OUR PUZZLING TONGUE.

Snags a Foreigner Strikes In Trying to Master English.

In spite of certain undeniable dissteadily makes headway. There are few tongues so hard to master. One foreigner who has had his troubles, but has won his way to a perfect command of the language, has presented in the Bookman some of the humors and some of the difficulties which belong to this richest of living languages,

As a boy I heard a fantastic Turkish legend which to my mind aptly illustrates the actual facts concerning the origin and formation of modern Eng-

After creating the first parents of each of the races, the story runs, Allah took a large piece of meat and, cutting it into slices, distributed them one in Aiabama with a span of about among all the people to serve them as seventy feet and about 130 feet high; tongues. For some reason the English- five in California, the largest of which man was absent when the others re- has a span of about eighty feet and is ceived their share. At last he came about twenty feet high; one in Keninto the presence of his Maker and tucky with a span of about seventy in mute humility begged him to put a feet and about 130 feet high, and one tongue into his mouth. But nothing in southern Florida of somewhat was left of the meat. So Allah was smaller dimensions. obliged to cut a little piece from the | Bridge building in the United States the Englishman.

guage does not by any means contain | Washington crossed the Delaware with all of a foreigner's troubles. One of his army there were no bridges over the most perplexing characteristics of that river, and history fecords many the English tongue is the fact that, as instances of streams being forded with a rule, the same word has different untold hardship and the consequent meanings. My dictionary gives to the disasters and delays. Such incidents verbs see, lead, hold and draw four- become serious matters when, for exteen, eighteen, nineteen and thirty-two ample, physicians are unable to reach meanings respectively. Now, for a for- the sick or injured because of impasseigner to be able to distinguish all able fords or are compelled to expose these various meanings is a tremen-themselves to unnecessary danger. dous task. The words which have Traffic conditions in general are deonly one or two meanings are com- moralized by unsafe bridges or culparatively few. Is it surprising that a verts. foreigner is often puzzied by the nu- Pontoon bridges have served tempothe meaning of the word "fast."

you say?"

"Yes; he is a fast horse." he tie him to a post so he not go at rection of the current.

keeps fast?" "Oh, he is a good man that does not

ent on fast days."

everyzing. Ze people say he is a bad in the eastern and central states by man he is very fast."

of his life must be fast days." 'No. of course"

"Eh bien. Does he eat every day?" "Certainly he does."

"Zen how can he keep fast?" "Why, he keeps going, to be sure."

"Vy, you tell me to stand fast when you want me to keep still and go fast when you want me to run. How can

I understand?"

The Rocker Rebelled.

In the early days of missions in Persia the people were naturally suspicions of the missionaries and were constantly on the lookout for something in their houses which would exert a baleful influence upon native visitors. A Persian lady, calling one day on an thing she had never seen before. She with the result that she and the chair dius of fifty miles of Indianapolis. both took a tumble backward. Hence there went abroad a report that the machine for converting people to Christianity.-Los Angeles Times.

Nothing Forgotten.

There is nothing-no, nothing-innocent or good, that dies and is forgotten. Let us hold to that faith or none. An infant, a prattling child, dving in the cradle, will live again in the better thoughts of those that loved it and play its part through them in the redeeming actions of the world, though designing of the present age may be its body be burnt to ashes, or drowned mentioned the Washington bridge over s in the deep sea. Forgotten! Oh, if the deeds of human creatures could be the superintendent of construction of traced to their source, how beautiful bridge engineering, office of public would even death appear! For how much charity, mercy and purified affection would be seen to have their growth in dusty graves!-Dickens

Setting Him Right.

to-er-marry a beautiful girl or a sensible girl? Hammersley-I'm afraid you'll never be able to marry either. old man. Sapleigh-Why not? Hammersley-Well, a beautiful girl could do better, and a sensible girl would know better.-Pittsburgh Press.

Over His Head.

"It is seldom nowadays that you find a man familiar with Epictetus." "Hum! That's true. Still, science

has made rapid progress in the treatment of contagious diseases."-Chicago Record-Herald.

Immune.

"Madam, can I sell you a vacuum cleaner?"

'No, sir; we hain't got any vacuums in this house that need cleaning."-Exchange.

Hope says to us at every moment, "Go on, go on!" and leads us thus to the grave.-De Maintenon,

NATURAL BRIDGES

advantages the English language We Can Boast of at Least Nine of Them In This Country.

OUR FIRST WOODEN BRIDGES.

They Were Built About 1800 In the Eastern and Central States, and Then Came the Covered Structures-Few Iron Bridges Prior to 1850.

