

The Automobile

THE OLD FAMILY FLIVVER.

How dear to my heart was the old family flivver,
What fond recollections it calls in review;
The fenders, the windshield—ah, how they could quiver—
And how she did rattle, yes, even when she did.

How well I remember the very first flat tire,
The first empty gas tank, the headlights so dim;
How sweet was the sound when she'd buck and then back-fire—
And that time I drove her six miles on the rim!

In fancy I see her alone in the barn-
lot;
The paint is all gone and so are the gears,
The motor is lifeless—not even a hot spot—
But the flivver's first glamor has held through the years.

The old battered flivver,
The rust-covered flivver,
The rough-riding flivver
That served us so well.

—Tom S. Elrod.

THE SPELL OF THE ROAD.

Lurking along the miles of highways which traverse this country is a mysterious power known to the automobilist as the "Spell of the Road." Few of the millions who have held a wheel for long journeys fail to escape its insidious influence. Some call it the result of concentration, others describe a tugging of the senses as though the swift passage through the atmosphere was administering a narcotic. This, they say, is especially true when the sunshine is strong and the skies are clear.

The spell may be cast in Dundas or in the wide open spaces of the Prairies, and the driver on Prince Edward Island may obey the mystic touch as well as he who travels the longest trails. Much depends upon the motorist.

Accidents so it is reported have been traced to this numbing of alertness. Often there is a tendency to edge the car toward the crown of the highway. And so gradually is this done that the driver seldom realizes that more than the allotted space is

being occupied. Traffic, of course, curbs encroachments, but on a lonely road, with sharp turns, there is an element of danger.

Does the average motorist keep to the right of the road as far as possible or crowd over to the middle? was the question considered at a recent investigation. The answer to the question is affected by the width of the road, curves, grades, slope of road surface and condition of the surface adjacent to the pavement. This conclusion is based on observations of the habits of drivers on highways of various kinds, widths and locations. Points were selected for observation, and the width of the pavement was marked off with white paint into one-foot sections, so that the position of passing vehicles could be observed.

In most cases the cars were not passing other vehicles at the instant of observation. The investigation, therefore, indicates the road position preferred by the average driver. Few automobile drivers prefer a position closer to the edge of pavement than two and one-half feet and on meeting other cars the average driver will sacrifice clearance rather than drive closer to the edge than he instinctively feels to be safe.

Truck drivers who, as a class, are sometimes accused of being road hogs, are found to be not guilty. Most of them were observed to drive a foot closer to the edge of the pavement than drivers of motor cars, and under all circumstances they adhered more closely to the side of the road.

Eighteen feet is found to be the minimum width of roadway which will permit passenger vehicles and trucks to pass in safety and with a reasonable amount of clearance. This will allow a distance of 2.7 feet between the outer wheel and the edge of the road for automobiles, and 1.8 feet for trucks, with 1.9 feet clearance between vehicles.

Observations on curves showed that there is a general tendency to shift to the inside of the curve, particularly by the traffic moving on the outside. Improper banking of the road surface, poor shoulders and steep embankments on the outside of the curve all tend to make drivers crowd to the inside. White lines in the center of the road were found to be very effective in keeping traffic in its proper channel.

Clock as Beehive.

A new clock was set going in the tower of Wolsey (Nuncheon, England) Parish Church recently.

The old clock had an interesting history, and is supposed to have done duty since the days of Charles II. Originally it had but a single hand. The second dial (of wood) was put on in commemoration of the British victory at Trafalgar, and the second hand was introduced about the same time.

There is a record of its having been repaired in 1740. When the old clock was removed recently workmen discovered at its rear a hive of dead bees and between forty and fifty pounds of honey.

A still more interesting find was that of a valuable item of fifteenth century glass. It had been reduced to fragments in the old mullion of the window, and was covered by the wooden face of the clock. Tradition has it that the Cromwellian soldiers, marching from Coventry to Leicester, knocked out the glass of the window, and that the portion recently discovered was left lying about when new glass was introduced.

Solution of last week's puzzle.

S	H	E	L	T	E	R	S	C	A	L	D	E	D
T	N	E	A	T	A	V	I	D	I	N	G		
A	T	A	R	C	H	T	R	E	E	T	O		
R	I	P	T	H	I	N	N	I	S	K	E	L	P
V	E	E	R	R	O	R	S	T	S	K	E	L	P
E	R	R	O	R	S	T	S	K	E	L	P		
D	T	O	E	S	N	O	R	D					
T	A	R	T	A	T	M	A	T	T				
S	B	E	D	L	E	T	C	A					
T	H	I	R	S	T	A	D	R	E	A	S		
R	A	T	S	H	A	S	T	E					
I	R	E	F	A	S	T	E	N	S	T	R	I	
V	T	I	L	L	S	L	I	E	F	T	R		
E	T	R	E	E	A	P	E	S	T	E			
S	M	O	K	E	R	S		A	L	T	E	R	E

Sage grows wild in many parts of southern Europe.

