



A CORNER IN WHEAT.

PROPOSITION—Tell just how many grains of wheat Sessa was entitled to.



ACCORDING TO ENCYCLOPEDIAICAL lore, the royal game, or what is now known as chess, was invented by a Hindoo named Sessa, and the king of that country, Shevan the Great, asked Sessa what reward he demanded for his wonderful game. Sessa astonished the king by the apparent moderation of his demand, viz., one grain of wheat for the first square of the chess-board, two for the second, four for the third, eight for the fourth, and so on, always doubling for each square up to the sixty-fourth square of the chess-board.

The king accepted the proposition and referred Sessa to his accountant and treasurer, but was astounded to learn that the entire world could not raise sufficient wheat in one hundred years to pay the debt. Sessa insisted upon the payment of his debt and claimed the ownership of all the wheat of the world.

The game was originally called the royal game, but the king in his

mortification named it chess, which, as explained in Webster, is the name of a vile weed which causes the blight in wheat. To the average mortal the amount of wheat which would be required to pay the debt to Sessa is so large that the mind fails to grasp its immensity, yet, when the story was told to Steinitz he exclaimed: "It is not true; no sane man would have sold such a great invention, even for a thousand times as much!"

The game became popular, however, and so developed and strengthened the gray matter in the brain of the king that he was enabled to solve the great Indian chess problem and save his country. Calling Sessa to him he said: "It is an easy matter to tell how much wheat must be given to you, but the same must be counted accurately. So yourself and as many assistants as you care to engage must go to the public granary and carry away all the wheat you can count, but if your count is not correct you will lose

your head for cheating the treasury."

When Sessa found that a man to whom he had to pay half a rupee a day could not count the grains of wheat in a bushel in two weeks, and that he could buy six bushels for a yen, he threw up the game.

There is said to be a royal road to the solution of this problem, which our puzzlists may use if they can discover it; nevertheless it should be an easy problem in simple arithmetic to tell just how many grains of wheat Sessa was entitled to.

A REBUS.

My first is a letter, an insect, a word
That means to exist; it moves like a
bird.

My next is a letter, a small part of
man,
'Tis found in all climes; search when
you can.

My third is a something seen in all
brawls,

My next you will find in elegant halls
My last is the first of the last part of
day,

Is ever in earnest, but never in play,
My whole gives a light by some men
abhorred,

The blessings from which no pen
can record.

Cypher Ans. 2, 9, 2, 12, 5.

CHARADE.

When Kate the cook prepared the
meal,

My first was in request;

My next is seen in Lamb and veal,

A quarter or a breast—

Which with my whole the table
graced,

And truly 'twas no wonder,

When at the board each guest was
placed,

To see my third thrown under.

A RIDDLE.

Just equal are my head and tail,

My middle slender as can be;

Whether I stand on head or heel,

Is all the same to you or me

But if my head should be cut off,

The matter's true, although quite
strange,

My head and body severed thus

Will then at once to nothing change.

Cypher Ans. 6, 9, 7, 21, 18, 5, 8.

When is a soldier a very charitable
person? When he presents arms
(alms).

Why is the earth like a school
slate? Because boys and girls multi-
ply on the face of it.

Which is the coldest river? The
ice is (Isis).



THE MILKMAN'S RETORT.

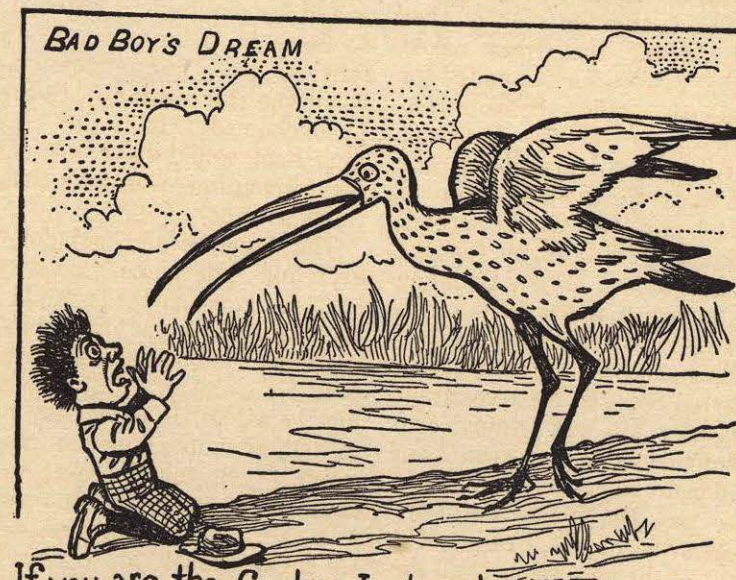
PROPOSITION—Solve these chair conundrums.



