

# NEVER AGAIN

ILLUSTRATED BY B. MELVILL

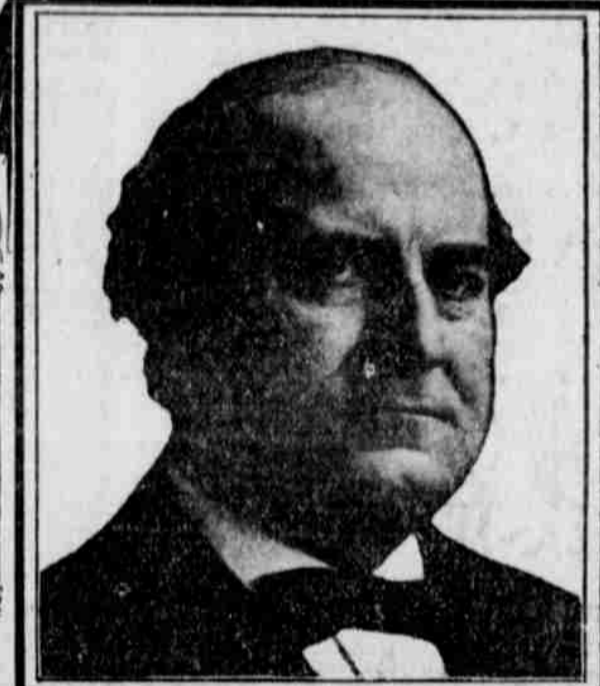


ORDER OF RESOLUTIONISTS  
MENU FOR 1909

NO DRINKS  
NO SMOKES  
NO CHEWS  
NO LATE HOURS  
NO ILLUMINATED SOCKS  
NO POKER  
NO 100714  
NO 100714



W. H. TAFT, ON TOP JUST AT PRESENT



THE ANNUAL RUSH FOR THE WATER WAGON.

**W**HEN a few days our ears will be filled with the deafening crash of people breaking their New Year's resolutions. Three million sets of iron-clad non-combustible American "never agains" crushed to earth will remain there until dog up again the night of December 31, 1909.

What has the New Year in store for you, joy or sorrow? Few to-day realize what or where they will be before the end of 1909, and attempts to prognosticate probably would be vain. As far as destiny is concerned the world literally lives "from hand to mouth." We can only guess at what the next year will bring.

For William Jennings Bryan 1909 means more lectures at so much per night. For William Howard Taft, 1909 is a year of glad rejoicing, for on March 4 he assumes the presidential chair vacated by Theodore Roosevelt. Four years ago when an attempt was made to relegate Mr. Taft to the bench of the supreme court of the United States he little suspected that he was material to fill the chair at the head of the nation.

Joy is mingled with sadness in President Roosevelt's case and his cup is one of bitter-sweet, for while he lifts the cares of the presidential office from his head and applies his strenuous tests upon the habits of the East African jungle he has shot his bolt as far as the U. S. A. is concerned, there being nothing left to conquer.

But for the commonplace citizen of these United States 1909 carries only conjecture, as a rule. Lots of men and women start the year planning to carry out some cherished ideas, whether they will succeed being a matter that only Father Time himself can solve.

There are approximately 83,000,000 souls in this country. Of that number statistics say 3,000,000 have drawn up sets of resolutions, which if carried out would cut a swath in the nation's liquor and tobacco traffic.

From every state in the union the cry "never again" arises, and just a few days after the debut of the new year the phrase gives way to a murmur of "just one more" with the eventual result that 15 days or three weeks finds conditions once more at a normal state.

There is a saying that a man is never great until he dies. Therefore it is generally not until the demise of the righteous that we learn of the man or woman who made and kept a New Year's reso-

lution. Then the press let us know about it and as a rule the alleged New Year's resolution which was kept may be laid at the door of the bright young reporter who covered the death and who was anxious to inculcate a feature into his story.