Wisp of Wisdom.

The man who gives up goes down. You are rich only as you enrich the lives of others.

Avoid the pleasure that holds the penalty of future pain. Half the value of anything to be done is doing it promptly. Don't be content with taking things as they come; go after them. Flowers bloom whether anyone looks at them or not. Have you less sense than a flower?

The royal road to success would have more travelers if so many weren't last attempting to find short cuts.

It is one of the beautiful compensations of life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself.

Bank Notes.

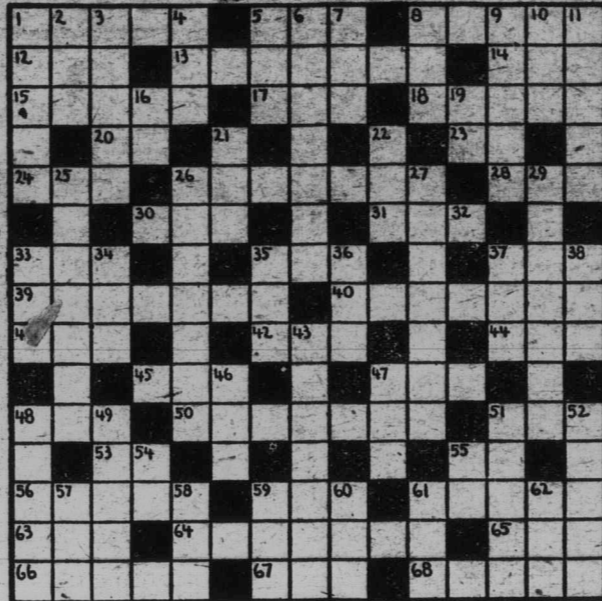
Greater privacy surrounds the making of notes for the Bank of England than almost any other undertaking connected with that great institution.

The paper on which the notes are printed has been made in the same factory at Laverstoke, Hampshire, for over two hundred years. It is prepared entirely by hand from specially selected rags, and is washed and re-washed in spring water used for no other purpose.

The formula of the ink used in printing the notes is known to only half a dozen people. The chief ingredient is charcoal obtained by smoke-drying the wood of Rhenish vines. Each note costs the bank roughly two cents to produce, and the average period of circulation is two and a half months. About 60,000 of the notes are printed daily, while every year 20,000,000 old notes are collected and destroyed.

It must be admitted at any rate that the horse is more nearly fool proof than the automobile.

CROSS-WORD PUZZLE



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SUGGESTIONS FOR SOLVING CROSS-WORD PUZZLES

Start out by filling in the words of which you feel reasonably sure. These will give you a clue to other words crossing them, and they in turn to still others. A letter belongs in each white space, words starting at the numbered squares and running either horizontally or vertically or both.

HORIZONTAL

- 1—Change
- 2—Therapy (abbr.)
- 3—Got up
- 12—A suffix meaning "pertaining to"
- 13—Pound again
- 14—A vegetable
- 16—Fire
- 17—A limb
- 18—A weapon
- 20—Conjunction
- 23—Abbr. for title of a physician
- 24—Frequent
- 25—Mending
- 28—Kind of tree
- 30—Eagle
- 31—Parched
- 32—A serpent
- 35—Part of the foot
- 37—Possesses
- 39—City in Illinois
- 40—Very large city in U. S. A.
- 41—Tilt
- 42—Brief poem
- 44—Thirsty
- 45—Instrument for writing
- 47—Emmet
- 48—The reply (abbr.)
- 50—Removing dust
- 51—Reverential fear
- 53—Toward
- 55—Conjunction
- 56—City in Nebraska
- 59—An incalculable period of time
- 61—Join
- 63—Small rug
- 64—Shriill cries
- 65—Bag
- 68—Open spaces
- 69—Consumed
- 69—Happening

VERTICAL

- 1—Musical instrument
- 2—Traveled fast
- 3—Mass of cast metal
- 4—Make a mistake
- 5—Watering place
- 6—Large city in Canada
- 7—Total
- 9—Advertisements (abbr.)
- 9—Musical entertainment
- 10—Ocean
- 11—A planet
- 16—Letters used to form comparative degree
- 19—Paid (abbr.)
- 21—Proceeded rapidly
- 22—Finish
- 25—Style
- 26—Feared
- 27—Getting larger
- 28—A common bird
- 33—Perform
- 34—The seed of an orange
- 35—Also
- 36—Point of compass (abbr.)
- 37—Cascating
- 38—Firmament
- 43—City in Michigan
- 46—Fruit of a tree
- 47—Also
- 48—Snake of the boa family
- 48—Condition
- 51—Get up
- 52—Upstanding
- 54—Exclamation
- 55—Upon
- 57—Blishest
- 58—Silly fellow
- 59—Period
- 60—Formerly
- 61—Employ
- 62—Reddish brown

A Peck of Pepper.

