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PETER CODDLE.

HOW TO DO IT.

Let one of the company be leader, who shall divide the cards equally among the other players.

The leader begins to read the narrative aloud. As often as he comes to a—, he must pause and one of the players in turn must read from a card taken at random from his hand.

The cards should be held face down till taken up to be read.

PETER CODDLE'S NARRATIVE

SEEING you are bound to tease me, I may as well tell you what sort of a time I had in New York. We had the haying all done, 'twas too early to dig potatoes, I had stuck to home pretty close for the last two years and Lucinda thought I needed a little rest, so I spoke to Deacon Catnip of the matter at the meeting Thursday night. He said he would lend me his carpet-bag. This I found very useful. I put in it for the trip—, one flannel, three boiled shirts, three collars and several other things. I gave Lucinda a kiss, jumped into Squire Bean's milk wagon when it came along and was soon on my way to the Pumpkinville depot. The train was called the Cranberry Valley Limited, and was composed of one smoking and baggage car, one passenger car and two milk cars. I saw Seth Pepper in the smoker, so I got in and told him that the dollar he owed me for—

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would come very handy now, seeing I was bound for the city. He said he had no money, but would give me—if I would call it square. At Scrub Oak Junction we changed cars for the train to the city. We now had some pretty spruce looking people aboard. The lady in front had on—and carried—. The chap across the aisle wore eyeglasses and said something to the lady about—that he carried in—. I watched them but kept still as—. As we neared the city the houses were as thick as flies around a molasses barrel. I would as soon think of living in—as in one of those tall houses. The train landed me at the Grand Central Depot and I was glad to get there, for I was as tired as—from riding so far. I took the Elevated Road for down town. This Elevated Railroad business was the most curious thing I saw on my trip; why, the cars slide along as slick as—on—. Once I thought we were off the track but a man next to me said something about—that quieted me.

I went to the Czarina Hotel; where most of our Pumpkinville people stop. I had room Number 973, at the top of the elevator. In the next room was—. I did not understand the electric light, but a boy from the office by the name of Front showed me how to fix it. I was tired that night and did not go out. After eating—, and a cup of tea, I went to bed. I was up the next morning by milking time and took a walk before breakfast. A good many people were about then, but the crowd was nothing to what it was afterward, it was ten times greater than our county fair. I went first to see Zach Prindle's boy Ned who worked in a store on Broadway. I found him as starchy and trim as—, and he seemed to have put on a good many airs since he worked at Jones and Smith's store at Pumpkinville Center. I wanted to see the Big Bridge, so Ned put me on a horse car that went quite near it. I had as much trouble as—in finding where to walk out, but at last found it was from the cellar. You can see farther from Brooklyn Bridge than from the ridge of Belden Jones' barn and that is allowed to be the

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best outlook in Pumpkinville. As I looked down a moving ferryboat seemed like—. The tug with two canal boats resembled—. A man on the bridge asked me if I knew—from—. I rather resented this and told him he could not tell—from—; he said no more to me. Coming off the bridge on the Brooklyn side, I asked a policeman to show me a car that went to the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The car pointed out to me was the wrong one, because it took me the wrong side of the yard, so I had to walk as far as our Upper Pasture to reach the gate. The soldier at the entrance asked me if I could tell—when put in a row of twelve; I replied that I could and he said I might go in. I looked all over the yard, then went aboard the Vermont, the receiving ship. This vessel during the war had a whole store full of goods aboard and came near being lost, one of the men said, as she lost—that they used to steer by. In the dry dock was one of the new-fangled steel cruisers that was having something fixed to—that bothered the men. I went aboard and found everything as slick as—in a pantry. I went back to the Czarina took supper and forty winks, then took a walk. I heard some music that sounded like—rasping on—. I walked pretty smart till I came to where it was, and found a Dime Museum was the cause of all the trouble. I laid down a nickle and five coppers and walked in. They had more curiosities than a side show to a circus. The fat woman was as big as—. A man chewed glass as he would—. Another threw knives and caught them on—. The rained parrots, the tattooed man and the dwarf with—all interested me. Then there was a variety show on the stage. I liked best the song about—and a piece a fellow spoke about—. As I came out of the show a man offered to sell me a pair of gold sleeve buttons, worth five dollars for fifty cents, to pay his lodging, as he said. At first I was inclined to help him, but just then a policeman came up and the man ran like—. Poor fellow, I suppose the officer took him for—. The next day I went into the place where they sell stocks; each man seemed to halloo like—. I would like to have a few

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of those chaps to drive in my young stock from the pasture.

I then took the Elevated Railroad for Central Park. At the Art Museum I saw a picture of a lot of horses, painted, they say, by a woman. Another picture by the same artist, was—in repose. I liked that one best where a lot of cavalry were riding toward you as fast as—after—.

About the length of—from the Art Museum is the Egyptian Obelisk. It has some inscriptions that tell about—. At that time they knew a great deal about—and very little of—.

