

THE HERALD.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 1890.

Prepare for Pleasant Winter Evenings.

"Back East" one of the most delightful incidents of private life in families of refinement is the annual making up of the reading list for the winter's evening entertainment, and the enjoyment of the fruits of the mails that deliver the select reading matter each week and month.

An unfading flower of beauty is the memory of those pleasant winter evening hours when the curtains were drawn to shut out the night, the cold, and the storm without, and the family circle met around the bright fireside to rest after the day's labors were all dutifully completed, and one of their number read aloud from the teeming pages of a new periodical, or each one quietly read his or her favorite, happy in the presence of those best beloved of all earth's people.

Too many of us dwelling to-day on the barren borders of social civilization, who can look eastward beyond the frozen peaks of the Rocky mountain range, or westward over the lofty Cascades, and see such homes that blessed our early days, let excuse of "can not afford" shut out from our children the chance for such visions of a happy home life to comfort after years of perhaps, penury and toil that may fall to their lot.

Now, let us turn over a new leaf and do as many of us are already doing: Make Home this winter the bright center of affectionate desire, as well as natural place for "bed and board," and the children and younger members will, indeed, "rise up and call us blessed" for the effort made in their behalf; and the cost will be trifling, compared with the usual Christmas and New Year expenditures.

Here it is in a nut-shell: A fire, a light, a round table with bright cover, on the table a copy of THE HERALD, a Daily Examiner, a West Shore, a Century, a fashion magazine like Demorest, Godey or Peterson, a family paper either the Detroit Free Press or New York Ledger, and Alden's Manifold cyclopaedia for reference; around the table let the members of the family circle be grouped with cheerful faces, the cares "that infest the day" forgot in the bright present.

Six dollars is the largest sum calculated upon for literature: THE HERALD, Free Press, and Demorest only \$4.50.

THE HERALD, Ledger, and Godey, \$5.25.

THE HERALD, Century, and Peterson, \$6.

THE HERALD, West Shore, and Free Press, \$4.50.

Look over our Club List and you will be able to make even cheaper combinations than the above.

It has been one of our endeavors to make THE HERALD introduce and hold the best class of periodical literature in the country; to induce the publishers of such to seek to place their works on our market, we established a Reading Room so the books and papers could mutely present their own merits in an attractive manner to all who patronized our enterprise. We started with it absolutely with nothing but 3 or 4 copies of country exchanges, a warm, well-lighted room, and a cordial welcome. It has been liberally patronized, and now boasts 2 volumes (6 months in each) of THE CENTURY, West Shore, Demorest, &c.; HERALD, and local papers; 7 volumes of the Alden Cyclopaedia; etc.—And unfinished volumes of popular magazines, weeklies, and the Daily San Francisco Examiner.

We have never solicited a contribution to this enterprise, and pay in advertising for the books acquired.

We will give a monthly review of each addition to our Reading Room, as it reaches us, for the benefit of readers at a distance.

HARPER'S Monthly has this to say of the Detroit Free Press, and we call our readers attention to the quotation because we have secured the lowest club rates from it for all THE HERALD subscribers that it has ever before offered:

"The Free Press is a weekly literary and family paper, with a funny department that has given it a reputation and circulation in every part of the United States, and made profitable the publication of a special edition in England to be sold in Europe. The writer of the most popular humorous articles and sketches for the Free Press is Charles B. Lewis, whose non de plume is 'M Quad'."

The reputation of The Free Press was not built up exclusively on the reputation of M Quad's funny articles, nor is it retained solely for, or chiefly by them. The proprietors have made of it a literary and family paper. The expectation of finding something funny in the 'Bijah' or 'Lime-kiln Club' papers may cause one who has never seen a copy of The Free Press to buy it to read upon the cars, or in a leisure hour. The interesting character of its general contents causes that purchaser to subscribe for it a year."

This is great praise from an acknowledged authority in the literary field as our readers know, and it is deserved. You can obtain a year's subscription to this most excellent of family papers and THE

HERALD which you know to be the most enterprising local paper in Grant county, for the regular subscription price of THE HERALD alone, \$3, when you delay payment to the end of your subscription year.



