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"ASTRA'S" TALKS WITH GIRLS.

[Correspondents seeking information in this department should address their queries to "Astra," Progress, St. John.]

for me?" He was a clever man, at any rate, and deserves to be remembered, for although most journalists are too poor to know much about old wine, they can at least appreciate old friends, and feel a warm thrill of gratitude for the sage who placed a stamp of respectability upon old shoes, for since fate, and impecuniosity combined, have decreed that our shoes shall

am always glad to do anything I can for the earliest opportunity of assuring that

I am very glad to welcome some old correspondents back this week, for though I am always glad to hear from new ones, and so add to my circle of unseen friends, I like still better, to know that the old ones have not forgotton me. Who was it that said "Old friends, old wine, old shoes, for me?" He was a clever man, at any for me?" He was a clever man, at any for me? He was a clever man, a

person that there was really no cause, there is no pain on earth like YOLANDE.—Why should you tnink I jealousy, and it is none the less bitter for



THE STRANGER.

often be in an aged and infirm condition, pleated and simply hemmed at the bottom are in love, for you know "All the world to wear them from choice, not necessity. But still they wear out in time, don't they so delighted that I don't "want to be a nun"

I believe I have the blues this morning! Like Charles Lever's man, who "seemed | Well, as you include me in your love, and and the flag is hanging dejectedly from girls such a lot of advice, and the benefit of folds around the ; base of the pole, it You may write whenever you like. looks so melancholy, that it has a depressing effect on my spirits, and I feel confident that the country will soon go to the dogs now, and will all be annexed to the United States in a few months time, and have to pay 50 cents a pound for our own codfish. Perhaps if I went to work I would feel better! Through the kindness of Mr. Walter L.

Sawyer, of Portland, Me., I am enabled to give "Lady Clare" a list of works on palmistry, which he has been so thoughtful as to send me. The following works can be obtained from The Occult Publishing Co., 152 Boylston street, Boston: Grammar of Palmistry, by Katherine St. Hill; cloth, illustrated, 40 cts. Palmistry and its Practical Uses, by Louise Cotton; cloth, illustrated with diagrams and plates, 75 cts. Dick's Mysteries of the Hand, or Palmistry Made Easy; paper, 50 cts. Will Mr. Sawyer accept my very warm thanks for the trouble he has taken in hunting up this list for me? and will he also accept more thanks for his words of encouragement and approval, and convey the same to the appreciative lady. A word of praise goes a long way towards helping one over the rough places in this world, the window pane, I shall answer, "Welespecially when it comes from one whose come little Robin with the scarletopinion is of so much value. By the way, vest." I would not have you tamed I have another message for "Lady Clare," who is getting almost more than her share of attention this week. "Lochinvar" wishes me to thank her for her kindness in wishing to keep him company, by choosing a titled name, and to assure her that he appreciates finger, Robin whenever you like, you it, and feels highly flattered, and he also expresses a respectful hope that he may little bird who tells people things, for you see her some day, as he contemplates visit- tell me so many pleasant things. Perhaps ing Fredericton in the near future. He if you really were a boy you might think also reads me a homily on my unchristian spirit in advising her to tar and feather a certain young man we were talking about, and says he would not treat a dog that way. I really believe he thought I was in are paying a girl quite a compliment, in earnest. So you see what a peck of troubles you have got me into, "Lady

INQUIRER, Newcastle.—Did you think I had utterly forgotten you? Well, I had not. I have had you and your query constantly in mind, and I have searched faithfully for the quotation you asked about, with the result of discovering that it is one and if the young lady shows a preference of those things which has simply grown, passed from mouth to mouth, and finally you. Don't set about it timidly though! become a proverb, without any one knowing from whence it was taken originally. After knew a young man who "scooped in" a reaching this conclusion, I consulted an eminent literary man on the subject, and his verdict was the same, so I feel satisfied in my own mind now, and give you the result of my researches.

