



AN AMBIGUOUS ANSWER

LADY LESTER was at her wit's end. That was the way she put it in her colloquial dialect. Also, she did not know which way to turn, but this was owing to the lack of routes rather than any indecision in selection. The fact was that she had adopted the popular proverbial method of risking all on a single throw of the dice, and it had turned up aces. Reduced to prose, this meant that she had strained and indeed overstrained every nerve in order to present a thoroughly smart appearance and give her daughter a complete London season. In hope that that dame would make a good catch, settle herself comfortably in life, and be off her mother's hands for the future, Alice Lester had insisted on this till her mother, with much misgiving, consented. In consequence Lady Lester had spent the greater part of her yearly income in two months, and run into debt as well. The end of the season was approaching, and the catch had not been secured. It seemed that the effort had been fruitless, and the consequences would have to be faced. Lady Lester knew as well as possible that the only way to pay her debts was to sell capital. This would reduce her already slender income. Besides, how she and Alice were going to live and preserve a decent appearance on the small amount of income left for the remaining five months or so of the year was a question which made her inclined to scream whenever she thought of it. She was a handsome woman, tall, stately, fortunate in the possession of a figure that did not age, clever and discreet in repairing the ravages of time. She usually wore black, partly because it was intensely becoming to her, partly for economy's sake. She presented a marked contrast to her daughter, who was petite, piquant, dainty, with rousse features. Taking the pair together, they were as attractive a mother and daughter as one could hope to see, if it had not been for the eternal discontent written on their features. Her troubles had not improved Lady Lester's temper. "If you had only," she said peevishly to her daughter, "given half the encouragement to Lord Wimberley that you have to that wretched Anderson, you might be Lady Wimberley, off my hands, and able to help me a little out of this scrape."

"He is not such a young man," replied Alice gravely. "He is a good deal older than many men of more age. Besides, he is serious, devoted to politics, much admired as a speaker—as you yourself said. And he certainly knows his own mind. He practically—and very tactfully—offered me a place for George, with seven hundred a year, so that we may be able to marry—and be out of the way—if I could help him, and a man doesn't do that unless he means business." "He told me that he thought you would marry," murmured the widow, "and spoke very generously about you." "He is very rich," pursued Alice. "It would be a mere feat to him. Wimberley is a lovely place, and there is the coach, and no doubt there would be a house in town, and carriages, and every luxury, and no more worry and trouble, and you know, darling, that when you really take trouble you don't look more than half quite young in fact, especially to people who are a little short-sighted, as he is—"

"And I should be free from your tongue," interposed the widow, sharply, by no means grateful for these compliments. "Yes, you are right, Lord Wimberley proposed to me this afternoon. I told him it was sudden and I would give him an answer to-morrow. I have thought it over, and I shall say 'Yes.' He swears that he loves me and has never loved anyone else—"

"And you must love him, too, either, dear," observed Alice, with catholic softness, "or you wouldn't marry him." "Of course I love him—devotedly—have from the first. There is no other reason why I should marry him, is there?" "But, reviewing the circumstances of the case, Alice felt that this answer might mean anything—London World.

RED SEA EMERALD MINES. They were Lost for Centuries, but Have Been Rediscovered. What are known as the emerald mines of Cleopatra lie in the mountain range that extends for a long distance parallel to the Red sea and a few leagues west of its coast, in a latitude rather south of Eofa, on the Nile. This like some other parts of the region—such as the porphyry quarries of Jebel Dokhan—was far better known than it is now, and more thickly populated, about twenty centuries ago, and only during the past one, so far as we know, have isolated explorers at long intervals found their way into the treasure-house of ancient Egypt. When its rulers first used the emerald for personal adornment is uncertain. Whether the large, clear green stones which, according to ancient authorities, ornamented the Egyptian temples were really emeralds is a matter of dispute, but as this gem—owing to its regular shape, which is commonly a six-sided prism—and its beautiful tint stands less in need of the lapidary's art than many others it probably formed part of the regalia of princes at a very early period. That it was known to the Romans is certain and the mines now revisited to send their treasures to the gem cutters of the capital. Ever since then the stone has been highly esteemed. These mines of the northern Ethbal seem to have remained untouched since the decline and fall of Rome caused them to be deserted. According to Mr. MacAllister, the workings are only small passages, hardly more than burrows, excavated in the emerald-bearing crust and sometimes extending for a long distance. Many scattered ruins may also be seen—dwellings, watch towers and tombs, besides those of few settlements. In these, no doubt, the mining population used to live, and the difference in style suggest they were occupied for a long time. Some are mere hovels, very roughly built; others show a more careful construction, while a third group are well finished. Mr. MacAllister also found three rock-cut temples, for the soft stone promptly told him that she had engaged herself to that young Johnson on Second avenue. "What!" whooped the old gentleman, and he attempted to get his feet he might express himself with more action and impressiveness. But it is a quick stride from the Half Nelson to the strangle hold and she made the shift while she talked rapidly in a cooling tone, patted him on the cheek with her free hand and vigorously worked her tongue.