Many people imagine that white pepper and black are two separate and different varieties of plant species, but this is not the case. Black pepper is the dried immature fruit of the plant Piper Nigrum, while white pepper is the same berry without its black outer husk.

The peppercorns are a small group found only in the hottest parts of the world, but they provide several useful plants—some with medicinal properties. The plant itself may be twelve feet in height. Its berries are at first green, then red; when at this stage they are hand-picked, and left in the sun to yield the black peppercorn.

It flourishes in the valleys and on the banks of the rivers in Java, Malacca, Borneo, and Sumatra, whence it is sent to Britain under the names of five varieties—Malabar, Penang, Sumatra, Tray, and Tellicherry.

The mixed pepper is ground by millstones or in a coffee-mill, care being taken lest the heat destroys some of the aromatic principles; if this occurs the pepper is known to the trade as "burnt."

The important constituents of pepper in a physiological sense are the two alkaloids—piperin and piperidine—and its oil. The average percentage

of the alkaloids is six, and of the oil one.

Pepper has frequently been found to be adulterated by means of a clever trick. Pepper dust composed of faded leaves or limbed meal, husks of mango, ground rice, or even ground olive stones, is added to the genuine article. In all cases, however, adulteration may easily be detected by a magnifying glass or a microscope.

Pianists Who Practice Hard.

All the great pianists practice hard. It is the only way if success is to be won. These great performers, of course, have exceptional gifts to start with. But no amount of gift absolves the artist from the necessity of immense and long-continued work at the keyboard. Rubinstein was a tremendous worker. Paderewski confesses to seven hours a day, and a good deal of it scales and five-finger exercises. Pachmann, Hofmann, Rosenthal—all the eminent players—have spent many hours daily at the piano in pursuit of the enormous technical skill they were determined to acquire. There is no royal road to efficiency as a pianist. But the necessary practice need not be dull work. On the contrary, the real musician loves working at his technical exercises and sometimes, even, prefers them to his pieces.

When I look on beautiful furs, I think of the fever, and the thirst, and the pain.—Sara Teasdale.

BRITAIN'S WARRIOR QUEEN

The Story of Boadicea's Fight for Freedom.

Many Londoners see every day in life, set at the entrance to Westminster Bridge, the statue of a woman in a war-chariot. We know that this is Boadicea, a British queen of old; we are vaguely aware that she did something for the sake of British independence—but there the knowledge of most of us ends, says an English writer. Her story is, in truth, obscure, but it is one that every Briton ought to know.

Buddug or Bodica, better known as Boadicea, was the last native ruler of Britain. Buddug is Welsh for Victoria, and the Welsh claim her as their heroine and have placed her among their national worthies in the marble gallery of Cardiff City Hall, though there is no evidence that she ever travelled so far as Wales.

When the Romans Came. In her day the greater part of England was a jungle, the Andredsweald choked communications in Surrey and Sussex, vast forests including those of Epping and Hainault stretched northward from the Thames as far as the Wash, and the only facilities for travel were across the military roads of the invaders. Until the great call came for national independence, Boadicea rarely left her home among the warlike Iceni, who occupied what is now known as Norfolk and Suffolk.

Caesar, the first of the Roman invaders of Britain, had thought it wiser to come to terms with the Iceni, rather than invade them in their sylvan fastnesses, and he made no attempt to exact tribute from them. They abode by their engagements and went well until the year 50, when the aggressive policy of the Proprietor Ptolemy provoked a national rising. The Iceni were acclaimed as the natural leaders by reason of their superior intelligence and martial spirit, but they had trusted too much to the good faith of the Romans, and were caught unprepared. The rising was quelled, the Iceni were forced to pay tribute, and the Roman general Prasulagus was set up as king over them.

To make peace more assured, Prasulagus married Boadicea, the heiress of their royal line, and all went well until the year 60, when he died, leaving his great wealth to the Roman Emperor in trust for his wife and daughters. Thus he hoped to save his kingdom and family from molestation. But the Roman officials disputed his will and declared all his property forfeit to them as representatives of the Emperor.