There are thousands of ways of applying the "never again." Here are a few of the more or less popular ways:

I promise never again, after January 1 to—

Drink intoxicants,  
Smoke Tobacco,  
Swear,  
Be Mean to My Wife,  
Keep Late Hours,  
Waste Money,  
Eat Heavy Meals,  
Vote the — Ticket,  
Grow a Mustache,  
Spurn the Alarm Clock's Call,  
Read Novels,  
Quit My Job,  
Believe Fish Tales,  
Play Cards,  
Gamble,  
Celebrate July 4,  
Dance Overtime,  
Ask for More Pay,  
Tell Lies,  
Wear Loud Socks,  
Flirt,  
Part My Hair in the Middle,  
Shirk Work,  
Watch Salome Dances,  
Marry,  
Be Conceited,  
Wear Merry Widow Hats.

Other purely local faults are subjects of New Year's resolutions and usually the signed and sworn document is tucked away in a corner, neglected and its contents forgotten. Then the party to the "swearing off," who for three days has been telling his friends or her friends how invigorating it feels to be once more spiritually pure, drops down a step or two and when resolutions are mentioned has a merry laugh and tells about how last New Year's he or she had sworn off this and that and had had more fun "with the folks over it."

At midnight each December 31, Father Time loads up the water wagon with thousands of ex-lubbers who now are firm believers in the health-giving properties of aqua pura. About 12:01 a. m., January 1, the one who is less able to stand the gaff of total abstinence slides off to the

ground and proceeds to celebrate. For fear that he may be lonesome two or three others follow him and pretty soon most of them are sliding back to Mother Earth and alleged happiness. Occasionally a man or two is found who keeps a resolution or two and then there is a place reserved for him in the hall of fame, but there are lots of empty niches there.

New Year's parties, attended by young people are the breeding places for resolutions. Inventors of games who profit thereby, have gone so far as to concoct resolution games for parties of that sort and in some of the contests the loser is compelled to keep his promise to "swear off" this or that, if he would adhere to his or her affidavit.

A story is told of a young lady and a young man, engaged to each other, who attended a New Year's party. The couple were extremely fond of each other and the bride-to-be had only one objection to her intended spouse, viz., that he drank intoxicants. He was not aware that she knew it. Consequently before the little social function she "fixed" the resolution contest, so he would lose. She playfully told him that he must keep his resolution and he, rather fearfully promised, little suspecting the plot.

Well, he lost and said he would keep the promise, though he lied and said he never touched a "drop in his life."

"I know you don't drink," she breathed into his ear from the depths of a cozy corner, "but I want to be sure that you never will."

Thus the young man's habit met its Waterloo in the New Year's trick of a "stacked deck," promoted by his fiancée, and now, five years following their marriage, his taste for spirits was declared positively extinct by the wife in a recent coroner's inquest at the ladies' sewing circle.

That was one resolution which held and probably will for the rest of the young married man's life, providing he doesn't get into politics. But that was one of a few. When a man or woman makes a resolution with a string attached to it, such as awarding a watching friend a few simmons in case the promise to abstain from some habit is broken, then the vaccination "takes," but otherwise, it seldom holds good for more than a week. A week is really a long stretch for the life of a set of promises, most of them expiring with dawn of the January 1, although having been made only the previous night. This new year will see the breaking of approximately 3,000,000 well-founded resolutions, but who cares? There are lots more New Years coming, say the philosophers.

## YOUTH'S DEPARTMENT

### THE GREEK CROSS.

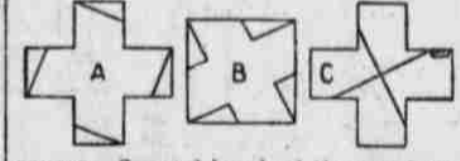
Sam Loyd Tells of Its Mysterious Possibilities.

Eminent archaeologists and antiquarians like Le Plongeon, Schliemann, Prof. Wilson and others show that prehistoric man must have hit upon the crude sign of two crossed marks to indicate a human emblem, just as we in many instances employ peculiar brands or marks for similar purposes.

