NEW APPRECIATE THE REAL SIGNIFI-CANCE OF THE WORD.

An English Wetter Endeavors to titve a For Higgsentions to Order to Convey to the Reader a Comprehension of the Enermitty of an Expression.

It would be curious to know how many of your readers have brought fully ome to their inner consciousness the real significance of that little word "biltion," which we have so often seen used in your columns. There are indeed few intellects that can fairly grasp it and diess many thousands who cannot appreciate its true worth, even when reduced to fragments for more easy assimilation. Its arithmetical symbol is simple and without much pretention. There are no large figures just a modest I followed by a dozen ciphers, and that is all.

Let us briefly take a glance at it as a measure of time, distance and weight. As a measure of time I would take one second as the unit and carry myself in thought through the lapse of ages back to the first day of the year I of our era. remembering that in all those years we have 365 days and in every day just 86,-400 seconds of time. Hence, in returning in thought back again to this year of grace, one might have supposed that 1,-000,000,000,000 of seconds had long since elapsed, but this is not so. We have not even passed one-sixteenth of that number in all these long eventful years, for it takes just 31,687 years 17 days 22 hours 45 minutes and 5 seconds to constitute 1,000,000,000,000 seconds of time.

It is no easy matter to bring under the cognizance of the human eye a billion objects of any kind. Let us try in imagination to arrange this number for inspection, and for this purpose I would select a sovereign as a familiar object. Let us put one on the ground and pile upon it as many as will reach 20 feet in height. Then let us place numbers of similar columns in close contact, forming a straight line and making a sort of wall 20 feet high, showing only the thin edges of the coin

Imagine two such walls running parallel to each other and forming, as it were, a long street. We must then keep on extending these walls for miles, nay, hundreds of miles, and still we shall be far short of the required number. And it is not until we have extended our imaginary street to a distance of 2,3864 miles that we shall have presented for inspection our 1,000,000,000,000 of coins.

Or in lieu of this arrangement we may place them flat upon the ground, forming one continuous line like a long golden chain with every link in close contact. But to do this we must pass over land and sea, mountain and valley, desert and plain, crossing the equator and returning around the southern hemi-sphere, through the trackless ocean, retrace our way again across the equator, then still on and on until we again arrive at our starting point, and when we have thus passed a golden chain around the huge bulk of the earth we shall be but at the beginning of our task. We must drag this imaginary chain no less 763 times around the globe.

and every one in contact with its neighbor, we shall have formed a golden band around the globe just 53 feet 6 inches wide and this will represent our 1,000,-000,000,000 of coins. Such a chain, if laid in a straight line, would reach a fraction over 18,328,445 miles, the weight of which, if estimated at one-fourth ounce each sovereign, would be 6,975,447 tons and would require for their transport no less than 2,325 ships, each with a full cargo of 3,000 tons. Even then there would be a residue of 447 tons, repre-

senting 64,081,920 sovereigns.

For a measure of height let us take a much smaller unit as our measuring rod. The sheets of paper on which The Times is printed, if laid out flat and firmly pressed together as in a well bound book, would represent a measure of about one-three hundred and thirty-third of an inch in thickness. Let us see how high a dense pile formed by a billion of these thin paper leaves would reach. We must in imagination pile them vertically upward, by degrees reaching to the height of our tallest spires, and passing these the pile must still grow higher, topping the Alps and Andes and the highest peaks of the Himalayas, and shooting up from thence through the fleecy clouds pass beyond the confines of our attenuated atmosphere and leap up into the blue ether with which the universe is filled, standing proudly up far beyond the reach of all terrestrial things—still pile on your thousands and millions of thin leaves, for we are only beginning to rear the mighty mass. Add millions on millions of sheets and thousands of miles on these, and still the number will lack its

Let us pause to look at the neat plowed edges of the book before us. See how closely lie those thin flakes of paper; how many there are in the mere width of a span, and then turn our eyes in imagination upward to our mighty column of accumulated sheets. It now contains its appointed number, and our 1,000,000,000, 00 of sheets of The Times superimposed upon each other and pressed into a com-pact mass has reached an altitude of 47,-848 miles!

Those who have taken the trouble to follow me thus far will, I think, agree with me that 1,000,000,000,000 is a fearful thing, and that few can appreciate its real value. As for quadrillions and trillions, they are simply words, mere words, wholly incapable of adequately impressing themselves on the human intellect. -Sir Henry Bessemer in London Times.

Like Father, Like Son.

"This is my youngest boy, Mr. Cyni-ens," said the distinguished novelist. They say he is very like me."
"Does he go to school?"

'Yes. He can read quite well, but as

yet he can't write." "He's very much like you," said Mr. Cynicus.—Harper's Bazar. CROSS TO HIS MOTHER.

