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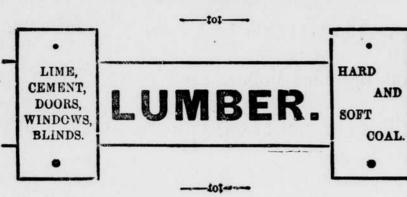
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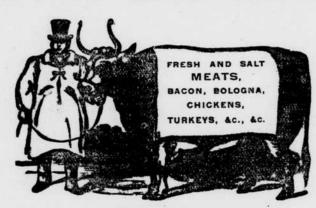
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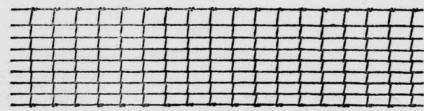
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AN AWFUL IMPOSSIBILITY.

The soaking rain is pouring down-How it would fill your cup With bitterness if some day it Should start to pouring up!

Umbrellas then would be no use, And men in rubber boots Would have to go, while all the girls
Would put on bathing suits.

You'd have a fountain on your lawn

Beside each blade of grass.

To keep your cellar warm and dry
You'd need a floor of glass. If you were camping in a tent, You'd have to sleep on top, And all night you'd be praying that The cursed rain might stop.

In fact, great inconveniences Too numerous to state Would follow if the falling rain

So let us hope there'll be no change, At least in our town, And that instead of pouring up The rain will still pour down.
—Somerville Journal.

THE CABECILLA.

The good father was finishing his mass when they brought him the prisoners. It was a wild spot among the Arichulegui mountains. A fallen rock in which a fig tree had plunged its twisted trunk formed a sort of altar, covered in guise of a cloth with a silver fringed Carlist standard. Two cracked water coolers took the place of vases, and when the sacristan Miguel, who was assisting the change the position of the holy books, the cartridges were heard jingling in his cartridge box. All around the soldiers of Carlos were silently ranged, their guns slung across their backs and one Don't you want something to eat? Don't knee on the ground upon the white

dazzling heat in this burning and sonor- before God without confession." ous rocky hollow, where the flight of a blackbird alone, from time to time, dis-turbed the psalmody of the priest and "Kneel," said he, seating himself upon the servant. Higher up on the jagged peak sentinels were standing, forming motionless silhouettes against the sky.

What a singular sight it was-this priestly commander officiating in the midst of his soldiers! And how plainly the double existence of the Cabecilla

But in the midst of the confession a terrible fusillade burst forth at the enshowed itself upon his countenancethe ecstatic air, the hard features, further accentuated by the bronzed comascetism without pallor, in which was lacking the shadow of the cloister; small black, very brilliant eyes, the forehead traversed by enormous veins which seemed to bind the thought as with ropes, to fix it in an inextricable obstin-

Every time he turned toward the spectators with open arms to read the Dominus Vobiscum, one saw the uniform beneath the stole, and the butt of forgotten you. a pistol, the haft of a Catalonian knife uplifting the rumpled surplice. "What is that bowed young head. Then, before gohe going to do with us?" the prisoners asked themselves in terror, and while awaiting the end of the mass they recalled all the acts of ferocity which had been related of the Cabecilla and which him.—Alphonse Daudet. had won him a special renown in the

royalist army. By a miracle that morning the father was in a clement mood. The mass in the in a frog on the Reading railroad track open air, his success of the previous day, at West Falls, John Duffy met death in and also the cheerfulness of Easter, yet fearful form. Duffy was employed as a felt by this strange priest, cast upon his brakeman by the Reading company, and face a ray of joy and kindness. As soon as the service was over, while the sa- That duty performed, he signaled his cristan cleared off the altar, fastening engineer to bring on the train. up the sacred vases in a huge box, which was borne on the back of a mule in the rear of the expedition, the cure advanced toward the prisoners. They were a dozen of republican carbineers, exhausted by a day of battle and a night of anguish in the straw of the sheepfold, where they had been penned up after the action. Yellow with fear, wan with hunger, thirst and fatigue, they clustered together like a flock of sheep in the courtyard of an abattoir.

Their uniforms full of hay, their belts in disorder, pushed up in the flight and in sleep, the dust which wholly covered them from the tufts of their caps to the points of their yellow shoes, all contributed well to give them that sinister look of the vanquished in which moral discouragement is betrayed by physical dejection.

The Cabecilla glanced at them for an instant with a little laugh of triumph. He was not sorry to see the soldiers of the republic humble, wan and ragged amid well fed, well equipped Carlists, Navarre and Basque mountaineers as brown and hard as carob beans.