Dr. Foster, 391 Yonge street, Toronto. and before that girl had time But I am afraid you will be disappointed to recover her breath they were when I tell you that you cannot have it engaged. I would not recommend this on done any nearer home, as Dr. Foster is the every occasion though, because it might not you to the best of my ability. Don't only reliable practitioner of electrolysis in Canada, and his method is permanent, and avoids the favored one as much as pos- ate means," what more valuable gift can a

Why not have long selected Cane in you Chairs: Lasts longer, cheaper. Duval, 242

it is nice to think that we may be supposed of the skirt. Have a Louis XV. basque, loves a lover," and it is said that love and it you like one of those utterly fetching little capes, which do not quite reach girls? and sometimes I am tempted to be- to the waist, and have high shoulders and lieve that friends do the same, so when I a medecis collar. Yes, I am sorry to say find that someone has remembered me I am that Geoffrey gets more utterly broken upon that girl every day; but he is always in love with some one, so I am used to it. So you are in love with him too, are you? very much disjected, and wouldn't interlo- are not very close at hand, I will forgive cute" I feel disinclined to talk, even to the you. No, your picture of me is not true girls. Just opposite the window of my at all. I wish it were. I am not sanctum is one of the public buildings, "light" at all, and I only wish I had and from its flagstaff droops the dreary "lovely grey eyes," mine are as blue as half-mast ensign, which tells of the Old indigo, and I am five years older than the Chieftain laid low, and sends a chill to last mentioned age; how in the world do every Canadian heart. There is no breeze, you suppose I would be able to give you the staff, and trying to wrap its my experience if I were as young as that?

> Caribou.—That means that you are a deer, of course. I have lots of dears on my list already, but they are all bipeds. As you say the young lady deceived her lover, who seems to have been faithful to her, I scarcely see how he could still care for her, but men are often very constant, and forgiving to a degree which we can scarcely understand, mind-I say often, not always-and it is possible he loves her still in spite of everything. I should certainly think so, from his writing, as you describe. I have known good, honest fellows, who absolutely wished to get over loving a girl whom they knew to be deceitful, but who found it impossible, and so decided to love her in spite of her faults, and to try to be as blind to them as possible. Your writing is original, and rather like a man's. I am glad you enjoy this column so much. Write whenever you like, I shall be glad to hear from you.

ROBIN, St. John.-Welcome back again, little Robin. I have missed you lately, and I am delighted to hear you chirping once more. No tame bird shall take your place with me, and whenever you peck on for the world. I would rather have you come and go at your own sweet will. I tamed two robins once, put them loose in the woods afterwards, and I don't think they wanted to go. So perch on my clever little bird. I think you must be that differently. No, I don't think your writing at all boyish. Was it a photograph? because if so, that is a very common trick amongst men, and they really think they refusing to return it; but I think it most ungentlemanlike and rude, whatever the article may be. Write again Robin.

LORD OF THE ISLES .- Gracious! I will soon have a whole peerage if this sort of thing goes on! I don't believe you are bashful at all. (1) Don't go about it in any particular way at all; trust to impulse, very flirtatious and uncertain girl by simply grasping the opportunity one day when he thought she looked unusually charming, administering a heartfelt hug and an equally cordial kiss, and informing her DOROTHY DEAN .- I have great pleasure with the greatest confidence that she in telling you, Dorothy, that the address is was going to be his little wife, makes us all bashful-; hat is true love.

KATHERINE E. T., Indiantown, St.

John.-I hope you will understand the initials, as I did not like to put your full name. What made you think a stamp was required for your answer? You know I always reply to the girls' questions through this column. I could not possibly answer them privately, so now what shall I do with your stamp? Hypnotism, as I understand the term, is merely a higher development of mesmerism, a sort of modern and improved version, as it were. The mesmerist threw his subject into a sleep, in which the victim obeyed every motion of the dominating will, and saw, heard, acted and felt just as the mesmerist directed, was absolutely under his control, in short; but the hypnotist goes even further, he holds his subject in such absolute thrall that at his command all sensation ceases, and the subject becomes for the time being, to all intents and purposes, a stiffened corpse, dead to sensation and insensible even to the most or burned without feeling it, and I have if she is a girl worth having, and you know to the square mile, and represents an inread of cases where the art has been applied in surgery and the patient rendered perfectly incapable of feeling while an operation was being performed. It is a dangerous power and liable to great abuse, since the hypnotist's influence over his slave is so great that it can be exerted even during absence, and the theory has already been advanced that the victims may be compelled to commit any crime their tyrant wills, so completely are they under his control. I think I should define hypnotism as mesmerism intensified.

