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(10.58—Ay)

(Grenoble)

### PRIMITIVE FARMING

The islands have a population of about two hundred thousand inhabitants, most of them Portuguese. The chief crop is corn and they raise it and grind it just as their great-great-grand fathers did. They plough with a board slightly shod with iron ; their trifling little harrows are drawn by men and women; small windmills grind the corn, ten bushels (boisseaux) a day and there is one assistant superintendant to feed the mill and a general superintendent to stand by and keep him from going to sleep. Oxen tread the wheat from the ear, after the fashion prevalent in the time of Mathuselah...

There is not a wheelbarrow in the land : they carry everything on their heads or on donkeys, or

in a wicker-bodied cart, whose wheels are solid blocks of wood and whose axle turns with the wheel. There is not a modern plough in the islands, or a threshing-machine : all attempts to introduce them have failed.

(Mark Twain).

EPREUVE A. 1. Write in the plural : a passer-by; — a fox and an ox; — a father-in-law; — a grown-up; and in the feminine : the postmaster; the doctor and his son; the landlord and his uncle; — your husband's nephew. \* 2. Who is the sister-in-law of a girl ? the step-mother of a boy ? \* 3. Describe an old windmill; what was it used for ? how did it work ? what other kinds of mills do you know ? \* 4. What cereals do you know ? What are their different uses ?

EPREUVE B. — Version, puis questions 1 et 4.

(10.59—Ay) . GAS-LIGHT

(Grenoble)

At the beginning of the present century there came an invention which quite outshone lanterns, lamps and torches. There came a new light, brighter than any that had yet been seen, which burned without any wick (mèche) and never required being snuffed (moucher). Neither did the new lamps require being cleaned. This was the light of gas.

The first gas-lights invented themselves. The most remarkable was that in the colliery at Whitehaven in Cumberland. While the miners were at work, a rush of strange-smelling air came past their candle, and burst into a jovial flame. It flamed away in such style that the miners were frightened and ran off. But although the flame was six feet high and three

feet broad, it burned in so orderly a manner that they took courage and flapped it (souffler) with their hats; then it went out. But though it went out, it lighted again whenever the candle came.

EPREUVE A. — 1. Turn into the present the passage : While the miners....and ran off. \* 2. Write again, using compound adjectives : a girl with a flat nose; a flower which smells sweet; a boy who is sick at sea; a man who works hard; an animal with four feet. \* 3. Compare candle-light, gas-light and electric-light; advantages of each of them ? \* 4. Relate what happened in your family when, one evening, the light was suddenly put out by a storm. (about 15 lines).

EPREUVE B. — Version, puis questions 1 et 4.

(10.60—Ay) A MONKEY CITY (Poitiers)

The monkeys called the place their city, and pretended to despise the Jungle-People. And they never knew what the buildings were made for nor how to use them. They would sit in circles on the hall of the King's council chamber and scratch for fleas and pretend to be men; or they would run in and out of the roofless houses and collect pieces of plaster and old bricks in a corner, and forget where they had hidden them, and fight and cry in scuffling (fighting) crowds, and then break off to play up and down the terraces of the King's garden, where they

would shake the rose-trees and the oranges in sport to see the fruit and flowers fall (R. Kipling).

EPREUVE A. — 1. What is the meaning of would in the text ? Build two sentences illustrating two other uses of would. \* 2. Turn the whole passage into the present. \* 3. What sort of a town is the one described in the text ? Can you imagine how it came to be deserted by men and inhabited by monkeys ? \* 4. Say all you know about monkeys (small ones and big ones). Are they useful, or useless, or harmful animals ?

EPREUVE B. — Version, puis questions 1 et 4.

(10.61—Ay) THE STAGE-COACH (Grenoble)

In the course of a December tour in Yorkshire, I rode for a long distance in one of the public coaches, on the day preceding Christmas. The coach was crowded, both inside and out, with passengers who, by their talk, seemed principally bound (on their way) to the mansions of relations or friends, to eat the Christmas dinner.