"Viva Dios! my children!" said he to them with a good natured air. "The republic nourishes her defenders very ill. Why, you are all as thin as the wolves of the Pyrenees, when the mountains are covered with snow and they come into the plain to sniff the odor of the table by the lights which shine under the doors of the houses. One is treated otherwise in the service of the good cause. Would you like to make a trial of it, hermanos? Cast off those infamous caps and put on the white beret. As truly as this is the holy day of Easter, to those who will shout, 'Long live the king!' I will give their lives and the same campaign food I give my other soldiers!" Before the good father had finished all

the caps were in the air, and shouts of "Long live King Carlos!" "Long live the Cabecilla!" resounded on the mountain. Poor devils! They had been in such great fear of death, and so tempting were all those good victuals which they smelled close to them, about to be broiled in the shelter of rocks before the bivouac fires, pink and faint in the bright sunlight, I believe that never was the pretender acclaimed with such good will.

"Give them something to eat at once," said the cure, laughing. "When wolves yelp with that strength, it's because they have sharp teeth!"

The carbineers went off. But one among them, the youngest, remained standing in front of the chief in a proud and resolved attitude, which contrasted with his juvenile features and the fine down, scarcely colored, enveloping his cheeks with a blond powder. His capote, which was too large for him, was wrin-

kled at the back and on the arms, was turned up at the sleeves over two slight wrists, and by its fullness made him look still younger and more slender. There was excitement in his long, brilliant eyes—Arab eyes, intensified by Spanish flame. And this fixed flame annoyed the Cabecilla.

"What do you want?" he asked of him, "Nothing. I am waiting for you to decide on my fate."

"Your fate will be that of the others. I named no one. The pardon was for

"The others are traitors and cowards!

I alone did not shout anything!" The Cabecilla gave a start and looked him full in the face.

"What's your name?"
"Tonio Vidal." "Whence come you?"

"From Puycerda."

"What age?" "Seventeen."

"The republic, then, has no more men, since she is reduced to enrolling chil-

"I was not enrolled, padre. I am a

"You know, fellow, that I have more than one means of making you shout

'Long live the king!' " The youth assumed a superb look.

"I defy you to do so!" retorted he. "So you would rather die?"

"A hundred times!" "Very well, you shall die!"

Then the cure made a sign, and the execution platoon came and ranged itself priest at the mass, arose in order to around the condemned, who did not

This sublime courage touched the chief with pity. He demanded: "Have you nothing to ask of me first?

you want something to drink?" "No," answered the youth; "but I am The bright sun was concentrating its a good Catholic, and I don't want to go

The Cabecilla still wore his surplice

a rock, and the soldiers having with drawn a short distance, the condemned began in a low voice:

"Bless me, my father, because I have

trance of the defile "To arms!" cried the sentinels. The Cabecilla gave a bound, issued

plexion of the soldier in the field, and his orders, distributed the posts and scattered his soldiers. He himself had seized a carbine without taking the time to remove his surplice, when, happening to turn around, he perceived the youth still on his knees.

"What are you doing there?" he thundered. "I am awaiting absolution," was the

reply.
"That's true," said the priest. "I had

Gravely he raised his hand and blessed ing away, after glancing around him for the platoon of execution, dispersed in the disorder of the attack, he drew off a step, took aim at his penitent and shot

Facing Certain Death.

ran ahead of his train to open a switch.

His signal was observed, and as the train came toward him Duffy found that his foot was caught firmly in a frog. He shouted for help and made frantic efforts to release himself, but in vain. The noise of the puffing engine drowned his cries, and when the engineer saw the struggling man in the full glare of the headlight it was too late to save his life.

Swiftly the great engine bore down on the frantic prisoner, and though the the lever was reversed and the brake put down hard the locomotive struck Duffy and he was literally cut in two. Death was instantaneous, but the expression on the dead face showed plainly the terrible agony the man had endured for a few seconds.-Philadelphia Record.

A Heating Scheme.

A plan of heating mills has been introduced by which heated air is delivered from a large fan into flues in the walls, registers from each flue delivering the air into the different rooms, this air being heated by the waste gases from the boiler. The products of combustion pass from the boilers through economizers for heating the feed water, next through a regenerator for reheating the steam exhausted from the high pressure cylinder and on its way to the low pressure cylinder, and then passes through air pipes, where it heats the cold air for heating the buildings, then passes to the chimney. If heated air is not wanted but only cool air for ventilation, the gases from the boiler are turned by a damper into the chimney without entering the heater, and if the gases are not sufficient to heat the air as desired additional heat is supplied by radiators of steam in this heater. The temperature of the air is raised about 50 degrees by its contact with the hot gases.-New York Sun.

Reading by Candie Light.

"I must inveigh," says an oculist "against the candle as a night reading light. It is quite a custom, I find, for sleepless folks to keep a candle at their bedside and rely upon it for light during wakeful hours that are passed in reading. As the flame flickers with the slightest current of air, the light is uncertain and waving and most trying to the eyes. A small reading lamp takes a few seconds longer to light, but it is much to be preferred."

Stage Fright. "Did you ever have stage fright?" asked the interviewer.

"Once." "When was that?"

"When I met some road agents while traveling in the Rocky mountains."-Washington Star.

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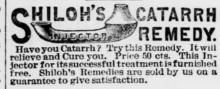
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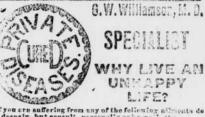
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