

An Ancient Riddle.

How an old Woman won a Prize.

A great many years ago, a prominent merchant of Fawcett promised to an eccentric old woman named Lucy King, living in the neighboring town of Berkley, a desirable prize, if, taking her subject from the Bible, she would compose a riddle which he could not guess. She won the prize with the following:

Adam, God made out of dust,
But thought it best to make me first;
So I was made before the man,
To answer God's most holy plan.

No fear of Death doth trouble me,
No happiness ne'er or shall see;
To Heaven I shall never go,
Or to the grave, or Hell below.

My body God did make complete,
But without arms, or legs, or feet;
My ways and acts he did control,
But to my body gave no soul.

Now when these lines you slowly read,
To search your Bible with all speed;
For that my name is recorded there,
I honestly to you declare.

A living being I became,
And Adam gave to me my name;
I from his presence then withdrew,
And none of Adam never knew.

I did my Master's law obey,
Nor from it ever went astray;
Thousands of miles I go in fear,
But seldom on the earth appear.

For purpose wise, which God did see,
He put a living soul in me,
A soul from me my God did claim,
And took from me that soul again.

For when from me the soul had fled,
I was the same as when first made;
And without hands, or feet, or soul,
I travel on from pole to pole.

I labor hard by day and night,
To fallen man I give great light;
Thousands of people, young and old,
Will by my death great light behold.

No right nor wrong can I conceive,
The scriptures I cannot believe;
Although my name therein is found,
They are to me an empty sound.

Boston, March 10th 1882

In a recent issue of the Standard I noticed the riddle of Lucy King.
Here is the answer.

God made the "whale" without a soul,
To wander wide from pole to pole;
But when the "fish" had Jonah swallowed,
As in the deep the prophet wallowed,
It had a soul enshrined within,
With prayer secured relief from sin;
Then on the distant shore was shed
The prophet sent to save the dead.
As light thus shone on God's command,
So whales shed light o'er all the land,
To all mankind - the slave and queen,
Unless they burn the "Devosene".

Dates worth Remembering.

1180. Glass windows first used for light.	1643. Barometer invented by Torricelli, in Italy.
1236. Printing first put to houses.	1646. Ship guns invented.
1252. Lead pipes for carrying water.	1649. Steam engine invented.
1290. Tallow candles for lights.	1650. Bread first made from yeast.
1299. Spectacles invented by an Italian.	1663. Fire-engine invented.
1302. Paper first made from linen.	1756. Steam-engine improved by Watt.
1341. Woolen cloth first made in England.	1759. Cotton first planted in the United States.
1410. Art of painting in oil.	1785. Stereotyping invented in Scotland.
1440. Art of printing from movable types.	1788. Animal magnetism discovered by Mesmer.
1477. Matches first made in Germany.	1832. Telegraph invented by Morse.
1540. Variations in the compass first noticed.	1839. Daguerrotype made by Daguerre, in France.
1543. Pins first used in England.	
1590. Telescope invented by Porta and Jansen.	
1590. Jupiter's satellites discovered by Jansen.	
1601. Tea first brought to Europe from China.	
1603. Theatre erected in England by Shakespeare.	
1610. Thermometer invented by Sanctorius.	
1619. Circulation of blood discovered by Harvey.	
1625. Brick first made of any required size.	
1626. Printing in colors invented.	
1629. Newspaper first established.	
1630. Shoe-buckles first made.	
1635. Wine made from grapes in England.	
1639. Pendulum clock invented.	
1641. Coffee brought to England.	
1641. Sugar-cane grown in the West Indies.	