RECENT INVENTIONS. The nuts which fasten rail joints are securely locked by a new attachment to prevent them from turning loose, the nuts being all turned square to the plate, forming the joint, with a slot formed in the plate to carry a member which engages the lower edges of the nuts. Two Frenchmen have invented a new method of stopping up shot holes in warships, watertight compartments being arranged around the hull, filled with compressed bodies of elastic material, which expand as soon as water enters, filling the compartment and closing the hole. An improved fastening for belting the ends of the belt are attached to the members of a narrow hinge, with a bolt to connect the two parts as they are brought together, the bolt having a screw thread cut on one end to enter a socket in the hinge to prevent its coming out. An improved temperature alarm has been designed by a Southerner, having a ball suspended in an expansive liquid, with a rod attached to the top, which slides back and forth as the liquid moves in a tube, completing an electric circuit with adjustable plates at any desired point. A Kentuckian has patented a packing auger for filling holes with solid earth, having two blades arranged at angles on opposite sides of a central rod, to be revolved in an opposite direction from a common auger, loose dirt being pressed into the hole by the under sides of the blades. Thatched Cottages Disappearing. Gradually and too surely the old thatched cottages of England are going. Where the thatch exists slate is not substituted for it; it is repaired when necessary with straw or reeds, more commonly with the former. But where a thatched cottage tumbles to pieces or is burnt, the new one that takes its place is given a slate roof, writes an English correspondent. Large numbers of the old cottages, with the wooden beams amid their bricks and the thatched roofs, are destroyed by fire. There is little chance of stopping a fire when it has laid hold of the wood or the thatch.

Few Big Cities in Germany. With a population not far from 60,000,000 crowded within an area smaller or that of the single American state of Texas, Germany yet has only thirty-three cities of 100,000 or more inhabitants, while the United States, with its 70,000,000 scattered over a vastly larger area, has thirty-eight such cities. Finnish Immigrants. Of the 6,753 Finns who came to this country last year only seventeen were refused admittance, only sixty-one were unable to read and write, and only fourteen were said to be in danger of becoming public charges. A Narrow Escape. "My, that was a narrow escape for me!" "What was?" "A trolley car ran over Jones, who lives at No. 604 Main street, and I live at No. 606."—Philadelphia Record.

RECORD OF OREGON LEGISLATURE.

