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2022



“Our Puzzles Once More”

*Alexander's Weekly Messenger*

February 26, 1840

p. 4, part 2

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2022

This is by far the most difficult cypher which we have received. Some of the words are crowded together, and the writer has taken other liberties which do not come within the conditions originally laid down. For example, in some cases the figure 3 stands for L, in others for O; in some cases the figure 6 stands for L, in others for T; while 2 stands for E and M indifferently, and 9 for both W and A. Some words, moreover, are mis-spelt. How much the difficulty of solution is increased in this way, may easily be conceived. The translation, however, is as follows:

### CHURCH-YARD.

I wander in the city of the dead

Midst streets of houses mouldering to decay.  
Where is the pride of riches? it is fled.

Where pomp and circumstance? all passed away.

"A subscriber," who, beyond doubt, takes us for a bottle conjurer, addresses us this letter:  
Mr. Editor,—

Your success in decyphering has almost disheartened me from attempting anything of my own invention; for I am perfectly satisfied, from what I have seen of your ingenuity, that you can decypher any piece of writing where hieroglyphics are used instead of letters; and allow me to say you would be a valuable requisition to an army, in reading the enemy's despatches. But there is a system occurs to my mind which was used with great success by Napoleon during the war in Spain, when every other system of secret writing was decyphered by the English. This one plan alone baffled all their ingenuity. It will be found on the other page. If you can make it out, and give the sense as the writer intended it to be understood, I will give up at once.

A SUBSCRIBER.

Then our friend might as well give up and be done with it. But we wish it distinctly understood that such puzzles as this are not what we *promised* to decypher. For what we *did* promise to do, we refer our friends to a late Messenger. Here follows A Subscriber's cypher:

*That capital punishment* I have got, the tooth-ache; such a punishment *ought not to be* continued. That I will do my utmost to have it *abolished is evident* from my conduct *from the* first. Judge democracy from the *fact that it is* formidable to tyrants only. War is conducted in a manner *revolting to humanity*. Neither age nor sex is spared; *and* one thousand thousand murdered *does not lessen* the thirst for blood. Oh Heavens! oh my God!—*the amount of crime* in our land! *And moreover,* as water will ultimately find a level, even so does *familiarity with public business* make us neglectful of private interest. *Executions begets* a strain of thought in the good which is painful. *Contempt in the rich* towards the poor is a mockery of God. *Base and vile,* it also exposes the littleness of your souls. A spear *wounds the feelings* of any whom it comes in contact with, *regardless of the pure and virtuous,* however frail.

*But the advocates of this horrid, this wretched, this barbarous custom,* have the audacity to tell us it is the only genuine production, *the only real means by which we can effect* a cure, and have a tendency to *deter the wicked from* trespassing on my corn crib, and to stop *the perpetration of crime* in the custom house. *Now I would ask such* clerks what is the amount of salary, the *men why* so many days ago were caught in the very act of committing *suicides in our prisons,* and when interrogated as to the cause, and *why so much precaution* to guard our good ship Constitution, and to prevent *self-murder* on the quarter deck, or be bound in chains in *our cells of solitary confinement,* without the most distant hope of relief—hurrah—hurrah—hurrah for Liberty! to commence with five, six, seven, or even eight as the case may be all the year round? *It can be an-*

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