HERE IS A BRIGHT bit of humor which evolves a brace of conundrums well worth the guessing. Dolly invites the milkman to be seated and asks him why the wrecked chair is like his bill? He solves the conundrum and retaliates by asking, "What is the difference between the chair and one of his cows?" Then she asks him: "Why the chair is like this dress?" All of which goes to show the way that love begins between clever people.

When is a butcher a thorough thief? When he steals a knife and cuts away with it.

Why is a pleasure trip to Egypt fit only for very old gentlemen? Because it's a see-Nile thing to do.



If you are the Curlew I stoned yesterday, I am awfully sorry."

A CHARADE.

My first is one, or many men;

My second comes apace;

My whole's a pledge to be redeemed
Within a certain space.

Cypher Ans. 8, 15, 19, 20, 1, 7, 5.

In what respects were the govern-
ments of Algiers and Malta as differ-
ent as light is to darkness? One
was governed by deys (days), the
other by Knights (nights).

What instrument of war does the
earth resemble? A revolver.

What is the most warlike nation?
Vacci-nation, because it is always
in arms.

Why is a retired carpenter like a
lecturer? Because he is an ex-
planer.

Why is a bad picture like weak
tea? Because it is not well drawn.

What did Adam first set in the
garden of Eden? His foot.

Why is a new-born babe like a
donkey's tail? Because it was never
seen before.

What is the difference between a
sweep and a poor man in a new suit
of mourning? One is blacked with
soot, the other suited with black.

When is a soldier not half a soldier
When he's in quarters.

A REBUS.

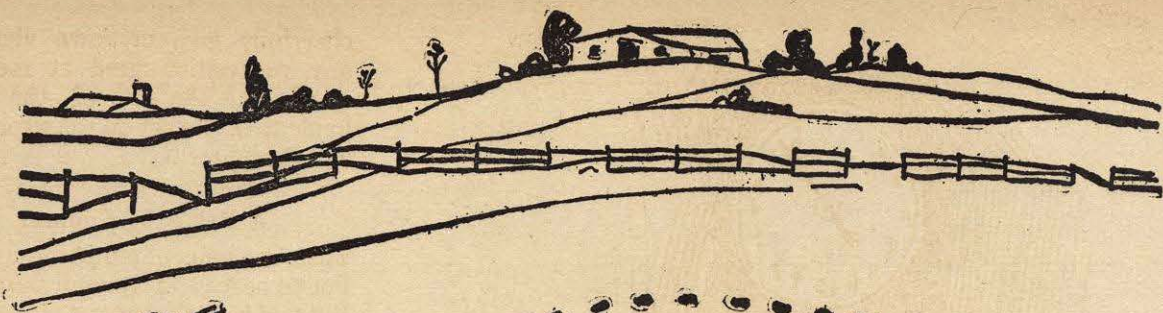
I hope you have two of my first;

My next we will term an extreme;

My whole pertains to ancient tales,
Wild, and romantic as a dream.

Cypher Ans. 12, 5, 7, 5, 14, 4.

Students of geography are asked
to discover the scene of this night-
mare concealed in the description of
the picture.



THE CHRISTMAS TURKEY.



PROPOSITION---How long a chase has the turkey led Jolly Old Santa Claus?

HERE IS A PRETTY puzzle for the juveniles which affords considerable scope for ingenuity and cleverness. This Turkey Gobbler has led "jolly old Santa Claus" a merry chase around the field, as shown by the tracks in the snow, before he was caught. You can see that they entered from the right side and did some lively circling before arriving at their present position, where the gobbler seems to be upon the point of surrendering. Our young folks are asked to study the situation carefully and to tell just how many times Santa Claus must have turned completely

around, during the chase, before pouncing upon the Turkey?

CHARADE.

In every hedge my second is,
As well on every tree,
And when the school-boy acts amiss,
It often is his fee.
My first likewise is always wicked,
Although it does no sin,
My total for my first is fitted,
Is made of brass or tin.
Cypher Ans. 3, 1, 14, 4, 12, 5, 19,
20, 9, 3, 11.

Why are stout gentlemen subject to melancholy? Because they are men of size (sighs).