Vigorous Womanhood.

When Queen Boadicea protested, she was seized and publicly flogged. Realizing that they were faced with extermination, the Iceni decided to rally round their queen and made alliance with the Trinobantes of Essex and Middlesex, who had suffered from the tyranny of Roman veterans quartered at Camulodunum (Colchester). The moment was auspicious, for Suetonius Paulinus, the Roman Governor, was away in Anglesey, his garrisons were scanty and scattered.

In those days the women of Britain differed little from their menfolk. They were brought up to the same physical fitness, could draw a bow and die with arms in their hands. The queen prepared her plan of campaign with rapidity, and carried it out triumphantly. Marching through the forests, she immediately took Colchester and razed it to the ground. Then she stormed the Temple of Claudius, which had been set up as a monument of British humiliation. After two days' siege she destroyed it so utterly that its site cannot be traced to this day.

The Capture of London.

Suetonius, the Roman Governor, hurried back from Anglesey to London, collecting legionaries on his way, but he soon realized that he was not strong enough to face the British in the field. He fled from his capital, and the way seemed open to Boadicea to drive the hated tyrants into the sea. She advanced on London and captured it almost without resistance. After she had reduced it to ashes and left scarcely one stone standing upon another, she took Verulamium (St. Al-

ban's) and condemned it to a similar fate. No quarter was given. But the British triumph was short-lived. Roman cohorts had extricated themselves from even tighter corners. Swift messengers sped along the wonderful Roman roads through the forests to the utmost camps in this outpost of Empire. By the end of 61 an army of 10,000 Romans had gathered together for a final struggle against the emancipation of Britain, and Suetonius craftily occupied a position in a narrow valley where it would be impossible for the British to employ their usually successful tactics and outflank the enemy.

It would doubtless have been wiser if Boadicea had waited and starved them into fighting on conditions more favorable to her arms. But she was flushed by success and encouraged by the sight of her vast hosts, which contemporaries have computed at 200,000 warriors. She decided to give battle, and we can imagine the enthusiasm as she and her daughters drove in their chariots through the British lines, exhorting her subjects to avenge the outrages of their tyrants and strike a final blow for the freedom and happiness of Britain.

Death Before Dishonor.

Meanwhile Suetonius harangued his men, bidding them have no fear of the multitudes arrayed against them, multitudes whom he described contemptuously as a mere horde of women. Events justified his confidence. The battle soon degenerated into butchery. Sheep could not have been slaughtered more rapidly than the British. No fewer than 80,000 of them perished, while the Roman casualties were returned at 400.

Lo! there was the queen's chariot fleeing away into the forest. Suetonius himself galloped in pursuit, determined to capture the British warrior queen and parade her at his triumph. Nay, but he was too late. Boadicea had taken poison from a secret hiding-place in her ring, and when her foe came upon her he found that her proud spirit had fled.

A Poet's Mistake.

One of the finest sonnets in the English language is that which Keats wrote after reading Chapman's translation of "Homer." The poet compares his delight with that which "steal Cortez" must have felt when he gazed at the Pacific from "a peak in Darien," and knew that in all probability he was the first white man who had seen that ocean.

Probably Keats has done more than anyone else to impress upon people's minds that Cortez, the conqueror of Mexico, was also the discoverer of the Pacific, yet he was wrong. He ought to have written Nunez, for it was just over four hundred years ago that Vasco Nunez de Balboa first saw the Pacific Ocean.

It was almost at the very point where the Panama Canal crosses the Isthmus that Balboa also crossed it, or, at least, climbed to its highest point. He heard a wonderful story from the natives. They said: "If you climb those mountains you will get a sight of a mighty sea on the other side," and it was on September 26th, 1513, that Balboa actually beheld the Pacific.

Wind's Are Strong.

"How strong was the wind?" is the question asked after a destructive storm.

The answer to this question is likely to be misleading, says Nature Magazine, because it is nearly always stated in terms of speed rather than force, and the two things are not identical.

The force of the wind can be indicated accurately by saying what pressure it exerts (in pounds per square foot, for example) upon a surface at right angles to its path. This pressure varies approximately as the square of the speed.

Thus a wind of twenty miles an hour blows about four times as hard as one of ten miles an hour, and a wind of thirty miles an hour blows about nine times as hard as one of ten miles an hour.

We can never be the better for our religion if our neighbor be the worse for it.—Wm. Penn.

MUTT AND JEFF—By Bud Fisher.



There Was Something Doing in the Mexican Twilight.