I had three fine rosy-cheeked boys for my fellow-passengers; they were returning home for the holidays, and promising themselves a world of enjoyment. They were full of anticipations about the meeting with the family and household, down to the very cat and dog; but the meeting to which they seemed to look forward with the greatest impatience was with Bantam, which I found to be a pony. How he

could trot ! how he could run ! and then such leaps as he could take ! there was not a hedge in the whole country that he could not clear !

(W. Irving).

Notes : to look forward to : to expect with pleasure ; such leaps as : the leaps which.

EPREUVE A. — 1. Turn into English : Comme ce cheval court vite !- Quels bonds il fait !- Comme il franchit bien ce mur ! \* 2. Explain in English : a rosy-cheeked boy; a fellow-passenger; a horse-race; a race-horse. \* 3. Comment upon the two different uses of the word « very » (give examples). \* 4. What is your preferred way of travelling. Why ? Would you have preferred to travel in the old days ? Why, or why not ?

EPREUVE B. — Version, puis questions 1 et 4.

(N° E — 165)

BAC. Nancy, Juin 1948. A.

# A NIGHT DRIVE

« No more lightning ; and the rain came softly on to her face through the open wind-screen, blurring eyes and mind and all, until she sank into a half-sleep... When next she opened her eyes, the darkness was taking back first one veil, then another. Purple paled to lilac and lilac wasted to grey. The sky was immaculate and without a glow. The country-side woke from sleep, gently staring and austere, each object upon it separately outlined without interrelation of colour and shadow under the uniform light. On the far horizon, a corn field flashed out one moment in a pale flood of sunlight ; but the sun was still hidden.

Soon came the beechwoods crowning the chalkhills.

In the valley below ran the river, rain-flattened between its willows ; and the road sloped gently down till it ran beside it. They were home. Stiff and blinking, she stumbled out of the car, and stood on the steps of the porch. »

Rosamond LEHMANN.

QUESTIONS. — ■ 1° Is the girl riding, driving or walking ? — ■ 2° Translate into English : « Quand elle s'éveillera elle sera surprise » ; - « Le soleil était encore dans le ciel » ; - « Je l'attends, il n'est pas encore arrivé ». — ■ 3° Why does the girl blink and stumble when she gets out of the car ? What time is it ? Pick out all the details which indicate the hour of the night. — ■ 4° Imagine what the girl would have seen after sunrise.

(N° E — 166)

BAC. Strasbourg, J. 48, B. C.

# NAPLES

To see Naples as we saw it in the early dawn from far up on the side of Vesuvius, is to see a picture of wonderful beauty. At that distance the dingy (1) buildings looked white — and so, rank on rank of balconies, windows and roofs, they piled themselves up from the blue ocean till the colossal castle of St. Elmo topped the grand white pyramid and gave the picture symmetry, emphasis and completeness. And when it blushed (2) under the sun's first kiss, it was beautiful beyond all description. One might well say then : « See Naples and die ! » The frame of the picture was charming, itself. In front the smooth sea — a vast mosaic of many colours ; the lofty islands swimming in a dreamy haze in the distance ; at our end of the city the stately double peak of Vesuvius, stretching down to

the limitless level campagna (3) — a green carpet that enchants the eye.

Mark TWAIN.

(1) Dingy : Contrary : clean and beautiful.

(2) To blush : to become red.

(3) Campagna : an Italian word meaning : a plain.

QUESTIONS. — ■ 1° Turn into the future, present tense from : « And when it blushed », to « beyond all description ». — ■ 2° Explain : « The colossal castle of St. Elmo topped the grand white pyramid and gave the picture symmetry, emphasis and completeness » — The lofty islands swimming in a dreamy haze — « See Naples and die ». — ■ 3° What is Vesuvius ? What do you know about it ? — ■ 4° Study the above description from the point of view of the various parts into which it is divided and of the words used by the writer to show the colours of the scene and to express its beauty. — ■ 5° Write in the same manner a short description of an ugly, dingy industrial town in a Northern country.