M. QUAD.

As our readers doubtless like to know something of the most famous humorist of the day, we present the above excellent likeness and the following admirable sketch by Edmund Kirke, lately published in Harper's Monthly Magazine:

"Mr. Charles B. Lewis, (better known as M. Quad), is perhaps the most unique and genuine humorist this country has produced.

"M. Quad is not a humorous artist—a boss mechanic who manufactures jokes as a carpenter does packing-boxes with saw and jack-plane, and much exudation of perspiration. He is naturally and spontaneously funny. Humor gushes from him like champagne from an uncorked bottle, bubbling and effusive, and drenching us, whether we will or not, with laughter. And there is wisdom in his wit, strong, homely common-sense mixed with a racy, unctuous humor which makes his humor as grateful to our taste as whale oil is to the palate of an Esquimaux. He is of universal relish, as is witnessed by the wide popularity that the Detroit Free Press largely owes to his contributions.

"It is not generally known where he was born, nor is it of much consequence, since his career did not begin until he was blown up, some 17 years ago, on an Ohio river steamboat. He is perhaps the only example of a man who has been lifted into fame by being tossed a hundred feet into the air, and coming down, more dead than alive, to tell the story. He did this: Standing at his printer's case, when he was so far recovered as to limp about, he put into type, 'How it feels to be blown up,' and the whole West burst into laughter. That laugh made M. Quad famous. He was then transferred from the composing room to the editorial department, and ever since, short extracts from the Free Press have been copied into every journal throughout the country.

"About 10 years ago he invented—or rather created—'His Honor,' and 'Bijah,' and 'Brother Gardner,' of the 'Lime-kiln Club,'—characters totally dissimilar, but each as natural, original, individual, and ludicrous as any in American literature.

"Artemus Ward created one character, M. Quad has given birth to three, and each one has, during a period of ten years, given delight to millions.

"The man is precisely what we are led to expect from his writings. He is by turns 'His Honor,' 'Bijah,' and 'Brother Gardner,' with the dry humor and quaint wisdom that peculiar to each character.

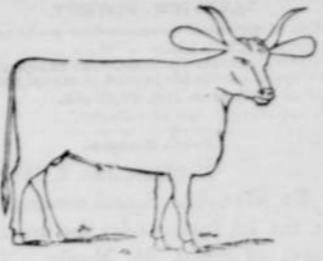
"His 'den' as he calls his sanctum, in an upper story of the Free Press building is a curious shop, filled with odd mementoes and knick-knacks. Here is a bit of rope that helped to hang a murderer, three bullets from Gettysburg, powder-flasks from the Merrimac, and sabers, swords, muskets, and shot and shell from a score of battle-fields; while around the walls, side by side with portraits of Sheridan and Custer, and busts of Grant and Lee, are pictures of a dozen most noted criminals.

"The oddest thing in the room is a slender man of about 40, with close-cropped gray hair, heavy mustache, keen, intent eyes, and an earnest, somewhat eager expression who sits at an old-fashioned table, and looks up with a smile of welcome as a stranger enters his apartment. This is M. Quad, known among his personal acquaintances as C. B. Lewis. He is modest and not at all puffed up by the fact, that he weekly audience of a million, nearly one-half of whom are matter-of-fact Englishmen, who take him with their beefsteak and ale, as a sure help to a healthy digestion. He is spoken of as odd and that he may be, but I incline to the opinion that this peculiarity is due to the fact that Nature produced him in one of her genial moods when she would do the world a kindly turn by bestowing upon it a gentle soul, who should do us good by spreading for us a wholesome feast of mingled wit and wisdom."

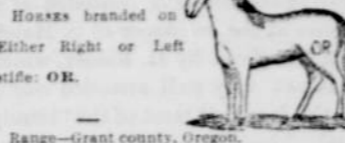
He writes exclusively for The Free Press and is just as funny as ever. Every reader of THE HERALD can enjoy the luxury of a good laugh every week by payment of \$3 in advance for a year's subscription to our paper and The Detroit Free Press.

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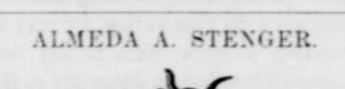


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