

elled through other lands I shall feel the need of a quiet retreat at the side of your majesty.

The bandit was so pleased with the speech that, taking him by the hand, he led him to the room where guards watched his treasures and provided him with money and jewels in such abundance it can well be said a fortune fell to him. And, more than that, he gave a still greater fortune, namely, liberty. Thanks to his lies and artful stories, our youth saw himself free and rich. He directed his steps to a city in a different kingdom from that where he was born and there established himself in a commercial business.

One day when our merchant was pacing to and fro on the wharf at the port, impatiently awaiting the arrival of a bark bringing an abundant cargo from his house, he heard the cry of a ragman announcing his miserable business to his neighbors. That voice he recognized immediately; there was no room for doubt, it was his older brother. He called him, they knew each other, then closely embraced. For so many years they had not seen one another. Together the two brothers went to the house of the younger, who installed the older in his best apartments and explained to him how he had secured his wealth, describing the place where he had found the cave of the famous bandit chief. He finished his narrative with these words: "Brother mine, thou needst have care for nothing. I am rich, and thou canst live freely on what is mine."

When the merchant left him to return to the wharf the elder of the two brothers remained, meditative and thoughtful. His brother's offer did not displease him, but the demon of envy was stirring in his bosom and he said to himself: "It would be much better as I am older than my brother, that I were richer than he, and I would be a blockhead, knowing as I do, the means of gaining fortune, did I not take advantage of them, for the truth is that, if my brother for telling four foolish lies has deserved such a great reward, I, who always have told the truth, not allowing myself the slightest deviation from it will surely merit a much larger one."

With these reflections, without telling any one of his intentions, he left his brother's house. When the younger returned he found his brother absent. All inquiries instituted to discover him were useless. No one could tell him the whereabouts of his brother. That sudden disappearance worried the merchant greatly, because he had to suppose his brother did not wish to accept the offer he had made him with such good will. At the end of a long time, and when the merchant least expected him, his elder brother reappeared at his house. They embraced each other, with abundant tears from the elder, who desired to explain his unlucky adventures since secretly leaving his brother's house.

He went to the bandits' cave and entered, surprising those within. They threw themselves upon him in a very bad humor, tied him and put him on the floor.

When their chief came in he subjected him to many questions and he, who had never uttered a lie, on being asked who the one addressing him seemed to him to be, replied without hesitation:

"Thou art a celebrated robber and vil-

lain, who lives in this den of iniquity and protects and aids the most crafty set of rogues, who are the terror of this border."

"On hearing such words," continued the brother, "that bandit gave a great laugh and ordered that they give me a hard beating with a cudgel, warning me that if they found me there again they would hang me to a tree. And those wicked thieves set their dogs on me for having only spoken the pure truth!"

"Poor brother mine!" replied the merchant. "How badly employed is the truth when beyond all reason! Thou must know thine impulse was not good, because thou wast pretending to be superior to me, taking advantage of my own weapons. It is not true that my fortune was the reward of my lies, but the fruit of my diplomacy. To speak the truth to evil-doers and offenders in general leads one only to destruction, for it is natural that such reproofs are insults to them and excite hatred and revenge. Live peacefully with me and try to overlook the faults of thy neighbor without throwing them in his face, and if thou wishes to enjoy the world hear and see not that which it is more agreeable not to hear and see."

"Prudence counsels us that he who cannot correct an evil should at least not irritate and increase it."

#### Hidden Proverb

A well-known proverb is hidden in the following six sentences, each sentence containing one word of the proverb, and the words appearing in their rightful order:

Don't hunt for virtue among a band of thieves.  
It is the honest man's conscience that sleeps.  
Crime builds its own gallows.  
All men own six feet of the earth when they are through with it.  
One who works for reward only will never succeed.

#### Letter Enigma

My first is in east, but not in south;  
My second is in August, but not in drouth;  
My third is in sunshine, but not in day;  
My fourth is in battle, but not in fray;  
My fifth is in eagle, but not in fly;  
My sixth is in dollar, but not in buy;  
My whole is the name  
Of a day most dear;  
And it comes in the spring  
Of every year.

#### Curtailings

(1) Triply curtail a caricature drawing and leave a small wheeled vehicle. (2) Doubly curtail an opening in the side of a house and leave a strong breeze. (3) Curtail to creep about in a stealthy, sly manner and leave the forepart of a ship.



#### CONTRASTS

Up in old New England,  
Johnny takes a slide;  
Down in Sunny Pinehurst,  
Tom a pony ride.

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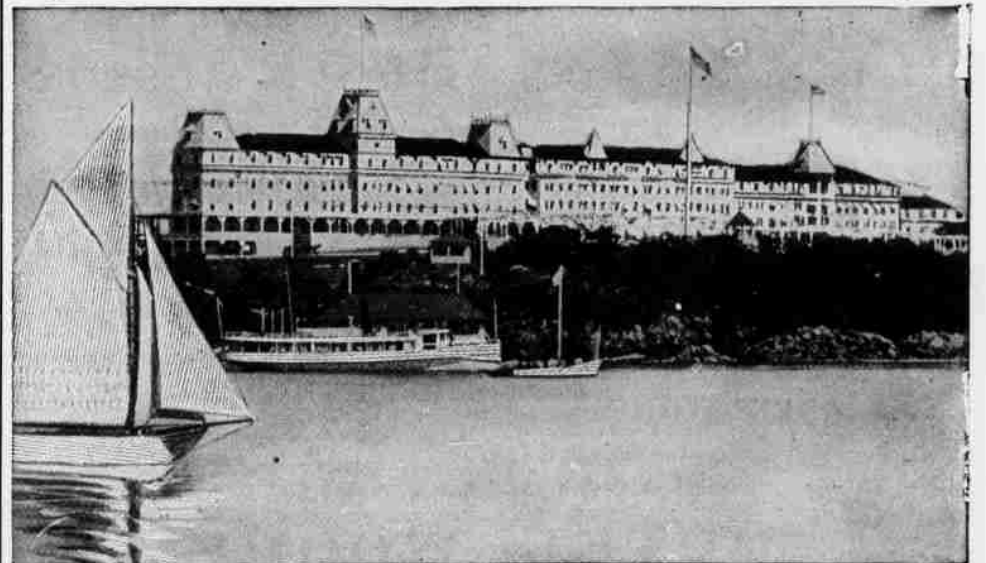


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