The animals in the Park looked very well, except the camels; their hair looked as rough as that on our old brindle cow.

The Kangaroo had no more beauty than—and hopped about like a drunken three-legged milking stool. The monkeys were of all kinds. A mischievous boy gave one—which caused it to sneeze three times. At the Czarina that night I met Squire Mildew from Brush Hill, an adjoining town to Pumpkinville. He had just brought down—and—which he was to sell to a man at Washington Market. He asked me to go with him the next morning to which I agreed. After he had finished his business we went down to the wharf and aboard the Flounder, a large ocean steamer. The Squire knew a man who showed us all about. In the cabin each electric lamp was fastened to—. The cabins were just splendid, and each stateroom had—. The engine room was as large as—, and the machinery was clean as—. We then went down to the Battery and watched the vessels coming and going. Moored at the pier was what they called a "fire boat," a sort of a steam fire engine and tug boat combined. A man said they could throw ten streams at once as large as—. Squire Mildew wanted to go down to the Statue of Liberty, which loomed up down the bay like—. We went aboard a little steamer and were soon under way. I wish we had such a steamboat on Mud Pond, for fishing for bullheads. As we came near the statue the hand holding the torch seemed about the size of—. We

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landed and went up into the head. On the way up we met some people coming down the narrow winding stairs; one of them said it was as close as—. I thought the lights were no better than—. From the head we had a splendid view. We saw a steamer passing out of the harbor; a man said it was the Flounder, the one we just looked over, she was going like—. This man also said the tablet to the statue was large enough for twenty-four couples to dance upon, but to me it seemed larger, full as big as—.

We returned to New York and took a street car up Broadway. The Squire wanted my company to Fulton Market, to see the fish. Well, there were more kinds than I ever expected to see together. There were perch, bullheads, salmon, clams, lobsters and a queer one that looked like—. Another one as large as—was a real beauty. They kept the fish on ice and—. The only live fish I saw were gold fish swimming in—on one of the counters. From this point the bridge seemed like—away up in the air. The crowd of teams along the pier was as great as—on election day. They seemed to be carrying everything from—to—. We then took a little walk back to Broadway. The crowd all appeared in a great hurry, as though going to see—. We went to the top of an insurance building and found a restaurant there where you could get—at five minutes notice. From the roof you could see all over Manhattan Island, Brooklyn Bridge, Statue of Liberty and all. I noticed a queer machine and asked a man what it was for, he replied "It was to comb hay seed," but another politely informed me, "It belonged to the weather man;" he also said another machine that resembled—was "To tell how hard the wind blew." I guess the New York people must use up shoe laces, combs and collar buttons by the cord, not to say anything about—, to judge by the peddlers on the streets selling such things.

One man had—in a basket, for which he asked ten cents. A blind man carried on his breast a card stating he would sell—for five

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cents. I was anxious to see the Court House, the windows of which I was told cost—each, that is what the City paid, but you or I could get them for—. The squire insisted on my going to a restaurant for dinner with him; he had been there before. It was a very large one, fed several thousand a day. It was so large that it does not seem as though my farm would keep it running an hour. I ordered—and—; he said—would do for him. The doors of this restaurant have not been locked for several years I was told, and that you could get—at any hour of the day or night.

I had a great notion to see one of those big stores of which I had heard so much. I took an hour's walk through one of them. It had more goods in it than all the stores in Pumpkinville together. In this one they had—, —, —, and—. I spent a dollar and bought for Lucinda—, and—which I carried to the Czarina and packed them in the carpetbag. I had seen about all the sights that I could take care of for one trip, so I began to think of going home. To tell the truth I felt as uneasy as—at being so long away from home. Well, the next morning after breakfast, I paid my bill and had my ticket home, and seventy-five cents left. I took my carpetbag and started for the Grand Central Depot. A man at the station asked me how all the folks at Pumpkinville were. I told him I did not remember him. He said, "Don't you remember—and the summer boarder at Parsnip's farm house?" I replied, "No" He said he had often passed my house; was then in trouble and wanted to borrow—for a week. I told him I would have to ask Lucinda first. I had bought three doughnuts and—for lunch, so I fared pretty well till I reached Scrub Oak Junction, where I changed for the home train. Obadiah Gherkin's boy Lycurgus is apple-boy on this train, so I bought—and was all right, till I reached home.

As the train came out of Sapling Grove a scene burst upon my sight that I will never forget. There to the right was our dear Hill

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Pasture; the familiar fences, the trees and all seemed to combine and say, "Coddle, we welcome you home." At the depot I saw some of our neighbors who said, "We are glad to see you home again from the big city sober." I caught a ride home on Myron Herdford's hay wagon. Lucinda heard the clatter and saw us some time before we reached the house. She came to the gate exclaiming "My dear, dear Peter I am as glad as—that you have returned. I hope you feel as fresh as—." We had a number of callers the next two weeks each one as anxious as—to hear me tell about what I saw in the big city. If I ever go to New York again I don't believe I will tell them all about it.

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