He Wouldn't Make a found Buchand, She Currynded.

When I was it years of age, I must confess I was very found of a nice young man who had come to see me for over a year, and we both looked forward to a happy wedding in the near future. He was a German: Lan American. Lunderstood German very well, though I had never told him so. I had never seen his mother, and I wanted to, but he would say, "Some time I shall take you and show my mother her new daughter." He seemed a long time doing it, and one day I said, "Come, Gus, we will surprise your mother." He said, rather crossly, "Ob. not today." I said: "Yes, today. I want to go." He had sent me a lovely bonquet that morning, and I took out some pinks and were them. When we got to --street, I said, "In this street?" "Yes." he answered. "Mother is queer."

He stopped at an alley; then in we went to a very poor but respectable rear house. He opened the door, and a very lovely poor little woman stood in the room. Gus introduced us, but I shall never forget the look he gave her. She seemed in dread of him. Then she said: "Oh, Gus, where have you been since Saturday? I have cried myself sick worrying about you." He ground his teeth. and in German he said, "Shut your mouth." She sighed as she walked into the other room. A mirror hung between the two front windows, and where I sat I could see all that was going on in the rear rooms. His mother beckoned him to come in, and he did so. In German she softly asked for a little money. He took out some change and gave her part of it, saying in German: "You old fool, you are always asking for money. I had a debt to pay this morning of \$3, and I am short, so you can take that or nothing."

Then out he stepped as pleasant as ever to where I was sitting. "I guess we will start," said I. "Your time is your own," he said, not thinking that I had understood and seen. His mother bade me goodby. I invited her to my home, but Gus spoke up, "Oh, mother never goes out." On the way home he said, "Don't you think mother is odd?" "No. I think she is lovely, and that is more than I can say about you." "What do you mean, dear?" "Well, if you want to know, I understood your German to your mother. I saw your looks in the glass, and a man that will use his mother like that I despise." He tried to smooth things over, but I was determined, so that settled that wedding, but I am married now to a man that loves both mother and wife.-Cor. New York Recorder.

The Danger In Cheap Guns.

Things made to look like guns are sold for as low a figure as \$25, but I want no such "gas pipes" at my shoulder. As the cheap watch keeps time in a fashion, so does the cheap gun perform. It will kill birds fairly well for a time if held straight, but it will not stand continuous use, and it may contain a flaw or flaws in the barrels, which the owners of it may not detect until too late. When the cheap watch wears out and breaks, no great harm can result, but when a sham gun concludes to spread itself-well. that is another story!

If I had a fair young son, full of prom-If we can further imagine all those ise and with a few ounces of gray mat-rows of links laid closely side by side ter scattered through his intellect—if I took pride in the boy and dreamed of future presidential candidature or high position in church or state for him-just about the last place on the Lord's earth where I'd want to see him stand would be before, behind or alongside of one of those infernal machines known as a cheap gun. He might load and fire it many times with no other result than a crack a smoke and perhaps a dead bird or animal, and he might also only fire a few times, but once too often, and go single sculling across the river Styx, in consequence of his supposed to be sane parent's criminal folly in giving him a weap-on to use which was liable to blow a head or an arm or a few sections of hands off him at a most unexpected and unfavorable time. - Outing.

Keeping Him In Sight. The most amusing spot in town during inauguration week is the great reception room of the Arlington. You may look around and see more celebrities than you have fingers to count them on, but the sight of the great and mighty is not nearly so amusing as that of the large number of lesser people who want to keep them in sight. The office seeker and the news gatherer are equally afraid

that something will escape them.
"Where is X——Y—?" asked one of the former class of a very great man's

"He's up stairs. Do you want to se him?" amiably replied the other.
"Oh, no, I had better not just yet, replied the aspirant, "but I feel easier

in my mind when I know just where he

is."-Kate Field's Washington. How One Girl Was Remembered. One of the older teachers at Mount Holyoke college remembers Miss Mary Wilkins, who was among the pupils for

a year when she first came. "I can't recall very much about her," she said in answer to eager questioning from some of the undergraduates. "She sat at my table, and it was her work as a freshman to remove the platters before dessert. She was very handy about

"Think," says the girl who tells this story, "of the wonderful Miss Wilkins borne in mind for nearly 20 years only for her handy way of taking a platter off the table."—New York Times.

Two Explanations of Dimples. According to an old legend the baby's dimples mark the spots where angels' fingers touched the child in bearing it from heaven to earth, but unromantic doctors have a different explanation. They say that dimples probably result from defective development of a muscle. When the muscle is called into use, the defective portion fails to respond, and a hollow is left into which the flesh and skin, of the cheek, for example, fall, and thus the dimple is formed.-New York

WHY HE HATED THE BEAST."

