

SOME OFT-USED ODD EXPRESSIONS EXPLAINED

There are numerous quaint words and phrases in our language which are used to convey meanings quite different from any that are indicated by any literal interpretation of the words. If we should trace them back to their beginning we should doubtless find that all have interesting histories. Below are some that we often hear. Readers will find it worth while to inquire into the derivation of others.

Everyone has heard and perhaps used the phrase, "a pretty kettle of fish," meaning a "bad mess" or an unfortunate, unsatisfactory turn of affairs. It is related that years ago the warder of the tower of London insisted that one of the inalienable perquisites of his office was the right to trap fish for his own use in the river just outside one of the gates. Accordingly he regularly placed in the water a fishing basket or "kiddle."

Denying his exclusive right to catch fish there, the people systematically raided his kiddles. The warder, on discovering this interference, would exclaim each time: "A pretty kiddle of fish, indeed!"

The old-fashioned kiddle fell into disuse and was forgotten but succeeding generations clung to the phrase and the meaning given it originally by the warder. It was gradually changed, however, to "a pretty kettle—or kittle—of fish."

Did you ever wonder why we have the rather odd word "teetotal," expressive of complete, absolute prohibition or abstention from the use of alcoholic beverages? This word, we are told, was accidentally coined by an early prohibitionist in England, a man named Turner.

He was so ardent an enemy of drink that he went about making prohibition speeches, despite the fact that he had the awkward habit of stuttering. On one occasion he wound up a total abstinence address with the declaration: "Nothing but tee-tee-tee-total abstinence will do—that or nowt" After that "teetotal" came to be used in a joking way but in time it found its way into the everyday vocabulary of English speakers and was recognized as a legitimate word by dictionary makers.

When actors and actresses receive their salaries they say the "ghost has walked;" when pay-day comes around they commonly ask each other, "is the ghost walking?" and when they would learn whether a manager unknown to them can be depended on to pay his just debts to those in his employ they inquire: "Does the ghost walk?" The phrase is also much used in this sense outside theatrical circles.

A crooked, tricky manager in England, the story goes, had to be watched closely or he would "forget" to pay his actors and actresses their salaries when they were due. It happened that he once had in his com-

pany an actor whose forte on the stage was the ghost in "Hamlet." This shrewd fellow quickly got onto the manager's little ways and learned how to make him "come across." If he learned on the morning of the day when his salary for the week was due that it was not forthcoming he would at once declare with determination: "Then the ghost won't walk tonight."

The manager couldn't afford to lose him or to have him miss a performance so he always contrived to have his pay-envelope ready at the proper time. The actor had no qualms about ruining a performance by refusing to go on when his cue was given. His heroic tactics proved a great boon to his fellow actors for obviously when the manager paid one he couldn't well avoid paying others. It is not surprising, therefore, that they developed a keen interest in the "walking of the ghost" and fell into the habit of inquiring on pay-days whether "the ghost would walk."

OUR COMMENCEMENT

Following will be found a table of the various events which will occur as a part of our commencement. We believe they will prove of interest and we extend a cordial invitation to the general public to be present:

Sunday, May Thirtieth

Band Concert	- - - - -	2:30 P. M.
Dress Parade	- - - - -	4:30 P. M.
Baccalaureate Sermon	- - - - -	8:00 P. M.

Monday, May Thirty-First

Baseball Game—Excelsiors Vs. Reliance	- - - - -	2:00 P. M.
Band Concert	- - - - -	6:30 P. M.
Declamation Contest	- - - - -	8:00 P. M.

Tuesday, June First

Inter-Class Field Sports	- - - - -	9:00 A. M.
Joint Society Meeting and Stunts on Campus	- - - - -	2:30 P. M.
Operetta—"The Emperor's Daughter"	- - - - -	8:00 P. M.

Wednesday, June Second

Academic and Industrial Departments Open to Inspection	- - - - -	9:30 A. M.
Dress Parade	- - - - -	2:00 P. M.
Physical Culture Exhibition, Etc.	- - - - -	2:30 P. M.
Band Concert	- - - - -	6:30 P. M.
Senior Play—"Sylvia"	- - - - -	8:00 P. M.

Thursday, June Third

Competitive Military Drill and Parade	- - - - -	9:30 A. M.
Lawn Sports—Small Boys and Small Girls	- - - - -	2:00 P. M.
Band Concert	- - - - -	6:30 P. M.
Graduation Exercises and Presentation of Diplomas	- - - - -	8:00 P. M.

Friday, June Fourth

"Jolly-Up" and Presentation of Prizes	- - - - -	9:30 A. M.
Baseball Game—Faculty Vs. Students	- - - - -	2:30 P. M.
Social—Students and Employes	- - - - -	7:30 P. M.

FOR EXCHANGE

One "Climax" ten-horse power horizontal steam engine, manufactured by the Comstock Manufacturing Company of Michigan. In good condition except for broken governor; value \$150.00. To be exchanged for drygoods, clothing or blankets to the value of \$150.00. For further information address

F. M. CONSER,
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