- BILLS PASSED BY BOTH HOUSES. H. B. 1, amending mining laws. H. B. 5, times and places of court, Second district. H. B. 19, relating to electric wires on highways. H. B. 20, validating certain marriages. H. B. 21, penalties for injuring or destroying records on public lands. H. B. 24, amending law for relief of indigent soldiers. H. B. 26, reorganization of Oregon National Guard. H. B. 27, uniform system of mine bell signals. H. B. 33, appropriation \$1,000 for Soda Springs. H. B. 34, relative to taxation of personal property. H. B. 34, to aid Oregon Historical Society. H. B. 54, amending Harvett's bonding act. H. B. 59, punishment for poisoning domestic animals. H. B. 62, consolidating offices in Multnomah county. H. B. 63, providing for building bicycle paths. H. B. 65, providing clerical aid for state treasurer. H. B. 66, fixing witness fees in Multnomah county—coroner cases. H. B. 71, regulating surety companies. H. B. 76, providing for election of road superintendents. H. B. 88, regulating purchase of public supplies. H. B. 97, public bidding for county supplies. H. B. 100, protection of labels and trademarks. H. B. 102, to prevent coercion and intimidation of voters. H. B. 108, for collection of road poll tax and manner working roads. H. B. 110, protection of forests, game and wild fowl. H. B. 113, duty of surveyors in establishing boundary lines. H. B. 121, duties of state superintendent of public instruction. H. B. 122, amending trespass law. H. B. 126, amending law in relation to kidnapping. H. B. 128, amending law authorizing furnishing of public records. H. B. 144, protecting copyrighted plays. H. B. 146, relating to mining claim locations. H. B. 149, providing punishment for desertion of American flag. H. B. 171, appropriation for general expenses of state. H. B. 172, providing for domestic irrigation. H. B. 177, reserving oyster beds in Netarts bay. H. B. 178, regulating fishing on Alsea river and bay. H. B. 183, regulating recording of chattel mortgages. H. B. 187, relative to service of citation. H. B. 188, primary election law for Multnomah county. H. B. 189, abolishing separate board of commissioners for Multnomah county. H. B. 200, increasing salary of deputy clerk of Malheur. H. B. 205, providing for collection of road poll taxes. H. B. 208, declaring certain thoroughfares to be county roads. H. B. 217, protection of oysters and lobsters. H. B. 219, propagation and protection of salmon. H. B. 223, relating to final accounts of administrators. H. B. 229, providing for standard weights of produce. H. B. 237, fixing Multnomah-Columbia boundary line. H. B. 249, fixing salary of certain county treasurers. H. B. 260, appropriation for state departments. H. B. 262, providing manner of selling state lands. H. B. 274, relative to Eastern Oregon District Agricultural Societies. H. B. 275, relative to Southern Oregon District Agricultural Societies. H. B. 280, annexing parishes to Baker county. H. B. 286, compensation of Lane county officers. H. B. 292, extending time for construction of Saslaw & Eastern Railway Navigation Company line. H. B. 294, making Vancouver avenue a county road. H. B. 295, punishment for mutilation of hides of cattle. H. B. 296, fixing compensation clerk of supreme court. H. B. 311, increasing salary judge of Multnomah county. H. B. 313, increasing salary judge of Baker county. H. B. 346, defining duties of attorney-general. H. B. 348, appropriation for payment of claims against the state. H. B. 347, general appropriation bill. H. B. 349, authorizing city of Portland to levy tax for Oriental fair. S. B. 1, providing for expression of choice in selection of United States senators by the people. S. B. 10, relating to drawing of juries. S. B. 13, taxation of goods, merchandise, etc., in cities and towns. S. B. 23, increasing efficiency of public schools. S. B. 29, authorizing Portland to dispose of market block. S. B. 37, for publication of revised code. S. B. 38, fixing fees county officers in Multnomah county. S. B. 44, sessions of circuit court in Seventh district. S. B. 56, declaring un navigable streams highways. S. B. 61, selection and sale of state lands. S. B. 62, relative to meeting by state university regents. S. B. 63, food and dairy commissioner act. S. B. 64, amending code relative to Multnomah judges. S. B. 72, relating to actions in justice courts. S. B. 75, providing vestibules