My present object, however, is to give a discourse upon those ancient emblems which have evolved the geometrical proportions of the Greek or mundane cross, which for upward of 6,000 years has stood for the symbol of human intelligence, and is now recognized as representing science and mathematical exactitude. The symmetrical cross formed from five squares for thousands of years has been known as the Hindoo problem. By cutting it in five pieces, upon the principle of Euclid's forty-seventh proposition, it will form a square. Almost all puzzle books give the scientific clipping of the four corners as shown by Fig. A to form the square B.

When a puzzle, however, can be done "a shorter way," in fewer pieces, or "in less moves," it is said to be "cooked," or, in puzzle language, "busted." Well, when I told the head of Harvard college that the symbol which was incorporated in the Harvard seal could be converted into a square by making four pieces, instead of five, I was informed that the feat was impossible.

I used it as an advertising puzzle, offering \$100 for the shortest method of converting the Greek cross into a



square. Several hundred thousand answers were received employing five pieces, but not one answer that showed how to do it in four. Fig. C shows how the four pieces should be made.

I afterward discovered that there was an infinite number of answers, as the parallel cut may be made to answer on the lines shown, and the perpendicular cut at any right-angled point of intersection.

The four segments will always fit to form a perfect square, so the puzzle makers can exercise their ingenuity by introducing conditions or stipulations which will bar out all other answers but the one intended.

In the illustrations given it is asked to divide a cross in four equal parts which will form a square. In a second puzzle it was said "to divide a cross with two clips of the scissors, in four pieces, which will form a square."

There are numerous other problems connected with the symmetrical proportions of the Greek cross which make a most valuable lesson in the theory of all cutting puzzles.

A beautiful requirement is to divide a square in five pieces which will form

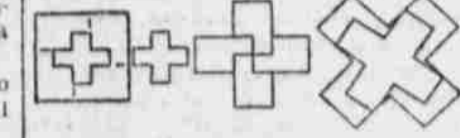


two crosses. Fig. 1 shows how to produce five pieces which will form two crosses. The center piece makes a new cross, and the four outside pieces will form another. But after the puzzle had become famous, I found a second way in one piece less, as shown in Fig. 2.

Another way to vary the stipulations so as to form a beautiful puzzle calls for the dividing of a square in five pieces which will form two crosses of different sizes.

First cut out the little cross, then divide the remainder in four parts, which will form the large cross, as shown. The fourth figure shows the puzzle of cutting a cross in five pieces which will form two crosses of equal size, and is one of the most beautiful problems of the series.

It is a most remarkable fact that a



mysterious affinity or relationship can be shown to exist between all the ancient signs and symbols, in that each one can be converted into another by some subtle change which constitutes a clever puzzle. The Swastika can be changed into a square, the square into a cross, the cross into a triangle, an oblong or several crosses, and from these we can form a star, a crescent, oval, a monad, and from that a circle, which looks very much as if the squaring of the circle was one of the mysteries pertaining to the mystic signs and symbols.—Good Literature.

### Short and Sweet.

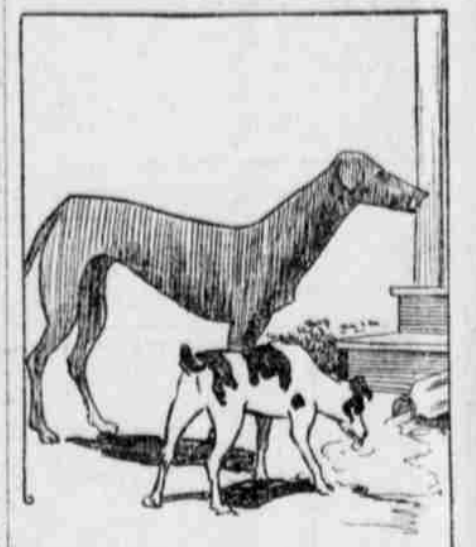
Mamma—Come, Violet, you must say your prayers.  
Violet—I've said 'em, mamma.  
Mamma—What did you say?  
Violet—I said "Amen."—New York Herald.