LOCHINVAR, St. John.—I was glad to hear from you again. You are always welcome, and I have missed you lately, but remember that if you can't take a joke, we "have no use for you" in this column. The idea of any grown man standing up and preaching me a sermon on my duty towards my neighbor, because I told one of the girls to tar and feather an objectionable young man. I am perfectly ashamed of you, Lochinvar, you ought to have more which was too absurd for even a child to take in earnest. Tar and feather a dog! No. I should think not. I would a great deal rather tar and feather you, for suggesting such a thing. I gave your message to "Lady Clare." How do you know she but somehow, I think she is a nice girl, and that is better than anything else. Dear me, how can I explain about followers without blushing myself into a fever? You know a "follower" is a beau, and the editor does not allow any beaux. It I had sent now? I have tried kissing Geoffrey. I have kissed him quite often, but it has no age him in it. By the way-that reminds me-you wanted to know the difference I am glad you are such a good boy, and I hope you will always live up to that noble

motto of yours. A BACHELOR IN LOVE, Boston.—Shake hands, Bachelor, I am proud to know you. You are the second boy who has brought his love troubles to me this week, and I tell you as I told him, that "All the world loves a lover." I do at any rate, and Geoffrey, notwithstanding, I will advise always work as well. (2) She usually talk any nonsense about your "very modergives very little pain. It is no trouble; I sible, and treats him very badly, because man offer a girl than an honest heart? and she is so afraid he will find out how much | are there not cases on record past counting she thinks of him before she is sure he where girls have willingly exchanged luxcares for her. (3) I think I should take urious homes for a very modest cot-

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tage indeed, with the man they loved? have known of several myself, others cannot matter. Try your fate and I think you will win, but be sure to let me know if you do, for I shall be anxious to hear about it. I am sure that if her father is a sensible man he will far prefer that his daughter should win a loving and faithful husband rather than make "a brilliant

THE WORLD'S GREAT GRAVEYARD. Where Thousands of Men Who Worked on the Panama Canal are Buried.

More men have died and are buried on the Isthmus of Panama, along the line of the proposed canal, than on any equal amount of territory in the world. It was in 1887, the year before the final collapse of the canal scheme came, that chance took me to "the Isthmus," as it is more usually described. How many people are buried out in Monkey Hill? Certianly 8,000 or sense! I am sure "Lady Clare" had, and 9,000; probably 12,000 or 15,000, but that she laughed heartily over the idea, it is all a matter of guesswork as to the exact number. But the ground about Aspinwall only holds a small percentage of the men who have died on the Isthmus. The city of Panama, of course, lays claim to the largest number of burials, but I can say, without exaggeration, that is fair, or rich either? She may be just as | the entire line of the railroad and canal, poor as you or I, and not any fairer either. from the Atlantic to the Pacific, is a continuous graveyard. At Matochin alone over 3300 Chinamen met their death in one day. That was 25 or 30 years ago, while the Panama railroad was being built, and long before work on the canal was begun. Ten thousand Chinamen had been brought you what you asked for, he might have from China to work on the canal. Over thought you were a beau of mine, and dis- one-half of them were camped charged me at once. Do you understand at what is now Matochin. Smallpox broke out among them. and the mortality became so great that the Chinaeffect. He will flirt, and the girls encour- men, always easily excited, became panicstricken, and, preferring to die by drowning, ran down the steep sides of the hills between a delusion and a flirt? I don't near their camp and threw themselves into think there is any at all. No! I don't the Chagres river. As I have said, 3,500 think you are a "sap head," at all. Some- of them were drowned. It was because of times I think you are too clever for me. this fact that the name of the camp was changed to Muertechino, muerte meaning "dead" in Spanish, and China signifying Chinaman. The name has since become perverted to Matochin. It is a common saying, believed by many on the Isthmus, that every tie on the Panama railroad represents a dead man.

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In the proceedings of the Royal Geographical society for January, 1891, it is and though you may look upon estimated that the population of the world it in a different light and imagine in 1890 was 1,487,600,000, representing an that it would be the height of presumption average of 31 to the square mile, and an on your part to dream of transplanting so | increase of eight pet cent. during the derare an exotic to a cottage garden, still cade. Of the continents, Asia has the you are sound to look at the matter from largest population, 850,000,000, and the the young lady's point of view also, and it lowest percentage of increase, six per cent. you have the least reason to suppose she Australasia has the smallest population, cares for you, it is your duty to give her 4,730,000, and the smallest average per the option of choosing between love and square mile, 1.4, but the highest rate of inwealth. Your letter has the true ring | crease during the decade, 30 per cent. about it, and I believe you really do "wish | Europe is the most thickly settled contishe had not a cent." Don't you know that nent, with a population of 380,200,000, love is the only coin a true woman really which is 101 to the square mile. The values? Don't be afraid of being called a population of North America is estimated fortune hunter. She will not think you one, at 89,250,000, which is an average of 14 you are not one yourself, so the opinion of crease of 20 per cent. during the past de-

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