(N° E — 167)

BAC. Paris, J. 48, I.

# THE LAUNCHING OF A SHIP

Little Mrs Moles, after much giggling and a display of girlish ignorance, had raised the bottle in her gloved hand, cried the brave name aloud, and let the silken ribbons swing. A thin metallic sound of splintered glass, a small spurt of foam, a wet smear on the sheer bows of the ship — and then the awful moment when the hammers thudded on the chocks and drag-chains rattled, and it seemed that she would never move ; then moved ever so slowly, then seemed to stop, and at last slipped away, roaring and at a speed that brought the heart to the mouth, to take the water with a rush, plunge wildly once, shiver a little, then come to rest safely launched and water-borne.

Now they had her snug in the fitting-out basin, and

Leslie Pagan saw with his mind's eye a flickering film of her progress towards completion, saw her steam out at length, all white paint and yellow funnels.

George BLAKE. *The Shipbuilders.*

Sheer bows : l'étrave effilée.

QUESTIONS. — ■ 1° Translate : « Voici le grand navire qui glisse vers la Clyde. Il plonge profondément dans l'eau, puis il flotte ». — ■ 2° What will be the life of the ship once she has left Glasgow, her birthplace, carrying the Union Jack over the seven seas ? — ■ 3° Imagine what may be the end of the fine new ship : wrecked, scrapped, torpedoed. — ■ 4° Say what emotions fill the heart of Leslie Pagan the shipbuilder when the ship is launched : fear of a possible accident, pride of success, etc.

(N° E — 168)

BAC. Besançon, J. 48, C.

# A SHIPWRECK

She was a small schooner (1), at anchor. The crew were all asleep, and had neglected to hoist a light. We struck her just amidship (2). The force, the size, and weight of our vessel bore her down below the waves ; we passed over her and were hurried on our course. As the crashing wreck was sinking beneath us, I had a glimpse of two or three half-naked wretches rushing from her cabin ; they just started from their beds to be swallowed shrieking by the waves. The blast that bore their drowning cry to our ears swept us out of all further hearing... We returned, as nearly as we could guess, to the place where the smack (3) had anchored. We cruised about for several hours in the dense fog. We fired signal-

guns, and listened if we might hear the halloo of any survivors ; but all was silent.

Washington IRVING, *The Sketch Book*, 1819-20.

(1) A schooner : a fore and aft-rigged vessel with two or more masts (une goélette).

(2) Amidships : half way between the stem and stern of a ship. (3) The smack : here the schooner.

QUESTIONS. — ■ 1° Translate into English : « Père, comment puis-je vous remercier pour tout ce que vous avez fait pour moi ? » — ■ 2° What is the full meaning of the sentence : « The blast that bore... hearing » ? — ■ 3° Describe a crossing. — ■ 4° A shipwrecked crew has been rescued by means of a life-boat. One of the survivors tells the story.

(N° E — 169)

BAC. Caen, J. 48. A B-II.

# A NIGHT IN THE JUNGLE

I had spent many nights in the jungle looking for game, but this was the first time I had ever spent a night looking for a man-eater. The length of road immediately in front of me was brilliantly lit by the moon, but to right and left the overhanging trees cast dark shadows, and when the night wind agitated the branches and the shadow moved, I saw a dozen tigers advancing on me, and bitterly regretted the impulse that had induced me to place myself at the man-eater's mercy. I lacked the courage to return to the village and admit I was too frightened to carry out my self-imposed task, and with teeth chattering, as much from fear as from cold, I sat out the long night. As the grey dawn was

lighting up the snowy range which I was facing, I rested my head on my drawn-up knees, and it was in this position my men an hour later found me — fast asleep ; of the tiger I had neither heard nor seen anything.