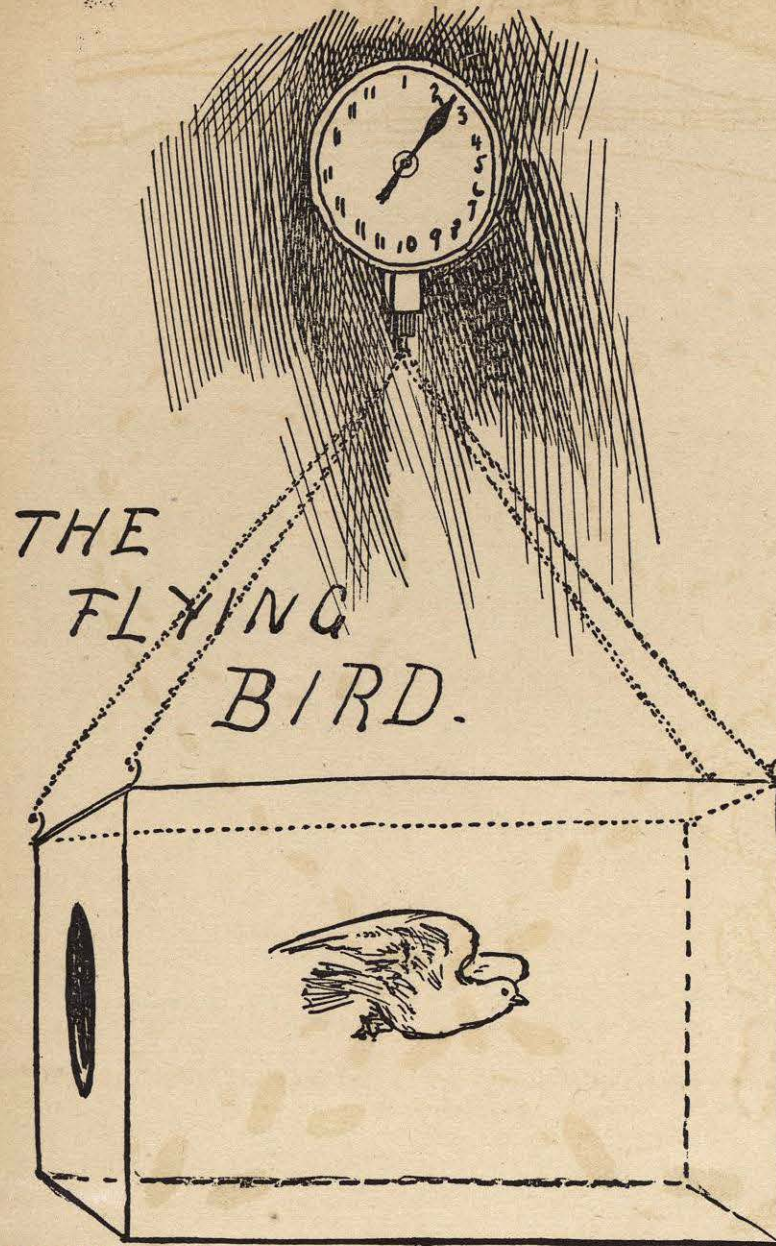
When is a candle in a passion? When it is put out or flares up.

Why is a talkative young man like a young pig? Because, if he lives, he is likely to become a great bore (boar).

Why are laundresses good navigators? Because they are always crossing the line and going from pole to pole.

What is the difference between a tube and a foolish Dutchman? One is a hollow cylinder and the other a silly Hollander.

What is the difference between a good soldier and a fashionable young lady? One faces the powder and the other powders the face.



HERE IS AN ODD little problem which turns upon a point of natural philosophy and common sense mechanical laws, with which every one is supposed to be familiar. There is no catch about it, nor any necessity for putting salt on the bird's tail that I am aware of, and I do not know that I am better qualified to answer the question than any one else. It came to me from Princeton College with the simple query: "Supposing that a bird weighing one ounce flies into a box with only one small opening, and without resting continues to fly round and round in the box, would it increase or lessen the weight of the box?"

I give it as pertaining to a class of instructive questions which I think should be propounded and answered by all who are interested in natural and mechanical science. I will

cheerfully give my own views on any proposition fired at me, and stand, like the rest of the class, liable to be caught on the wrong side of the argument.

A Rebus by Cauning.