Nature has provided this country with at least nine natural bridges, one in Virginia with a span of about ninety-three feet and about 200 feet high;

tongues of all the others, and, joining is of comparatively recent accomplishthese pieces, he fashioned a tongue for ment. The early settlers were compelled to ford the streams or cross The orthography of the English lan- them on rafts or in dugouts. When

merous and sometimes opposite mean- rary need in many instances, but espeings of many an English word? Just cially in warfare. Mention is made of ed: as an illustration, consider the perplex- their use very early in history, and one ity of a persevering Frenchman over of the most notable occasions was "Zis horse, sair, he go queek. What crossed the Hellespont on two pontoon bridges consisting, one of 360 vessels and the other of 314. These were anfriend say he make fast his horse and each other, with their keels in the di-

The Romans had wickerwork vessels "Very true; he is made fast by being covered with hides destined to support "Ab, zat cannot be. He cannot go formed a part of the train of their arfast. But what you call a man that mies throughout the history of the em- recover from the shock for a long ues constant for a considerable time

pire until 476 A. D. The construction of highway bridges in this country began to assume prac-"But I have seen one bon vivant, tical proportions about the year 1800, who eat and drink and ride and do when many wooden bridges were built Theodore Burr and Timothy Palmer. "True, that is called living a fast The wooden lattice truss was introduced about 1820 by Ithiel Towne. Ah, certainement. Zen all ze days Many of these bridges, consisting of planks pinned together in lattice work. were built from this time on, and they became well known as "Towne" or protect the trusses from the weather by wooden roofs and sides in some in-

in Indiana and elsewhere. The first covered bridge to be built in Tippecanoe county and one of the first in central Indiana was the records on file in the office of public roads, department of agriculture. This American missionary lady, wished to old structure, that had been condemnsit in a rocking chair, which was some- ed for a good many years, has long ance, and the number of the whole got up into it with her feet and at ber of covered wooden pridges that tempted to squat upon her heels, as were built more than a half century she would have done upon the floor, ago are still being used within a ra-

Few iron bridges were built in this missionaries kept in their houses a in 1847 that the first publication in the United States, discussing the rational design of bridge members, was issued by Squire Whipple of Utica, N. Y. Wrought iron began to replace cast Iron about 1863, but steel was not used until about ten years later. The advantage of steel over cast or wrought iron lies in its greater tensile strength.

"Foremost among structures representing some of the attractive as well as substantial features in good bridge the Harlem river in New York," said roads, Washington. "This bridge has two middle arches of steel, each 510 feet in clear span, and seven masonry arches, each with a sixty foot span. Its total length is 2,375 feet, while the width of its roadway is eighty Sapleigh-Would you-er-advise me feet, and its height above mean high water is 151 feet. It was built at a cost

Thackeray Liked the Omnibus.

of \$2.850,000."-Indianapolis News.

Thackeray was a frequent patron of the early omnibus. "I remember," writes "An Old Passenger," "a driver pointing out Mr. Thackeray to me, who was riding by the side of another omnibus driver, and I noticed the extraordinary length of his legs, which he allowed to dangle in the air. He had his hat pushed well back over his head and seemed to be keenly enjoying his -London Chronicle.

History Repeats Itself.

"Can't say that the world is getting a bit smarter." asserted gran'pa. "My grandson asks me the same silly questions that his father asked at his age." -Lippincott's.

Wise books for half the truths they guise his verse like this and work it hold are honored tombs.-George Eliot. off as prose.-Washington Herald.

A THRILLING RIDE.

Flight of a Fast Mail Train to Make Up

minutes.

When he threw the lever and opened the throttle the train made a start that settled everybody's dinner. And once the train was fairly under way it seemed as if the curves on the line were all straightened out by the tre-

was awful. "Three miles in two minutes!" gusped Captain White.

But Downing did not reduce the speed. Down the winding line of Taploca guich the rear coach was swinging from side to side. You could hear the wheels grind on the curves and feel the continuous striking as they bore first against one rail and then against the other.

Faster and faster the train swept along, roaring over bridges, tearing through tunnels, rocking round promontories. Some of the newspaper men fainted through nervous exhaustion. and many of the other passengers had aiready succumbed.

Suddenly, in rounding the reverse loop in Antelope gap, the rear coach careened till it bung by one wheel on the rail. As soon as the moment of suspense was over General Manager Dickinson sprang to his feet and call-

"Pull the bell rope, quick, Brown, and run forward and tell Downing to stop when the Persian army under Xerxes this if he wants us to reach Ogden

Then, not to risk another such sec "Ah, pardon, monsieur, but your chored head and stern alongside of the rear platform and twisted up the

> The seventy-six miles of intricately five minutes. It was a bair raising depositing its chalky sediment at the the timber platform of a bridge. These record, and several passengers who rims, thus slowly building them up. went through the experience did not

SMALLEST OF SCREWS.

cut from a steel wire by a machine, much attention was given to econom- and yet a screw is made at every third race, exhibits these changes in a markoperation

These little screws are four one-thousandths of an inch in diameter. It is estimated that an ordinary thimble Brown street bridge over the Wabash would hold 100,000 of them. About a river at Lafayette, according to the million are made in a month, but no attempt is ever made to count them.

since disappeared. However, a num- amount is calculated from the weight.

After being cut the screws are hardened and put in frames, about 100 to country prior to 1850, and it was only the frame, heads up. This is done very rapidly, but entirely by the sense of touch instead of by sight, so that a blind man could do it as well as the owner of the sharpest eye. The heads are then polished in an automatic machine, 10,000 at a time. The plate on which they are polished is covered with oil and a grinding compound, and on this the machine moves them very capidly by a reversing motion until the polish is perfect.-Exchange.