for street cars. S. B. 79, amending act creating Wheeler county. S. B. 84, monument fund for Second Oregon volunteers. (House disagree over amendments. Bill fails.) S. B. 86, creating office of state bacteriologist. S. B. 88, preventing unlawful interference with telegraph or telephone wires. S. B. 97, appropriating \$8,000 for state fair premiums. S. B. raising salary of supreme court reporter. S. B. 193, authorizing district and high schools. S. B. 104, providing for scalp bounties. S. B. 112, providing bounties for destruction of fish destroying animals. S. B. 114, relative to directors in corporations. S. B. 116, relating to school lands. S. B. 126, auditing claims against the state. S. B. 130, providing for care of orphans and foundlings. S. B. 137, creating office of auditor of Multnomah county. S. B. 138, defining liability of owners of vessels for damage. S. B. 142, requiring deposit of cancelled warrants with secretary of state. S. B. 146, relating to location of mining claims. S. B. 162, providing additional compensation for governor. S. B. 171, incorporating port of Portland. S. B. 173, enacting Torrens law system of title registration. S. B. 174, providing for fish hatcheries. S. B. 179, limiting printing of biennial reports state officers. S. B. 180, amending Australian ballot law. S. B. 189, relating to filing of reports by state officers. S. B. 190, relative to Oregon Soldiers' Home. S. B. 191, primary law for Multnomah county. S. B. 196, fixing salary of superintendent of schools in Wheeler county. S. B. 197, mending law regarding transfers of stocks of goods. S. B. 201, uniform system for taxation of property. S. B. 202, acceptance by state of certain lands. S. B. 206, incorporating city of Portland. S. B. 210, prohibiting saloons within 300 feet of school buildings. S. B. 216, regulating sale of liquors near mines. S. B. 216, amending law relating to prosecuting attorneys. S. B. 220, fixing salaries of certain officers in Baker, Malheur and Clatsop counties. S. B. 221, charter commission for Portland. S. B. 227, providing water for state institutions. S. B. 23, method of building branch railroad lines. S. B. 234, fixing salary certain county treasurers. S. B. 238, appropriating \$35,000 for Pan-American exposition. CHARTER BILLS. Enterprise, Myrtle Point, Medford, St. Paul, Tillamook City, Coquille, Salem, Butteville, Astoria, Dallas, Glendale, Alkali, Oakland, Burns, Stayton, Cottage Grove, Granite, Bonanza, Lebanon, Prairie City, Whitney, Nehalem, Vernonia, John Day, Loue Rock, Pendleton, Vale, Bay City, Clifton, Joseph, Ashland, Newburg, Philomath, Canyonville, Baker City, Roseburg, Silverton, Sunnerville, Elgin, Sumpter, Sheridan, Grant's Pass, Yoncalla, Mitchell, Falls City, Albany, Heppner, Warrenton, Hood River, Cornelius, Wasco, Grand Valley, Sheridan, Milton, North Yamhill, Independence, Seaside, Astoria, Portland. SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR. H. B. 4, appropriating \$45,000 for Oregon Agricultural college. H. B. 11, relative to property bidding for taxes. H. B. 18, amending act relating to county courts. H. B. 18, Terms of holding courts in First judicial district. H. B. 25, appropriating \$47,000 to Oregon State university. H. B. 53, to amend code relating to appeals. H. B. 111, to reimburse Oregon volunteers for clothing money. H. B. 178, to regulate disbursement proceedings. H. B. 180, for payment of scalp bounty warrants. H. B. 203, appropriating money for legislative expenses and deficiencies. H. B. 333, establishment experiment station at Union. LAWS WITHOUT GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE. H. B. 91, to prohibit barbering on Sunday. S. B. 8, relating to licenses on state fair grounds. S. B. 11, for a uniform system of public schools. S. B. 12, relative to rate of interest on school land loans. S. B. 15, exemption earnings of judgment debtors from execution. S. B. 17, witness fees in Douglas, Jackson, Joseph counties. S. B. 19, to pay expenses of Indian war veterans to Washington. H. B. 81, to abolish nickel-in-the-slot machines. S. B. 89, to submit initiative and referendum. S. B. 95, fixing salary county judge of Clackamas. S. B. 104, removing incline at Cascade lake. S. F. 118, to authorize Portland to levy a special tax. S. B. 213, to regulate fare street car companies. (5 cents.) S. L. 233, payment of taxes in semi-annual installments.