Jim CORBETT, *Man-eaters of Kumaon.*

QUESTIONS. — ■ 1° Turn into the passive : « The overhanging trees cast dark shadows » ; « The grey dawn was lighting up the snowy range ». — ■ 2° Would you like hunting man-eating tigers in the jungle, as the author, Major Corbett, did for thirty-two years ? State your reasons. — ■ 3° What are the principal beasts of the jungle and what are their cries ? — ■ 4° Have you ever been frightened ? Tell, as briefly as you can, in what circumstances.

(N° E — 128) BAC. Nancy, I, 47, A.

**THE BLUE LAGOON**

The lagoon, here deep, here shallow, presented according to its depth or shallowness, the colours of ultramarine or sky. The broadest parts were the palest, because the most shallow; and here and there, in the shallows, you might see a faint tracery of coral ribs almost reaching the surface. The island at its broadest might have been three miles across. There was not a sign of house or habitation to be seen, and not a sail on the whole of the Pacific.

It was a strange place to be, up here. To find oneself surrounded by grass and flowers and trees, and all the kindness of nature, to feel the breeze blow, to smoke one's pipe, and to remember that one was in a place uncolonized and unknown; a place to which

no messages were ever carried except by the winds or the seagulls. In this solitude the beetle was as carefully pointed and the flower as carefully tended as though all the peoples of the civilized world were standing by to criticize or approve. Nowhere in the world, perhaps, so well as here, could you appreciate Nature's splendid indifference to the great offices of Man.

H. DE VERN STACPOLE.

QUESTIONS — **1°** Comment upon the formation and meaning of : depth, shallowness, carefully. Give other words built in the same manner. — **2°** Turn the last sentence (Nowhere...) into the future. — **3°** What is a defective verb? Build sentences with three such verbs. — **4°** Do you like solitude? Give reasons for your choice.

(N° E — 129) BAC. Clermont, I, 47, Mod. II.

**AN ENGLISHMAN IN THE SOUTH SEAS**

It appears that Red was the most comely thing you ever saw. I've talked to quite a number of people who knew him in those days, white men, and they all agree that the first time you saw him his beauty just took your breath away. They called him Red on account of his flaming hair. He had a natural wave and he wore it long. I don't think he was wiser of he was much too ingenuous for that, but no one could have blamed him if he had been. He was tall, six feet and on inch or two — in the native house that used to stand there was the mark of his height cut with a knife on the central trunk that supported the roof — and he was made like a Greek god, broad in the shoulders and

thin in the limbs; he was like Apollo, with just that soft roundness which Phœbeles gave him, and that suave, feminine grace which has in it something troubling and mysterious. His skin was dazzling white, milky, like satin; his hair was like a woman's.

CONQUEST MARGRAVE, Red.

QUESTIONS (coefficients : 3 - 2 - 2 - 3). — **1°** Put in the negative, in the interrogative, in the passive forms : They called him Red on account of his red hair. — He wore it long. — **2°** How many inches are there in six feet? Compare the English system of measures with the French system. — **3°** Explain : Flaming hair — Natural wave — dazzling white. — **4°** Make a physical portrait of yourself.

N° E — 130) BAC. Strasbourg (transitoire), I, 47, I.

**AN ENGLISH MISSIONARY IN CHINA RESCUES AN ABANDONED CHILD**

He stopped and lifted up the tiny thing, cold as a fish, but soft. His heart was beating like a drum. He ran back, slipping, almost falling, to the stable, calling in a loud voice to Joseph.

When the breeze was blowing with fresh wood, throwing out light and heat, the priest and his servant bent over the child. It was no more than twelve months old. Its eyes were dark and wild, unbelieving towards the warmth of the fire. From time to time it whimpered (cried plaintively).

« It is hungry », Joseph said in a wise tone. They warmed some milk and poured it into an ear

vial (burette). Father Chisholm then took a strip of clean linen and coaxed (1) it, like a wick (une mèche), into the child's narrow neck. The child sucked greedily. In five minutes the milk was finished and the child asleep. The priest wrapped it in a blanket from his own bed.

