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SMART AT SPELLING.

A LESSON IN ORTHOGRAPHY THAT WAS DEARLY BOUGHT.

Pow a Couple of Shrewd Sharpers Won Thousands of Dollars by Working the Dictionary For Game Until They Were Brought to Grief. "How do you spell 'choir?" " asked a man in the bookstore.

"What do you mean-paper or music?" inquired a smart young man who poses as an authority on all topics. "Music, singing, of course," replied the man in search of orthographical in-

ormation.

"C-h-o-i-r," responded the smart young man decisively.

"Q-u-i-r-e," chimed in a red bearded man who was busy looking at some

"You are referring to paper," said the smart young man, looking sadly at the interrupter. "We were speaking about music.

"I mean music, too," said the red bearded man calmly: "q-u-i-r-e, to sing in concert.' The smart young man's expression

changed from sadness to contempt. "You had better consult your dictionary," he said with a sneer.
"Never mind," retorted the red bearded man. "My way of spelling may be a little old fashioned, but you will find it correct according to Webster. You will also find it correct according

to the Century Dictionary, and if I am not mistaken it is likewise given in the Standard. Your way is all right too." The smart young man gave a sniff of scorn. "Josh Billings and you should have collaborated on a phonetic spelling

"Look here," said the red bearded man, "I'll bet you \$3 that Webster's latest spells it 'q-u-i-r-e.' "
"Make it \$5," said the smart young

man, pulling out a roll. "No; I don't want to rob you. Get the dictionary.'

The money was put up and Webster's International brought out. There it was, "q-u-i-r-e, to sing in concert."
"I didn't mean a verb," said the smart young man, growing white around the ears. "Where is the noun?" They found that, too, although it was marked obsolete. Then the smart young

man wilted. "I won't take your money," said the red bearded man, handing back the bills. "My name is Bell, George T. Bell. I have had educational advantages which you probably never received, and I spent several months learning the different ways to spell that word. Several years ago I was on the secret service. My partner and I had been on the trail of a pair of sharpers who had a repertory of 'con' games that would have made the ordinary bunko man look sick. They were men of far more than ordinary intelligence and had the manners of cultured men of the world. The way we happened to get them was a

pure accident. "My partner and I were going down from St. Louis on a Mississippi river packet. There were about 20 of us in the smoking room talking and trying to pass the time comfortably. Just as a hull came in the hum of conversation a young man seated at a table writing some letters looked up with a troubled air and said, 'Could any of you gentlemen tell me how to spell "choir?' I am a little puzzled over it.'

"What kind of a one do you mean? asked several. " 'Choir, to sing in concert,' chirped the young man, wrinkling his brow as

if to recall the proper orthography.
"'C-h-o-i-r,' said a scholarly looking man with glasses on.
"'Q-u-i-r-e,' sang out a big, well fed old man off in the corner.

"'C-h-o-i-r,' repeated the first man with some emphasis. 'I thought every-fool knew that.' " 'That's all right,' said the old man

off in the corner. 'Money talks. I'll bet you \$50 that Webster spells it "q-n-i-r-e" too."
"'I'll raise you 50,' said the first man, who was a cotton buyer at Mem-

"'All right,' said the big old man coolly. Then the others joined in and bet him to a standstill. They put up about \$500. Then they got the diction-

ary, and, as just now, the man who bet Good dealers wanted in every town, on 'q-u-i-r-e' won.

Vrite for prices and terms to San Fran

"My partner and I waited till the Write for prices and terms to San Fran money had changed hands, and then I

said, 'Come on, Si.' "I walked up to the young man and said: 'Come with me; I want you. I'll show you how to spell choir. Si col-lared the big old man and we waltzed them down below. You never saw two fellows look quite so cheap. They had cleaned up over \$15,000 on the one trick, but they got four years and a half apiece. That is one spelling school I have attended that not every man goes to. That game is one which will catch nine educated men out of ten. You are all right, but you may still have something to learn.

Then the smart young man offered the usual invitation in payment for the information. -- Washington Post.

Cripple Creek is great on etiquette. A man out there met a little girl with whose family he is very intimate and

"Hello, Edith! How are you?" The little miss drew herself up and "I'ze very well. but I ain't no telephone."-Boston Globe.

