



# FREAK VERSE

By  
W. Bert Foster

It is not only true that "A little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest men." Many of the world's wise men—dignified statesmen, earnest philosophers, sober poets—have proved their enjoyment of nonsense by talking to the stock current. Oddities of combination may well come under this head; and some ingenious verses have been the result of the turning of acute minds upon unimportant subjects. Even Longfellow, who took himself as his work most seriously, pleaded guilty to the familiar doggerel:

"There was a little bird,  
And she had a little turt," etc

### Exhausted the Alphabet

**A**LITERATION, when sparingly used, is regarded as one of the finest musical embellishments of poetry, and was much employed by Pope, Byron, and Moore. An ingenious use of alliterative composition appeared in "Penny's Miscellany" for March, 1838, introducing in successive lines all the letters of the alphabet but one, as follows:

"An Austrian army, awfully arrayed,  
Bally by battery besieged Belgrade;  
Cossack commanders, cannonading, come,  
Dealing destruction's devastating doom.  
Every endeavor engineers essay  
For fame, for fortune—fighting—furious  
Hoy—  
Generals 'gainst generals grapple. Gracious  
God!  
How honors Heaven heretic hardihood!  
Inchmate, indiscriminate in ill,  
Kinsmen kill kinsmen—kinsmen kindred  
Kill!  
Labor low levels loftiest, longest lines;  
Miles march mid mounds, mid moles, mid  
murderous mines.  
Now noisy, noxious numbers notice naught  
Of outward obstacles opposing (o)ught.  
Our patriots, partly purchased, partly  
pressed,  
Quite quaking, quickly quarter, quarter  
quest!  
Reason returns, religious right redounds;  
Sorrow stops such sanguinary sounds;  
Trace to thee, Turkey—triumph to thy train!  
Hopt, unwise, unmerciful Ukraine!  
Vainish vain victory, vanish victory vain!  
Why wish we warfare? Wherefore welcome  
we  
Xenes, Ximenes, Xanthus, Xaviere?  
Yield, ye youths! Ye women, yield your yell!  
Zeno's, Zarpatus', Zoroaster's, zeal,  
And all attracting—arms against appeal."

### Contest With a Frenchman

**T**HE Rev. John Wallis, D.D., lived two hundred and fifty years at Oxford, England. He was professor of geometry at the university during the time of Cromwell; but he was as great an etymologist and mathematician, a man of various learning and of a wonderfully ingenious mind. In conversation with a learned Frenchman, in 1633, the latter having boasted of the richness and copiousness of his own tongue, Dr. Wallis challenged him to a comparison of the French and English languages in these two particulars: "The Frenchman, accepting, produced the following tetrastich on the art of rope-making:

"Quand un cordier, cordant, veut corder une corde,  
Pour sa corde corder trois cordons il accorde;  
Mais, si un des cordons de la corde decorde,  
Le cordon decordant fait decorder la corde."

In response, Dr. Wallis, not to be outdone by his foreign friend, instantly produced in the same meter the following literal translation of the Frenchman's learned quatrains, which lines have since then headed the list of doggerel verses, labeled "twisters," which delight those people who are wonted in speaking them "trippingly, with the tongue":

"When a twister, cordant, will twist him a twist,  
For the twisting of his twist, he three twines doth intwist.  
But, if one of the twines of the twist do untwist,  
The twine that untwisteth, untwisteth the twist."

The Frenchman was completely outmatched; but Dr. Wallis, to catch the point, rang the changes on the same word in these two following quatrains.

"Untwisting the twine that untwisted between.  
He twirls with his twister the two in a twine;  
Then twice having twisted the twines of the twine,  
He twitcheth the twine he had twined, in twain.  
"The twain that in twining before in the twine,  
As twines were intwisted, he now doth untwine;  
"Twist the twain intertwisting, a twine more between,  
He, twirling his twister, makes a twist of the twine."

### A Clever Enigma

**T**HE following piece of ingenious pleasantry was current in the papers some thirty years or more ago. The first quotation was an enigma sent to a woman who requested a cipher, by the composer, a well-known English cleric:

"A O U O, I O thee;  
O, O no O, but O me;  
Yet thy O my O once I forego,  
Till U D-O the O U O so."

(A cipher you sigh for, I sigh for thee.  
Oh, sigh for no cipher, but sigh for me;  
Yet thy sigh for my sigh, for once I forego,  
Till you decipher the cipher you sigh for.)

The woman's reply is as witty, and even more cleverly constructed:

"I D-O your O, but O U not.  
A O am I, and can't O your lot;  
I send U a O, and O your pain;  
But a O your O, U O in vain."

(I decipher your cipher, but sigh for you not.  
A cipher am I, and can't sigh for your lot;  
I send you a cipher, and sigh for your pain,  
But a sigh for your cipher, you sigh for in vain.)

