For devotees of the Double-Crostic and similar word games, we present a little problem involving the identification of a verse taken from the King James Version (Authorized Version) of the Holy Bible.

Listed below are the definitions of 13 English words. Each definition is followed by a number of blanks equal to the number of letters in the word defined. Enter the answer words corresponding to the definitions on these blanks.

Under each of the blanks we have printed a number. This is the numerical position of the letter in the verse that we have selected from the Bible. Since our verse uses 81 letters, the numbers run from 1 to 81 inclusive, and the total number of letters in the 13 words defined is 81.

As you identify the words called for by the definitions and insert them on the blanks provided, transfer those letters to the correspondingly numbered blanks printed below the definitions, representing the Bible verse. If you have identified the 13 answer words correctly, the transferred letters will spell the Bible verse.

To make the problem a little more challenging, to give it that special WORD WAYS flavor, we have omitted the spaces between successive words in the Bible verse, running the 81 letters together. Thus, you do not know at the start where one word ends and the next one begins. On the other hand, you do not need to find all or even most of the 13 answer words to solve our problem. Entering as few as 4 or 5 of the 13 words into the Bible verse correctly will enable you to recognize some key word in that verse. With a good concordance, such as Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, you will then be able to recognize the verse within minutes. After you have filled in the correct verse, it is a purely mechanical matter to obtain the remaining answer words by transferring letters from the verse to the answer blanks above it.

The correct solution to our problem will be included in the next issue of WORD WAYS.

DEFINITIONS

1. Celebration

2. Fantastic Device
3. Horse
4. Bored
5. Small Loudspeaker
6. Elf
7. Weir
8. Wealth
9. Art Cult
10. Voluptuary
11. Posteriorly
12. Indian
13. Concubine

BIBLE VERSE

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 |
| 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 |

This puzzle problem is a modified version of one designed by Mr. Edward L. Lee of St. Petersburg, Florida, one of America's outstanding puzzle constructors.

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DOUBLES

For quite a long time, we were enamored of the word SUBBOOKKEEPER, seemingly the only one in English containing four consecutive pairs of like letters ("bbookkee").

Little did we know that, lurking within the pages of A Handy Book of Curious Information by William S. Walsh (Lippincott, Philadelphia, 1913) was the name of a village in Wales sporting seven consecutive pairs of like letters. Here is that phenomenal name, as given on Page 640: LLYYNNGGFFWWDDAUR.

Unfortunately, the name appears to be apocryphal, as we have been unable to find it in any Welsh gazetteer. Perhaps you will have better luck.