a big show for our money

Second Friend-All right. What's the matter with a load of hay.

#### VANISHED TREASURE:

"Full many a gem of purest ray serene" Lies 'neath the ocean's weltering waters blue ; And at the pawnshops, hidden and unseen, Jewels galore - in soak-are lying, too!

# TIM, THE WHARF-RAT.

You see, gents, my pal Tim an me Wos a'takin' a quiet' swim, When a cop comes a'sneakin' along the wharf, An he nabs poor little Tim.

You bet it wos rough on us partners that, Fur while Tim in ther cooler stayed, His corner'd be tuk by s'mother boy As ud cabbage his reg'lar trade.

So Tim went a snivelin' up ther street, With me snivelin' on behine Wen a big man outer resterrink cum, As I guess ud been drinkin' wine;

An he axes, "Whot's this here crim'nal done?" So ther cop says, "Yer see its agin Ther law fur ter swim on the city front, So I'm running' this Wharf-Rat in, "

An ther big man laughs as he looks at Tim, An he sez, "How much is ther fine?— Five dollars!—They charge ther same for a bath They does fur a bottle er wine.

"Wall, I guess I'll pay it," an then he winks At me an ther cop kinder queet, "But mind yer, Rat, this is onne a loan, -You must pay it back in a year."

An he laughs agin' wen Tim braced up An looks him square in ther eye, An sez, with his fist a'clinched this way, — 'Ef I don't, sir, I hope ter die!"

Well, most on a year had gone; one day Me an Tim wos stealin'a dip By the ferry wharf, wen ther boat kem in An run too hard'gin ther slip;

An a little gal, that a big man held A settin' upon ther rail, Wos knocked clean over ther steamer's side In ther shake uv a sheepses tail.

We seed 'twas ther same rich man, an knowed Ther babby belonged ter him; So Tim dived arter it like a duck,-Fur I tell yer he saveyed ter swim.

Ther passengers yelled, ther bells ther banged, Till ther boat backed off from ther; Then we seed my pal cotched onter a pile, A grippen' ther gal's long hair.

So they hauled em both out onter ther dock; The gal she was safe an sound, But Tim had been hit by ther iron wheel,— His side wos jest one big wound.

Ther daddy he kissed his kid, then kneeled Where Tim lay so white an sick: "God bless yer!" he sez, "my little man,— Someone fetch a doctor, quick!"

"No use," sez Tim: "I'm agoin', sir, I can't pay yer now, yer see," And he takes from his neck a little bag,— "I'm four bits short," sez he.

"Don't yer savey ther boy what wos tooked up, What yer lent ther money that day? I'd most got it all made up, but now-But now I never kin pay."

Don't talk uv that," sez the father chap, His big tears a'runnin' free; "You've saved my babby's life, an she's Wuth all ther world ter me!"

"Is she wuth four bits?" sez Tim, so weak; "Oh! yes," sez ther man,—"Give him air!" "Then," sez Tim, just like he wos going' ter sleep, "Then, mister, you and me's square."

An that woz ther last word Timmie sez, An all them big men tall Tuk off ther hats as my pal let go,-Yes they did,-plug hats and all!

An a gospel sharp as wos in ther crowd, He knelt right down by Tim, An he told uv a Bible feller as sed Fur dead kids ter cum ter him.

I tell yer i'ts hard ter lose ther pal Ver've fit fur, starv-d with, au love; But I'm bettin' as them as is squar down here Is square up there above!

FREE PRESS readers are well-posted people.

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