There is a noun of plural number,
Foe to peace and tranquil slumber
But add to it the letter s,
And —won'drous metamorphosis—
Plural is plural now no more,
And sweet what bitter was before'
Cares—Caress.

SEEING THE COUNTRY.

Perhaps the clever ones will explain a mystery which turns upon a concealed locality. I never could understand just why or where the Italians get the bears and monkeys which they bring over as a fitting part and parcel of their itinerant musical caravansaries, for, so far as I am aware, there is neither a bear nor a monkey to be found in the whole of Italy, outside of one or two meagre zoological gardens, and yet there exists in the heart of every Italian peasant a deep-rooted hope that he will some time or other be able to buy a bear and a monkey, which will enable him to see America.

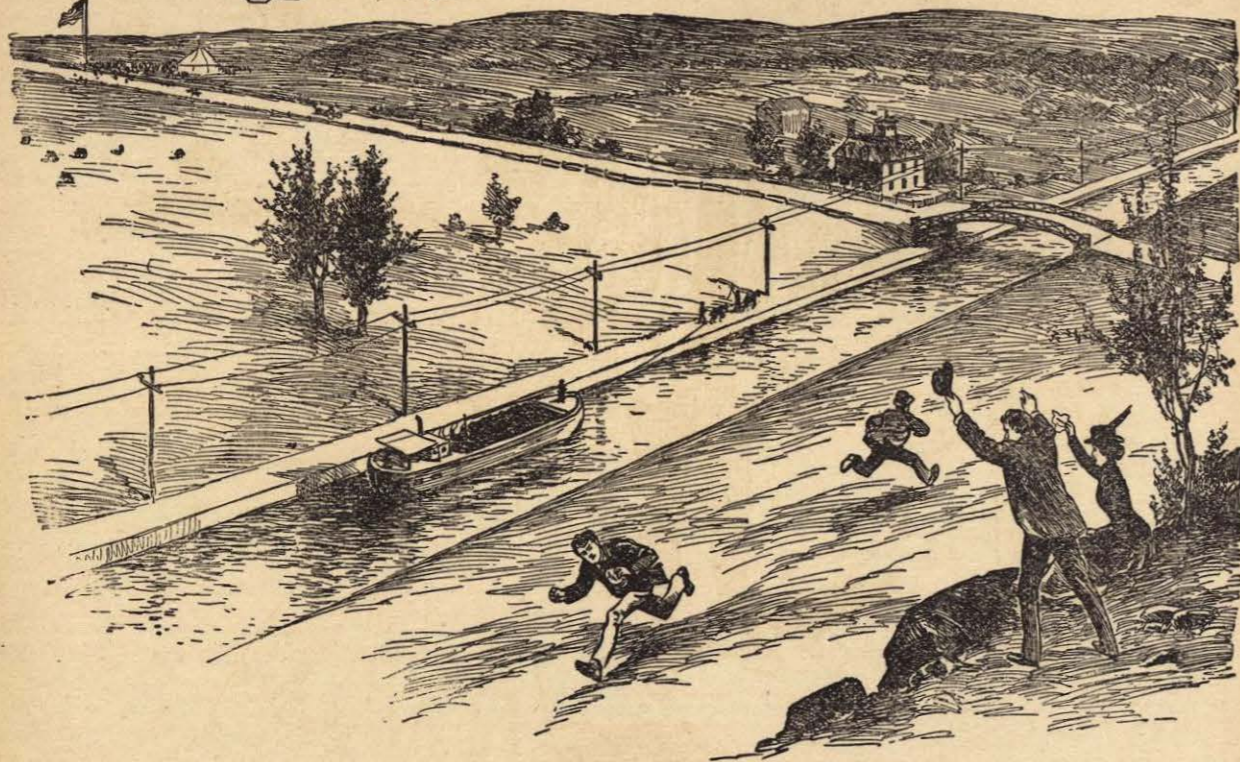
One fellow told me of a brother who had met with great success in conducting a show somewhere in the South. He had forgotten the name, so I just make a sketch of that Italian conducting his show, and ask our young puzzlists to discover the location of that wandering brother, in the description of the picture.



He tramped the country with a cub and a trained monkey.

CROSS-COUNTRY-RUNNING

PROBLEM BY
SAM LOYD.



PROPOSITION—Tell how far apart are the bridges.



HERE IS A PROBLEM from the popular pastime of the "Hare and Hounds," which will interest the young folks,

while at the same time it may cause the sluggish blood to course anew in some of us old-time paper chasers with pleasant recollections of cross-country feats of our college days.