### Over-Use of O's

**A**N eccentric poet, who called himself the "London Hermit," of a more recent date, printed "Songs of Singularity," among which was one styled "An Ossianic Outburst in O Natural, by Orpheus Ogden of Orkney." It rather lays over the modest author who O'd only "for a lodge in some vast wilderness" this fellow's debt, to humanity's patience at least, is somewhat greater.

"Ocean, O One omnipotent! our own!  
O'er oozy outlets oft-times o'erflowing,  
Outbreathing odoriferous ozone,  
Ourselves ostensibly obedience owing!

"O, often otherwise! Observe, o'erhead,  
Opacity obnoxiously obscuring,  
Ocean on ocean on our orb o'erspread,  
Omnipotent, o'erwhelmingly outpouring.

"O, ospreys, otters, oysters, opaline  
Offspring of Ocean's odd organizations,  
Own Ogden's odic offsprings outshine  
Ovid or Ossian's obsolete orations!"

### A Turn on the Figure 8

**A**ND although it is yet two years to the next bissextile, it may not be untimely to repeat certain lines by an unknown writer, appearing in the press in 1888, and displaying much ingenuity in finals, if nothing more.

STEEN-8T-8.

**A**N ANCIENT MAIDEN'S TWILIGHT REVERIE.  
"I draw my chair beside the gr8,  
And dreamily I meditat8  
Upon my present single st8.  
I wonder if relentless F8  
Ordains for me a loving m8—  
Such dreams have haunted me of 18.  
This year, which I would celebr8,  
Is leap-year; but its precious fr8  
Of lawful days to fascinat8  
Decreases at a rapid r8.  
Oh, happy youths, who need not w8  
And try to be a tempting b8  
To catch the fish that pass your g8!  
You need not condescend to pr8  
That you would not reciproc8,  
Should loving hopes our hearts infl8,  
And cause us to appreci8  
One fitful privilege of d8.  
We really do not contemp8,  
Confessing what 'tis woman's tr8  
To keep, nor ever desecr8  
For this no man could compens8.  
But do not joke and aggrav8  
Our feelings in this tender st8.  
If you our chance would extirp8,  
Just speak the opposite of h8.  
And you'll have six chances out of 8."

## How to Drive off the Double Chin

The double chin is the bane of the plump woman and often gives a premature matronly appearance to a young woman.

Double chins are caused by loose skin, sagging flesh and flabby muscles. These are unnatural conditions. When natural conditions are restored by the use of

# Pompeian Massage Cream

the double chin disappears as though by magic. Pompeian Massage Cream makes the skin velvety, strong textured and fine-grained, the flesh solid, the muscles pliant, but firm. It does more—it will take out all wrinkles, round out the contour of face, neck and bust, and bring color to the cheeks.

**TEST IT WITH OUR FREE SAMPLE**

Simply write us you want to try it, and we will send you the sample together with our illustrated book on Facial Massage, an invaluable guide for the proper care of the skin.

Suggest to your brother or husband that he try Pompeian Massage Cream after shaving; by cleansing the pores of soap it allays irritation, does away with soreness.

All leading barbers will give a hand massage with Pompeian Cream—accept no substitutes.

We prefer you to buy of your dealer whenever possible, but do not accept a substitute for Pompeian under any circumstances. If your dealer does not keep it, send us his name, and we will send a 50c. or \$1.00 jar of the cream, postpaid on receipt of price.

**POMPEIAN MFG. COMPANY**  
69 Prospect Street  
Cleveland, Ohio

## BRIGHTON Flat Clasp Garter

Registered Trade Mark

for solid comfort. The newest shades and designs of one piece, silk web, not mercerized cotton. All metal parts nicked, cannot rust. 25 cents a pair, all dealers or by mail.

**PIONEER SUSPENDER CO., 718 Market St., Philadelphia.**  
Makers of Pioneer Suspenders.

## The Associated Sunday Magazines

Incorporated

Co-operatively produced by and a part of the

SUNDAY ISSUES

of the

Chicago Record-Herald	New-York Tribune
St. Louis Republic	Boston Post
Pittsburg Post	Washington Star
Philadelphia Press	Baltimore Herald
Minneapolis Journal	

Circulation

### Over A Million A Week

**HENRY DRISLER**  
Joint Advertising Manager, The Associated Sunday Magazines, Inc.

1 Madison Avenue New York      309 Record-Herald Building Chicago

## MENNEN'S Borated Talcum TOILET POWDER

AT THE SEA SHORE

Mennen's will give immediate relief from prickly heat, chafing, sunburn and all skin troubles. Our absolutely non-refillable box is for your protection. For sale everywhere or by mail 25 cents. Sample free.

**GERHARD MENNEN CO., Newark, N. J.**  
TRY MENNEN'S VIOLET (Borated) TALCUM

**PATENTS** 48-page book FREE, highest references. FITZGERALD & Co., Dept. 17, Washington, D. C.