A. J. CROOK, The Keys of the Kingdom.

(1) To coax : to persuade (somebody) to do something.

QUESTIONS — **1°** Turn into the future : When the breeze... bent over the child. — **2°** Explain Chisholm then took a strip of clean linen. — **3°** Give the contrary of : Soft, cold, dark, wild, clean, narrow, asleep. — **4°** How do you imagine the father Chisholm lives in, his character and his intercourse with poor, hungry, hostile-like Chinamen?

(N° E — 144) BAC. Lille, I, 47, B. II.

**THE END OF A GENERAL STRIKE**

The news of the General Strike's collapse caught him as he was going home after driving Fleur (1) to the cinema. A list and bustle in the streets and the words : « Strike Over » screamed at street corners, preceded the « End of the Strike — Official » of the hurrying newsmen.

Michael stopped his car against the curb and bought a news-sheet. There it was : a minute he sat motionless with a choky feeling, such as he had felt when the news of the Armistice came through. A sword lifted from over the head of England! A source of pleasure to her enemies dried up! People passed and

passed him, each with a news-sheet, or a look in the eye. They were taking it almost as soberly as they had taken the strike itself. « Good old England » ! « No wonder we're a puzzle to foreigners » ! thought Michael : « The least understood people in the world » !

J. GALEWORTHY, Swan Song.

(1) Fleur is a lady's name.

QUESTIONS — **1°** Pick the irregular verbs and give their primitive tenses. — **2°** Explain Galeworthy's meaning : « A sword lifted from over the head of England ». — **3°** Comment in a few lines upon the following sentence : « The least understood people in the world ». — **4°** Describe a great event that has moved you deeply.

(N° E — 132) BAC. Rennes, I, 47, C, Mod. I.

**A FINE OLD CITY**

Gazing from those heights, the eye beholds a scene which cannot fail to awaken even in the least sensitive person, feelings of pleasure and admiration. At the foot of the heights flows a narrow and deep river, with an antique bridge communicating with a long and narrow suburb, flanked on either side by rich meadows of the brightest green, beyond which spreads the fine old city. Yes, there it spreads from North to South, with its venerable houses, its numerous gardens, its thrice twelve churches, its mighty mound, which if tradition speaks true, was raised by human hands to serve as the grave heap of an old heathen king, who sits deep within it, with his sword in his hand and the gold and

silver treasures about him. There is a grey old castle upon the top of that mighty mound; and, gander, rising three hundred feet above the soil, from among those noble forest trees, behold that old Norman master-work, that cloud-encircled cathedral spire.

QUESTIONS — **1°** What is the contrary of « a narrow and deep river » ? — **2°** Explain « thrice twelve churches ». Account for the use of « thrice ». — **3°** What are the different meanings of « about » ? Make sentences to illustrate them. — **4°** What sort of adjective is « cloud-encircled » ? Write what you know about the formation of similar adjectives. Illustrate with examples. — **5°** Would you like to spend your whole life in an old city, in modern town or a small village? Give the reasons of your choice. Compare the respective advantages and disadvantages.

(N° E — 141) BAC. Bordeaux, I, 47, I.

**VICTORIA STATION**

If you delight in movement and change, the appeal of a large railway station is irresistible : you are still in the dark cocon of the city, but one and it is spluttering already, and you can see the blue beyond : the rumbles and shrieks and whistles are only part of the tuning up, and even the anxiety small has the savour of adventure. It was impossible to Miss Matfield to resist a holiday feeling. The sight of all the busy and bewildered people, of whom there were on unsually large number, the people who went rushing up to any man in a railway uniform, who looked in des-

poliz at the notice-boards, who mopped their brows and snuggled at one another, who blankly surveyed great mounds of luggage, who fitted like uneasy ghosts from one platform entrance to another, only brought her a pleasing sense of her own superiority.

I. B. FAIRLEY.

QUESTIONS — **1°** Ask two questions in the preterite about the last sentence of the text. — **2°** What creatures actually live in cocoons? Try and explain the comparison. — **3°** What are the components of a holiday feeling? Where have you already experienced such a feeling? at the station? in the course of your journey? or when you have reached your new place?