An Extraordinary Request Which Excited the Curtosity of a Country Boarder.

mantelpiece," observed my friend Mra supply of fine Bond Glazed Lines Stalast week, "that it does not call to my market, and does not cost more than mind an amusing incident connected ordinary linen paper. Telephone 911, with my trip to the northern part of this and we will call and show you a sample

"I was stopping," she went on, "in a quaint little village at the only hotel in the place. Every evening upon retiring I heard voices in an adjoining room. My curiosity naturally prompted me to listen. The conversation was usually of a commonplace order, but what really 1518 Douglas St. attracted my attention was this strange request nightly repeated:

Now, Jovilla, put that infernal beast SEE out of the way and cover him up.' It was a man's voice, gruff, though, I fancled, kindly. This peculiar request trainvariably met with some such response

"Oh, Tom, shame upon you! What would dear mother say if she knew how

you treated her present?" "The voice this time was distinctly feminine and rather shrill and complaining. Of course I was fairly consumed with curiosity. What manner of beast was this which the poor woman was thus obliged to 'put out of the way and cover up? And why did they keep a 'beast' in their bedroom anyway?

"In vain I pondered over this seeming mystery. In vain I fretted and guessed Tom appeared to be so kind and even tempered too. Well, I could stand it no longer, so I finally resolved to ask him frankly for an explanation.

"'Mr. Tom,' I said to him one morning, 'pray excuse my apparent rudeness and curiosity, but won't you tell me about that beast you keep in your room and why you wish to have it covered up every evening before you retire?"

"A gleam of mirth lighted up his countenance. 'So you've heard us a-talkin, neighbor,' he said. 'Well, it's just this

"'Jovilla, she's my wife, an she sets great store by her ma, which, between you an me an that there gatepost, I don't. So long bout last Christmas the old woman give us a clock. It wasn't much to look at, but it had the awfulest tick you ever heerd. Loud and solemnlike it was, an it made me that nervous I couldn't get no sleep o' nights.

""Now, Jovilla," says I, "you'll have it a beast-out of the way or muzzle it or su'thin, or I'll smash it with a hammer, I will." So Jovilla she took it and wrapped it up in her flannel petticoat.

"But may I never touch another drop of cider of the cussed thing didn't tick louder than ever. That kinder made me mad, an I told her that if I heerd that tickin ag'in I'd stop it for good.

"'So, you see, neighbor, Jovilla fixes it every night before she goes to bed so's it kain't make no noise. She just puts it in the washtub, throws a big fur robe over it, shoves it in the closet an shuts

"'An that, neighbor,' observed my rural acquaintance, 'is what I mean by coverin up the beast.'"—New York Her-

A Luxurious Shanty.

If the intelligent foreigner who comes to New York includes Shantytown in his round of observation, it must surbetween the rude huts of that district and the cabins of the very poor in Great Britain and France. The latter are built to last, while the New York shanty is only expected to tide over a period of four or five years; but, rude as it is without, the shanty is often the superior of the European cottage in its furnishing. Well made furniture, carpets, stoves and wall paper are common to the shanty, while the peasant across the sea may have to content himself with an earthen floor and a bed built into the framework of the house. On a recent evening a reporter saw a shanty that could not have cost \$100. It had lace curtains at the windows, portieres worth about \$10, framed pictures on the walls, and was lighted by a piano lamp with a silk shade.—New York Sun.

A Popular Myth. The time worn "million stamps" lie still survives and is likely to prove immortal. People all over the country are trying to accumulate 1,000,000 canceled postage stamps, in the belief that a standing offer is made by the government or by somebody of a big prize for such a collection. Some think that \$10,-000 is the sum guaranteed, while others imagine that the reward is the endowment of a permanent bed in a hospital.

The popular notion on this subject being somewhat undefined, letters asking about it are constantly received at the postoffice department. But no denials serve to destroy the widespread faith in this strange chimera.—Washington Let-

The Crucifis of Louis XVL.

It has often been wondered what had become of the crucifix used by the Abbe Edgeworth at the execution of Louis XVI. Our Paris correspondent says it is now in the possession of the parish priest of St. Medard de Guisiere, to whom it was given by one of his flock, a Mme. d'Espilat, when she was dy-ing. She enjoined him never to part with it because it was a sacred relic, and she expected that Louis, the martyr, would one day figure in the calendar of the church along with his ancestor, St. Louis. The crucifix, with the Christ on it, is in old carved ivory and was probably made at Dieppe.-London News.

Boston English.

George—Why so gloomy?

John—I am desperately in love with a
Boston girl, and she said something last night that fills me with alternate hope and despair, because I don't know what she meant. She never sounds the "r," and she always gives "a" the broad sound.

George-Well? John-Well, I don't know whether she was talking about her heart or her hat. -New York Weekly.

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