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THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1912

An Appropriate Verse

(Copyright, 1911, by Associated Literary Press.)

"Why are you so particular which postal card you purchase?" asked Olive of her friend Gwendolyn as they stood before a postal rack in an up-to-date drug store. It couldn't have taken England longer to purchase the Suez canal than it takes you to decide upon a little piece of pasteboard.

"Promise you'll not tell. Jim sent me a card all decorated with forget-me-nots, and a little verse saying:

"'Blossoms Blue as the sky
To my friend will say
Kindest thoughts and good will
This card brings with it today.'

"Now I'm trying to find an appropriate one to send in return."

"Don't waste your time. Jim certainly didn't. He must have bought those cards by the gross, as five girls, including myself, received similar ones. So you're not the favored one," said Olive carelessly.

"If that's true, then any old card will do. I'll scribble the address on this one without even looking on the other side," returned Gwendolyn, her cheeks blushing from the humiliating thought, how she had searched, east, west, north and south for a card.

All Gwendolyn's waking and sleeping hours had been occupied with Jim's image. Never again could she hope to meet anyone so congenial, and now she knew positively that she was only one amongst many in his thoughts.

"Your name should have been Gwendolyn Regretful instead of Gwendolyn Barret," Olive told her. "Whatever you do you regret it, so it doesn't matter much what you do," as Gwendolyn kept repeating how sorry she was that she mailed the card in such haste.

The following day Gwendolyn was greatly perplexed to receive a telegram.

"Arrive at 10 a. m. Have the courage now to tell you everything."

Gwendolyn could not solve the mystery. Jim was always so confidential with her. Was he going to announce his engagement to some other girl? How could she stand the strain?

When Jim met Gwendolyn he tried to embrace her in the most lover-like fashion.

"How dare you," said Gwendolyn, indignantly pushing the young man aside. "Since when are you accustomed to taking such liberties? No man but the man I marry will I allow to kiss me."

"Then I'm the man," announced Jim. "Aren't we engaged? Didn't you pity me because I wasn't courageous enough to propose and sent me this postal?"

Gwendolyn, taking the card, read:

"Here's a lover's knot,
Can you tie it?
I know the way,
So let's try it."

Then she attempted to explain how and why she had sent that one.

"My dear," said Jim, "I only sent you the same as the others who were kind to me while I was here, for you never showed any special interest, and usually acted like a human icicle when I was around."

"That's because I cared so much. I was too proud to show my feelings," said Gwendolyn.

"Those cards didn't signify anything, but this one," he added in a tender tone, "is worth more than all the power, money and glory in the world to me."

"Oh, Jim, to think I had to propose to you, but I'm glad I am a victim of circumstances, only if you really, truly love me, don't ever tell how we became engaged."

COURTESY MADE A FINE ART

Japanese Excel All Peoples in Flowery Expressions of Politeness.

Courtesy is a characteristic of the Japanese, especially amongst officials, and Mr. A. M. Thompson, in describing his travels through the Land of the Chrysanthemum, says that even the word "please" is in Japan elaborated into a lingual art. Here is an example:—

"The guard in the train to Tokio caused us much amusement. When he came round to examine tickets he began my standing at the end of the car, took off his cap to the honorable assembly, bowed to the ground, rubbed his knees with his hands, drew in his breath audibly, and delivered himself of an announcement in Japanese which I translate as follows:—

"'Your most honorable excellencies and most augustly-deigning-to-be-pleased ones, I hope you will pardon this creature of mud for having been born into this world to ask you, most gracious and superior ones, to show your augustly blessed tickets, after which I beg you will honorably deign to grind and crush me, who am but as a snail of the soil beneath your kindly sandals!'

"The passengers bowed profoundly in return, rubbed their knees with their hands, sucked in their breath with the peculiar whistling sound which is the special expression of a Japanese greeting, and then produced their honorable tickets. After this there was more bowing on both sides, and the guard, still bowing, vanished."

Difference in Icebergs.

No two icebergs appear to be exactly alike in size and shape. Some look, for all the world, like Arabs' tents as they glide along, and others like cliffs, castles, cathedrals, yachts, and occasionally they resemble some well known animal. Some of the pinnacles of a large berg rise nearly 1,000 feet above the water, while the base may occupy an area of ten or twelve acres. Seen through a powerful glass, one may detect waterfalls upon these islands of ice, and all kinds of arctic birds, and perhaps a few seals.

Then the colors are almost beyond description. The stately pinnacles glisten in the sun like powdered glass. At times the berg is pure white, at others it looks greenish.—From Harold J. Shepstone's "Icebergs" in St. Nicholas.

Professor's Bad Break.

"Professor Blinker is getting more absentminded every day." "What's his latest break?" "Why, his oldest daughter is just out of cooking school, you know, and he's been showing his class a cruller she made. He told them it was proof of the fact that the men of the stone age played the game of ring toss."

The Harder Way.

The way of the transgressor is hard, but the way of one against whom he transgresses is harder.

PURE FOOD LAW NOT MODERN

Centuries Ago Tradesmen Who Adulterated Goods Were Most Severely Punished.

Pure food laws are not quite so modern an invention as we may believe. Dr. Reisner has made discoveries in Palestine that seem to indicate some sort of supervision of the food supplies delivered to the palace nearly 3000 years ago. Labels have been found that were once affixed to "a jar of pure olive oil." We may wonder what tests were employed and what would happen to the man whose oil was found to be not pure. Probably something unpleasant, for there was no Supreme court in those days.

We know what happened in the middle ages to the enterprising tradesman who adulterated his goods. In 1444 a Nuremberg merchant was burned alive for mixing foreign material with his saffron and the saffron itself was used for fuel. Probably that artistic touch impressed the matter upon his memory.

Some Augsburg bakers who used false weights and bad flour were ducked in a muddy pool, and through a faulty knowledge of the human respiratory system, or sheer carelessness, they came to the surface dead.

In 1482 a wine merchant was ordered to drink six quarts of his own adulterated wine, and as he died soon after it is evident that the adulteration must have been serious. It is true that he had to finish the draft in a given number of minutes, and a small number at that, but in those days they had a pleasant way of weighing the scales and loading the dice upon the side of justice.

Civilization has changed all that. Nowadays we shiver with apprehension lest, a rogue shall be punished.—San Francisco Argonaut.

Juvenile Compositions.

I am by no means disposed to go so far as the historian of New England, John Gorham Palfrey, who, as I have been told, was wont to express the desire that an act of congress should be passed forbidding on pain of death any one under twenty-one years of age to write a sentence.—Professor Lounsbury in Harper's Magazine.

Combine Against the Genius.

When a true genius appears in the world, you may know him by this sign, that the dunces are all in confederacy against him.—Swift.

Amusing the Children.

A good way to amuse the children on a rainy day is to cut colored pictures from old magazines. These are pasted on cardboard squares and the squares are fastened together by piercing them with a knife and threading them upon a bright piece of ribbon. Select pictures of all kinds, including plenty of animals, birds and flowers.

Knows Value of Good Roads.

England spends nine million dollars a year to maintain her white roads.

Show Strength of Character.

High cheek bones are said to indicate great strength of character in some direction.

Needed It.

As soon as Adam awoke and saw Eve he coined the word "trouble."—Chicago Record-Herald.

No Paper Money in Peru.

Peru is a country without paper money. Gold, silver and copper coins are the mediums of circulation.

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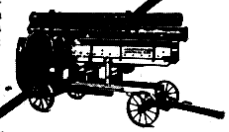

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