(N° E — 134) BAC. Strasbourg (transitoire), I, 47, A.

**THE BLIND MAN**

He had been home for a year now. He was totally blind. Yet they had been very happy. « The Grange » was Maurice's own home. The back was a farmstead (farm building), and the Wernham, who occupied the rear premises (1), acted as farmstead. Isabel lived with her husband in the handsome rooms in front. She and he had been almost entirely alone together since he was wounded. They talked and sang and read together in a wonderful and unspoken intimacy. He occupied himself a good deal with the farm. Sightless, he could still discuss everything with Wernham, and he could do also a great deal of work about the place — menial work, it is true, but it gave him satisfaction. He

milks the cows, carried in the pails, attended to the pigs and horses. Life was still very full and strongly severe for the blind man.

D. H. LAWRENCE.

(1) The rear premises : the buildings at the back.

QUESTIONS — **1°** a) Draw a list of the « irregular » verbs in the text, and give their tenses ; b) Make grammatical remarks on : « He had been home for a year now » (note remark on the use of « home » in « he had been home », and one on the use of the past perfect « he had been » with « for a year now »). — **2°** Explain the words : sightless — menial. — **3°** Do you think that all men, if they become blind, would take their infirmity as happily, or even as stoically, as Maurice did? What helped him to bear it as he did?

(N° E — 135) BAC. Besançon, I, 47, C.

**LADY CASTERLEY AND THE BULL**

In the far corner of the far field a chestnut mare was standing. On viewing the intruders, she laid those ears back and a little vicious air gleamed out of the corner of her eye. They passed her and entered the second field. Half way across, Barbara said quietly : « Genny, that's a bull ! ». It was indeed an enormous bull, who had been standing behind a clump of bushes. He was moving slowly towards them, still distant about two hundred yards ; a great red beast, with the huge development of neck and front which makes the bull, of all living creatures, the symbol of brute force. Lady Casterley envied him severely. « I dislike bulls », she said ; I think I must walk back », —

« You can't ; it's too uphill ». — « I am not going to turn back », said Lady Casterley. « The bull ought not to be here. Whose fault is it? I shall speak to someone. Stand still and look at him. We must prevent his coming nearer ». They stood still and looked at the bull who continued to approach.

J. GALEWORTHY, The Partisan.

QUESTIONS — **1°** What makes the attitude of the old lady in front of the bull rather ridiculous and touching as well? — **2°** What is a mare? Give the masculine. What is a bull? Give the feminine. — **3°** Explain the use of ought in : it ought not to be there ; — find out another form expressing the same idea. — Give an equivalent for : I think I must walk back. — **4°** Translate into English : J'ai acheté on livre d'occasion ; c'est une réelle occasion.

(N° E — 137) BAC. Montpellier, I, 47.

**THE AFRICAN JUGGLER**

An African juggler followed, who brought in a large hat basket covered with a red cloth, and having placed it in the centre of the arena, he took from his turban a curious reed pipe, and blew through it. In a few moments the cloth began to move, and on the pipe grew shillies and shillies two green and gold snakes put out their strange heads and rose slowly up, swaying to and fro with the music. The children however, were rather frightened at their quick darting tongues, and were much pleased when the juggler made a tiny orange-tree grow out of the sand and bear pretty

white blossoms and clusters of real fruit ; and when he took the fan of a little girl and changed it into a blue bird that flew all round the pavilion and sang, their delight and amazement knew no bounds.

CHARLES WILDE.

QUESTIONS — **1°** Explain the phrases : the pipe grew shillies and shillies ; — swaying to and fro with the music ; — their quick darting tongues. — **2°** Make a list of all the strong verbs you can find in the passage, and give their chief tenses. — **3°** Have you ever seen a juggler? Can you describe some of his tricks? Give a short account of any performance you may have witnessed at a circus.