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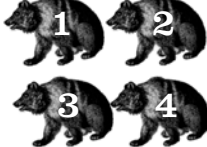
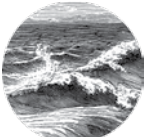
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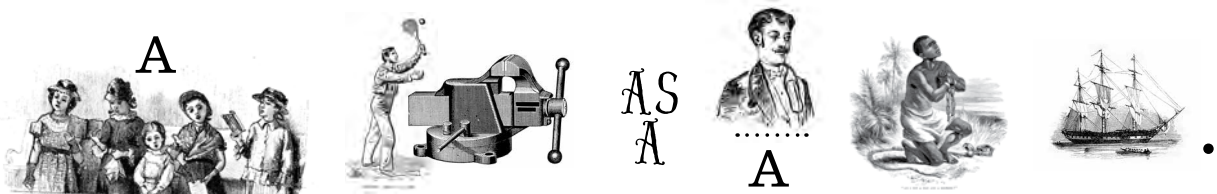
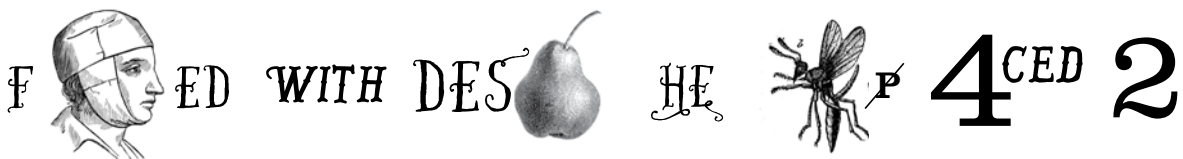
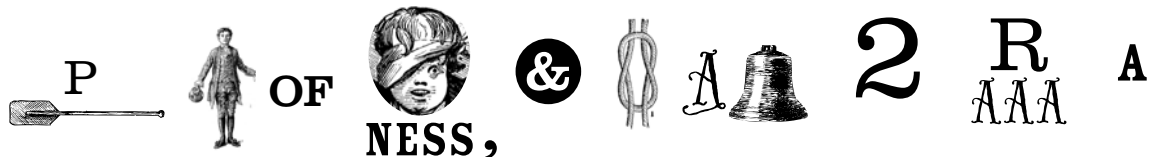
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—THE MILL HOUSE STORY—

Welcome to the Mill House, where we drink to the lives of three men Degraves.

Many tales can be told of great achievement and disgrace that predate your sitting at the tables of this public house, drinking in the fine beer and cheer.

The Mill House, so named for its original intent as a steam powered flour mill, was constructed in 1851 by William Degraves, a man descended from dishonourable forebears as you will see.

The grandfather, Pierre Degraves, was a self serving man born of French origin with a fancy for blowing his own trumpet. As an eye doctor of some esteem he set sail to England in pursuit of a grand career. His claims greatly outweighed his skill, and on failing to cure a poor child of blindness and not able to raise a notorious felon from the dead his reputation was in ruins.

His pockets empty and filled with despair, he was forced to acquire service as a doctor on a slave ship.

The father, Peter Degraves, distanced himself from the scandalous ways of Peirre.

The apple did not fall far from the tree though, and he led a life of similar deceit. As a merchant of fabric his dishonest ways were first revealed when he was caught holding what was not his to take. Thrown behind bars and then later released, he built a ship and set sail with his wife and 8 children for a new start in Van Diemen's Land, Australia.

After engineering a saw mill and spending more years behind bars for old crimes, he later took credit for the building of the Cascade brewery and then, some time after, a flour mill and bakehouse. While historically important and of great energy and enterprise, he was regarded widely as a bully, con man and thief.

The son, William Degraves, became a pioneer of the new city of Melbourne and made for himself a good honest life as a flour miller, leading merchant and squatter of some importance, benefiting greatly from the prosperity of the gold rush of the time, yet sadly passing over to the great majority as a poor man. His good name lives on in Degraves Street for whom it was titled.

So please raise a glass to the 3 men Degraves who made the world a more curious place.