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## Dictaphun

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# Dictaphun

By B. C. HILLIARD, JR.\*

## OUR OWN POLITICAL PRIMER

From the *Denver Post* of April 27th ultimo:

Q. Please give the correct way to eat gravy. Is it permissible to place a bit of bread in the gravy and take it up with a fork?—R. G. W.

A. Etiquet, Jr. says: Gravy must never be acquired by sopping, or by using a piece of bread as if it were a blotting paper. Gravy must also not be eaten with a spoon. If gravy cannot be acquired in the natural course of events . . . then give it up as hopeless. The rules for anticonservation of gravy apply . . . to any other soft, semiliquid food whose appeal is strong but whose consistency is unstable.

From the *agile brain* of the Editor hereof *circa* May 7th:

Q. Please advise me the correct way to get in on the gravy. Is it permissible to support all the candidates to this end?—B. C. H., Jr.

A. W. W., Jr. says: Gravy must never be acquired by two-timing, or by the use of methods inimical to non-partisan government. Gravy must also not be taken through civil service. If gravy cannot be acquired in the natural course of politics further lessons are recommended. These rules with respect to gravy also apply to other soft positions whose appeal is strong but whose tenure is uncertain.

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## WHY?

*The Colorado Graphic* (adv.) on April 20 remarks on a holdup that occurred in James R. Hoffman's office while he was out! And for lagniappe (as we Huey Long supporters say) added, "It's a good thing for the holdup that he wasn't in!"

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## OBSERVE THE MODERN APPLICATION OF THESE SOLEMN WORDS

From the columns of the *Gilpin Observer* for September 14, 1899:

"Hard drinks have slain their thousands, but soft drinks have, nevertheless, contributed to the list of fatalities. Instances in proof of the danger which lies in wait for the unwary absorber of the latter class of potations are not wanting in recent revelations of the news columns. Not long ago a man departed this life in an eastern asylum because

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\*You take it, Clarke. You can.

he was inordinately intemperate in the use of tea. An incautious colored man in Atlanta took a sip or two of a domestic concoction of alum and water. Shortly afterward he took a fit and gave up the ghost in great agony. A more recent case is that of the New York young man who died after a 'pop' debauch. What small boy is a stranger to the many-hued delights of 'pop'? It effervesces and tastes like branchwater inadequately sweetened, but it has bubbled for long years without being suspected of homicidal tendencies. Until the fatal orgy of the New York young man its record for harmlessness was unbroken. This victim of the insidious 'pop,' it is claimed, filled his internal vacuum with seventy bottles of the dangerous fluid per day. And he kept on loading up at this rate for three days in succession! Of course when such a strain as this was put upon his containing capacity something had to pop; and so the 'pop' drove the life out of him and he went hence. Such is the fate of those who have not the strength of mind to defy the tempter when he comes clad in the seductiveness of soft drinks. Not all have the physical strength to resist the inroads of the inordinate fizzicking to which these apparently innocuous beverages subject the human organism. If temptation comes to the thirsty to drink immoderately of tea, spiked lemonade or the colorful 'pop,' it should be stubbornly resisted, else the end will be certain and the denouement sad."

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#### INQUIRY DEPARTMENT

Q. In 12 DICTA 138 is an article entitled "Abou Ben Hilliard." What is an "abou"?

A. An "abou" is a misprint for "about."

Q. The article is by Anonymous Contributor. Please give a short biography of him.

A. He was born in Iowa January 9, 1868. He is now a member of the Colorado Supreme Court.

Q. At the end of the article it says, "Abou Ben Hilliard, may his tribe increase!" Does this refer to the Judge's progeny, and if so is the quoted sentence the consensus of the bar?

A. Yes. No.

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#### TRIAL BY BATTLE AND WITHOUT BENEFIT OF CLERGY

Mr. Editor-in-Chief, Dear Sir: Do we get a by line this month? You know, "By B. C. Hilliard, Jr."? We notice whenever we send you some hot copy you take care to pin it on us. Or will you take the rap this issue?

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#### NEXT MONTH

Trial Judges, California style, by Isaac Melman, Esq.