

EDITORIAL

An Editorial ? The most expendable part of a journal, we are told ; and yet, in some odd, sentimental way, the most expected. For people *do* expect editorials ; no respectable journal, or perhaps no journal of a respectable association is a better way of putting it, would dream of going to press without an editorial any more than a climber would dream of sallying forth without trousers. And yet to the *Journal* it is no more than the surreptitiously acquired cheese straw or potato crisp is to the copious banquet that follows. It used to be all the rage to write editorials like this—

It is Your Editor's proud privilege once again to produce for your edification, and, we may be so bold as to say, delight, yet another edition of the *M.A.M. JOURNAL*. We hope this edition will prove acceptable to the Membership and will be found worthy to take an honoured place in the archives of our illustrious Association. It is now a twelvemonth since Your Editor essayed to produce the predecessor to this *Journal*, and this past year has, we may stoutly aver, been a conspicuously successful one in the annals of our little fellowship. We can, all of us, feel humbly proud, if not to say proudly humble, of the events of the past year, and we most earnestly hope that the ensuing year will be crowned with similar glory. Assuredly. . . .

Well, this at least is a good game to play amongst yourselves. Score two points each for prolix phrases and unnecessary capital letters, three points for sudden coyness, and five for a really good cliché. The best imitation of Henry James earns another point, but miss a throw for missing a unnecessary comma. Rather more snappy is this—

It if propof'd, purfuant of a goodly hugger—mugger had by uf with Mr. Tomnoddy, Efqr., printer, of thif citey, to produfe oure efteem'd *JOURNAL* eache yeare, to be henceforth publish'd each feptember if members be not too idle to beftir themfelves and to fubmit copy in Good Tyme. For thif goodly difpenfation from oure committye may the faints be praif'd.

In the pafte yeare divers of oure companye have efsay'd ftupendous feats of fkill on rock and fnow of a moft perilouf affect, fomewhat mitigated by the ufe of an *expanfion bolt* on Northe Buttrefs, a practice furely to be condemn'd rather than praif'd, for furely one who fcorns the ufe of Lytel Jugges can be confider'd only af a *DAMNABLE HERETICK*. . . .

However, like Mr. Gladstone's jokes, an editorial ought to be "no laughing matter." For the present, then, we hope that this edition of the *Journal* once more illustrates the pleasing variety of expeditions and occupations indulged in by our members and that it may assist in urging others to do the same, perhaps even to the point of writing about them and so preserving the high rate of employment among Editors.

The sketches are once again the work of Kim Beck