REVIEW OF TRADE.

Activity is Becoming More Pronounced in the Wool Markets. R. G. Dun & Co. say: Business in the East and particularly along the North Atlantic coast has been catching up with the rest of the country a little this week, so that in the lines where complaint has been heard of late the tone is better. This comes from the working off of retail stocks which the owners feared would have to be carried over to next season. In builders' hardware the buying has been notably better, and the distribution in the grocery jobbing trade has been given a considerable stimulus. Even the lagging dry goods market has shown a good measure of improvement, though in cotton goods there is still much to be desired, for the larger buying has not brought any improvement in the general tone, and in some directions the market is slower than a week ago. Footwear is firmly held at unchanged prices, with good buying of spring lines in the Boston market. Western trade is less active and some orders have been countermanded. No diminution appears in the movement of iron and steel products. Mills are rushed with orders and new contracts are taken at full prices. Pig iron is freely bought and prices tend upward. Billets and other partially manufactured forms are firmer, and finished goods would command higher prices if immediate delivery could be secured. Grain markets are devoid of wide fluctuations, although many reports are circulated regarding the condition of winter wheat, but it is too early to secure definite information. News from India and Australia indicate a larger crop than last year's. Failures for the week in the United States were 253 against 201 last year. In Canada for the same period they were 39 against 33 last year. PACIFIC COAST TRADE. Seattle Market. Ontonago, new yellow, \$2.50 @ \$3. Lettuce, hot house, \$1.60 per case. Potatoes, new, \$15. Beans, per sack, \$1. Turnips, per sack, 75c. Squash—2c. Carrots, per sack, 75c. Parsnips, per sack, \$1.25 @ 1.50. Celery—60c doz. Cabbage, native and California, 2c per pound. Butter—Creamery, 25c; dairy, 15c @ 18c; ranch, 16c @ 18c pound. Cheese—14c. Eggs—Ranch, 20c; Eastern, 20c. Poultry—15c; dressed, native chickens, 13 1/2c; turkey, 15c. Hay—Puget Sound timothy, \$15.00; choice Eastern Washington timothy, \$19.00. Corn—Whole, \$25.00; cracked, \$24; feed meal, \$24. Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$23. Flour—Patent, per barrel, \$3.40; blended straight, \$3.25; California, \$3.25; buckwheat flour, \$4.00; granular, per barrel, \$3.25; whole wheat flour, \$3.25; rye flour, \$3.80 @ 4.00. Millstuffs—Bran, per ton, \$15.00; shorts, per ton, \$16.00. Feed—Chopped feed, \$19.00 per ton; middlings, per ton, \$23; oil cake meal, per ton, \$29.00. Fresh Meats—Choice dressed beef steers, price 8c; cows, 7c; mutton 7 1/2c; pork, 8c; trimmed, 10c; salt, 10c. Hams—Large, 11 1/2c; small, 11 1/2c; breakfast bacon, 13 1/2c; dry salt sides, 8 1/2c. Portland Market. Wheat—Walla Walla, 55 1/2c; Valley nominal; Elmerston, 57 1/2c per bushel. Flour—Best grades, \$3.40; Graham, \$2.60. Oats—Choice white, 45c; choice gray, 43c per bushel. Barley—Feed barley, \$16.50 brewing, \$16.50 per ton. Millstuffs—Bran, \$16.00 per ton; middlings, \$21.50; shorts, \$18.50; chop, \$16 per ton. Hay—Timothy, \$12 @ 12.50; clover, \$7 @ 9.50; Oregon wild hay, \$6 @ 7 per ton. Butter—Fancy creamery, 60 @ 55c; store, 27 1/2c. Eggs—14c per dozen. Cheese—Oregon full cream, 13c; Young America, 14c; new cheese 10c per pound. Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$3.50 per dozen; hens, \$5.00; springs, \$2.00 @ 3.50; geese, \$6.00 @ 7.00; ducks, \$5.00 @ 6.00 per dozen; turkeys, live, 11c per pound. Potatoes—40 @ 50c per sack; sweets, \$1.65 per 100 pounds. Vegetables—Beets, \$1; turnips, 75c; per sack; garlic, 7c per pound; cabbage, 1 1/4c per pound; parsnips, 85c; onions, \$2.25 @ 2.75; carrots, 75c. Hops—New crop, 12 @ 14c per pound. Wool—Valley, 13 @ 14c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 10 @ 12c; mohair, 25c per pound. Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers \$4.75, ewes, \$4.50, dressed mutton, 6 1/2c @ 7c per pound. Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$5.25; light and feeders, \$5.00; dressed, 6 @ 7c per pounds. Beef—Gross, top steers, \$4.50 @ 4.75; cows, \$4.00 @ 4.50; dressed beef, 6 @ 7c per pound. Veal—Large, 7 @ 7 1/2c; small, 8 1/2 @ 9c per pound. San Francisco Market. Wool—Spring—Nevada, 11 @ 13c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 10 @ 14c; Valley, 15 @ 17c; Northern, 9 @ 10c. Hops—Crop, 1900, 15 @ 20c. Rutter—Fancy creamery 21c; do seconds, 17c; fancy dairy, 19 do seconds, 14c per pound. Eggs—Store, 32c; fancy ranch, 26c. Millstuffs—Middlings, \$17.00 @ 20.00; bran, \$15.00 @ 16.00. Hay—Wheat \$9 @ 12 1/2c; wheat and oat \$9.00 @ 12.50; best barley \$9.50 alfalfa, \$7.00 @ 10.00 per ton; straw, 35 @ 47 1/2c per bale. Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks \$1; Salinas Burbanks, 75c @ \$1.05; river Burbanks, 35 @ 60c; sweets, 50 @ \$1.00. Citrus Fruit—Oranges, Valencia, \$2.75 @ 3.25; Mexican lines, \$4.00 @ 5.00; California lemons 75c @ \$1.00; do choice \$1.75 @ 2.00 per box. Tropical Fruits—Bananas, \$1.50 @ 2.50 per bunch; pineapples, nominal; Persian dates, 6 @ 8 1/2c per pound.