### THE TWO MILK-THIEVES.

Clever Way in Which Two Dogs Got Their Breakfast.

Our daily supply of milk was minus for two or three mornings—nothing but the bottle and a grease-spot left on the porch. We sought to catch the culprit. Did, too! It proved to be a neighbor's little fox-terrier (terror), Trixy. I call him Trixy. We caught him with the goods on—his nose, early one Sunday morning, writes a Battle Creek (Mich.) woman in Detroit Free Press.

His scheme to open the bottle was to paw and roll it over and over, caus-



Tricky Had an Accomplish.

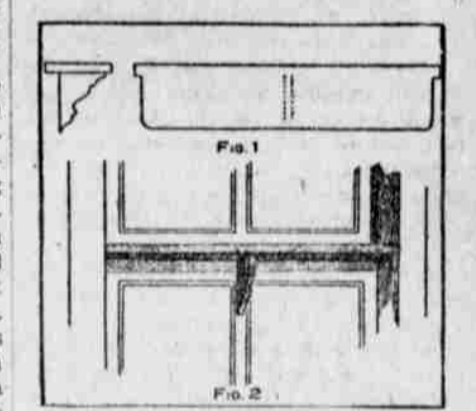
ing the pasteboard cover to loosen, and the milk to flow—then drink his fill. Trixy had an accomplice, a huge hound who seemingly stood guard while Trixy opened the bottle; then, after Trixy, lapped the leakings. Together they skrimished the neighborhood for their morning drink. Like Oliver Twist, Trixy was always wanting more. His stealing propensity was great. He and his partner in crime were wont to lunch on the neighbor's chickens.

I can vouch for the veracity of this tale. I being one of the victims of the milk-thieves!

### WINDOW SHELF FOR PLANTS.

May Be Made So as to Be Easily Changed from Window to Window.

When a few plants are kept about the house during the winter months it is necessary to provide a stand or shelf near or in a window in order to give them proper light for growing. The accompanying sketch shows how to make a shelf that may be changed from one window to another as de-



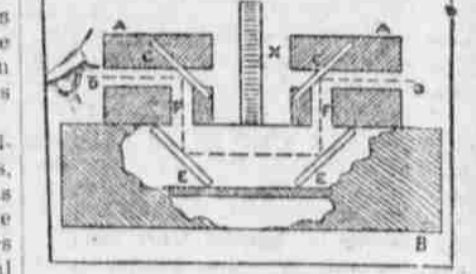
May Be Moved from Window to Window.

sired. A one-inch board is cut as shown in Fig. 1 with a projection on each end to fit into the base grooves and a bracket fastened on the under side. If the shelf is to be used on a two-light window, one bracket placed in the center to rest on the middle piece of the sash, as shown in Fig. 2, is all that will be necessary. When used on a single-glass sash, one bracket at each end of the shelf will be needed.

### X-RAY INSTRUMENT.

The Handy Boy Can Make it for Himself.

Two cylinders, AA, are mounted on a base, B, and mirrors, CC, are fitted



Details of X-Ray Machine.

at an angle of 45 degrees into these cylinders. Corresponding mirrors, EE, are put in the base parallel with those in the cylinders. An opening extends downward from D of each cylinder so that light entering at one end of the cylinder is reflected down at right angles by the first mirror to the second, from the second to the third, from the third to the fourth which reflects the light to the eye. Thus the light never passes through the cylinders and the observer does not see through, but around an object inserted at X between the cylinders.

### David Was His Hero.

Four-year-old Joe is very fond of Bible stories and evidently follows the example of his best-loved hero as to meditation "in the night watches."

He wakened his mother one night, after midnight, with the question: "Mamma, where is David now?"

"In heaven, I guess, Joe."

"Will I go to heaven when I die?"

"I hope so, Joe."

"Mamma, the little voice was very eager now, 'do you s'pose when I get there David will just let me hold his sling shot a little while?'"