Japanese Have Fresh Air.

Different from other nations, we Japanese are accustomed to keep the rooms freely opened in order to facilitate the cool breeze to invade. Thus the blind is generally hanged down from the porch capable to protect those who occasionally peep in. The blind or shade is made of split bamboo or reeds. It is so fixed that one who is in the behind the blind only could look at one who is in front place, or, in other words, those who sit in darker side could only recognize one in lighter side, but never vise versa .-

Which Is Which?

Room Upstairs."

The Only Way.

It's tough upon a bard to find there's no demand for verse. His life becomes a sordid grind. He goes from bad to worse. The thing for him to do, I wis, when thus the market goes is to dis-

Lost Time. When the first really fast mail beween Omaha and San Francisco reached Evanston. Wyo., at the foot of the Wasatch mountains, it was fifty minutes late. There it was met by a powerful engine in charge of a reckless engineer, Bill Downing by name. Captain James E. White, ex-superintendent of the railway mail service, tells in his reminiscences how Bill made up the fifty minutes. The distance to Ogden is seventy-six

miles. "I shall not be happy," said Downing to one of the newspaper reporters who were to make the run on this first fast mail, "until I have done that seventy-six miles in seventy-two

mendous speed

Going down Weber canyon the pace

ond, the general manager sprang to brake with all his might.

They Look Like Specks of Dust and

Are Used In Watches. The smallest screws in the world are made in a watch factory. They are but as the chips fall from the knife it seems as though the operator were fragments. simply cutting up the wire for his own "covered" bridges. It is doubtful if amusement. No screws can be seen, bot springs, called the Minerva ter-

The fourth jewel screw is next to in-position. visible, and to the naked eye it looks stances, but very few were ever paint- like a grain of dust. With a magnifyed to preserve the timber. This early ling glass, however, it is seen to be a type of bridge did service for many screw with 260 threads to the luch, years, and some are still in existence and with a very fine glass the threads may be seen quite clearly.

In determining the number 100 of per's Weekly. them are placed on a very delicate bal-All the small parts of the watch are counted in this way, probably 50 out

Tokyo Life, the International Review.

Above a certain cafe there are two rooms, the one being occupied by a women's "sewing circle," the other being the dining room of the cafe. Out- amination. side the cafe hangs the sign, "Grill

The German proprietor of the cafe at the same time expressing his pleasis still wondering why the president ride and conversation with the driver." of the sewing circle denounces the ish the defendant for "his lack of patsign as libelous and demands its removal.-Judge's Library.

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YELLOWSTONE PARK.

The Changing Colored Terraces at the Mammoth Hot Springs.

It is with surprise that visitors to the Yellowstone National park who return after an absence of a year or more find that many changes have occurred in the appearance of the colored terraces at the Mammoth hot springs. Indeed, such alterations occur sometimes in a period of a few

The terraces consist of a series of basins, each set being a few feet lower than its predecessor, and the hot water from the springs at the top of curved track were covered in sixty- the terraces flows from basin to basin.

Wherever the flow of water continthe fluted edges and sides of the basins become beautifully colored.

The variegated hues are mainly due to vegetable matter, and so if the flow of water ceases these bright colors rapidly fade, leaving the terraces milk white. In a little while the edges and walls of the dry basins begin to crumble, and the most beautiful forms disappear in white dust and chalk-like

One of the favorite terraces at the

Sometimes, owing to a failure of the flow of water, the Minerva terrace parts with its splendid colors and resembles a set of fluted basins carved out of snow white marble. But when the water begins to run freely again the colors return with all their former

vividness and beauty. The changes in the flow of the water seem to depend in part at least upon conditions prevailing in the heated rocks underlying the terraces.-Har-

MADE THE TAILOR PAY.

He Wouldn't Give Credit and the Ger-

man Law Punished Him. Law in Germany takes some odd turns, according to a Chicago lawyer recently back from abroad.

One case the traveler related with amusement concerns a tailor, a student and the University of Berlin. A student had ordered an evening suit from a tailor. He already owed him money for former orders, but promised faithfully to pay what was coming to the tailor, as his father had promised to send him a sum of money. The student was to pass an examination for a government position and the suit was to be ready the same morning and he was to call for it and pay the bill. He called as agreed and told the tailor he did not have time to cash the draft his father had sent him, but would call

after the examination. The tailor insisted on having his money and, not being paid, he refused to let the student use the suit he had ordered for the examination. The result was that the latter missed the examination. It was ascertained later that the student's father had sent him money and that he had spent the cash for a dinner given to some friends.

Suit was brought by the father against the tailor as being the cause of his son's failing to pass the examination, and the university as a corporation also sued the tailor for disrespect to it and the government in preventing a German subject from entering the government service through ex-

The judge held the tailor guilty in both cases and fined him 500 marks, ure in being legally permitted to punriotism and love of the fatherland."-Chicago News.

To Deplete His Larder. "We're going to give Brown a sur-

prise party. "But I thought you had no use for Brown?"

"I haven't. That's why I'm getting up the surprise party for him."-Detroit Free Press.

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