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NEW ENGLISH WORDS.

You Can Paste This In Your Dictionary-It's Valuable.

As a result of the "literary competition" of the London academy a list of new words which have been added to the English language is given to the world. It will surprise most persons that such words have been coined: Roofer—A letter written after stay-ing with a friend to express your grati-

tade for the time spent under his hospitable roof. Crotion-An occurrence which enables you to "crow" over another person. It is the noun corresponding to Mr. Kipling's interjections, "Gloats, gloats and fids."

Flopulent — One's adipose aunt's method of sitting or reclining. Glug—A greasy mud peculiar to the streets of large cities.

Whifflesnent—Object of small impor-

Quinnydingles - Irrelevances and rivialities

Sinequanonymous—Most essential.
Twink—A testy person full of kinks nd cranks. Conflumption-Muddle, catastrophe. Tilge-Decoction of tea which has tood too long. whether warm or cold.

Screel-To feel the sensation prohearing a knife edge squeal on a Smarmy - Saying treacly things Scrungle-The feeling of hearing a

slate pencil squeaked on a slate. Gluxy-An adjective denoting the quality that is not quite oily or creamy or glutinous, but something of each. Waverly Magazine.



"My! Wouldn't that hat be becom ing to me!"-New York Journal.

We have it on good authority that a celebrated lecture bureau has made Aguinaldo a tempting offer to quit his foolishness and come to this country and lecture, and it is said that he is seriously considering the offer when he isn't sitting for his picture. The fact that he has been so often shown in dress suits warrants the belief that he has the platform remotely in view. If he doesn't shoot any better than is reported of him, he would be wise in signing the lecture contract at once. -Atlanta Constitution.

Hamlet Montague-Yes: I was delayed and could not arrive in time to go on with the performance. The audience became unruly and tore up some of the seats. It was very distressing. Sharpleigh (the critic)—Oh, well, it always best to look on the bright side of things. Think how much worse the people would probably have carried on you had arrived in time to give the performance.-Chicago News.

It was a night or two after he had

conquered the Nervii. "Are we to be crushed beneath the iron heel of the invader?" asked the hapless barberiaus, in much anxiety. "Well. I trust you don't take me for a tenderfoot!" exclaimed great Cassar, showing that after all there was a kindly side to his nature. —Town Topics.

SPAIN'S LOSING GAME.

Things Which Have Slipped From B Grasp In Three Hundred Years. Macaulay drew this picture of the

power of Spain 300 years ago:

The empire of Philip II was undoubtedly one of the most powerful and splendid that ever existed in the world. It is no exaggeration to say that during several years his power over Europe was greater than even that of Napoleon. In America his dominions extended on both sides of the equator into the temperate zone. There is reason to believe that his annual revenues amounted, in the season of his greatest power, sum ten times as large as that which England yielded to Elizabeth. He had a standing army of 50,000 troops when England did not have a single battalion in constant pay. He held, what no other prince in modern times has held, the ninion both of the land and the During the greater part of his reign he was supreme on both elements. His soldiers marched up to the capital of France; his ships menaced the shores of England. Spain had what Napoleon de-sired in vain—ships, colonies and com-

America and of the Indian oc of the east were received and distr ed by her. Even after the defeat of the armada English statesmen to look with great dread on the mari-time power of Philip. * * Whoever wishes to be well acquainted with the morbid anatomy of governme ever wishes to know how great states, may be made feeble and wretched, should study the history of Spain. - Ex-

change. Lottie-I'm afraid Fred doesn't care for me as much as he did. Edith-Nonsense! What makes you think so?

Lottie-I got a letter from him today, and there were at least three places-where he might have put in a "dear" or a "darling" and didn't.—Boston Transcript. His Object.

Mr. Bunsby-If that young man's coming here to see you every day in the-week, you had better give him a hint to come after supper.

Miss Bunsby—I don't think it's necessary. pa. That's what he comes after.—
Tit-Bits.

The Jolly Girl

c.n't see what's come over Mary; used to be such a jolly girl," was remark of a young wo