The sketch illustrates a clever and successful ruse of the hound in capturing the hare. The boy running this way is the hound and he is chasing the other fellow, who is supposed to be one of the hares. In the picture it does not look as if the hound was after that particular hare, as they are running in opposite directions.

He is chasing him, however, and very successfully, too, as you will readily see when the ruse is explained, for that is where the point of the problem comes in.

The hound was pursuing the hare, but in place of catching it found that he could just hold his own—in other words, the other fellow was just as good a runner as he was and it was a hopeless task to try to catch him by a direct follow, as he had a good lead of twenty-five yards.

"Home" is shown far back in the picture, marked with an Ameri-

can flag. The hare is 250 yards from the bridge, from whence a straight run of 600 yards at right angles brings him to safety.

It looks hopeless for the hound, doesn't it? But just at that moment the hound realized that there was another bridge to the left, which cannot be seen in the picture, and that by crossing this bridge and taking a cut across the field, through that drove of cows, this hypotenuse line might possibly be shorter than the other one. It was a successful ruse—a sort of happy inspiration, so to speak—for after he had made the successful run and collared his hare, we measured the distance and found that from the exact spot where the hare is now shown to be, the two routes would be equally long. By spinning in the opposite direction, therefore, the twenty-five yards lead was transferred from the hare to the hound, who crossed the other bridge, cut across on the line of the hypotenuse and came in just twenty-five yards to the good.

Of course everyone can see it now, but the puzzle now is to tell just how many feet that hound has to run before he comes to the lucky bridge, which is not shown in the picture.

This problem is presented to our

college students and high school boys, as well as all others mathematically inclined, for the purpose of teaching a simple rule well worth knowing.

Why is a blacksmith's apron like a convent? Because it keeps off the sparks.

Why does a blacksmith never eat his apron? Because it goes against his stomach.

Why is a wick of a candle like Athens? Because it is in Greece (grease).

Why is a fender like Westminster Abbey? Because it contains the ashes of the grate (great).

If you were obliged to swallow a man, what kind of an one would you prefer to swallow? A little Dublin porter.

What four letters of the alphabet would frighten a thief? O I C U (oh, I see you).

Why must a magistrate be cold and chilly? Because he is just ice (justice).

What is the difference between a new five-cent piece and an old-fashioned quarter? Twenty cents.

What is the cheapest way to buy a fiddle? Buy a little medicine and get a vial in?

What profession is a postman? He is a man of letters.

The Golf Puzzle

BY
SAM LOYD



PROPOSITION—Guess the proper distance to drive the ball.



OF COURSE EVERYBODY is playing golf now, and even the lazy ones, who, a few weeks ago, declared how much

pleasanter it was to swing in a shady hammock and watch the others plodding around the golf links, have caught the golf fever and are chasing the ball around the golf links with their minds full of thoughts of how much pleasanter is it to chase the ball around the golf links than it is to be swinging in a shady hammock and to be thinking how much pleasanter, it is etc., etc., D. C., ad lib. But be that as it may, what I mean to infer is, that they have all got it, and unless you are prepared to discuss all the wrinkles and systems of golf, or take in with well-assumed appearance of credulity tales of feats which would make Baron Munchausen blush to the core, you might as well ruminant at home in a shady hammock, etc., etc. I am not much of a golfer, but have been picking up points for a great combination system. One fellow offered to teach me the sharp points if I would "caddy" for him, which

reminded me of the boy who worked his passage from the West on a canal by leading a horse. I have struck a genius who has evolved a winning system based on mathematics. He says: "Just cultivate two strokes of different lengths, one a drive, the other an approach, and play direct toward the hole, so that a combination of the two distances will get there."

What should be the proper length of strokes to learn, to win out in the least possible number of strokes on a nine-hole course, of 150 yards, 300 yards, 250 yards, 325 yards, 275 yards, 350 yards, 225 yards, 400 yards and 425 yards?

When is a dog most like a human being? When he is between a man and a boy.

How does a boy look if you hurt him? It makes him yell Oh! (yellow).

Why didn't the last dove return to the ark? Because she had sufficient ground for remaining away.

Why is a specimen of extra fine handwriting like a dead pig? Because it is done with the pen.

What does a husband do who misses a train by which he promised his wife to return? Catches it when he gets home.

What coat is finished without buttons and put on wet? A coat of paint.

What is the greatest surgical operation on record? Lansing, Michigan.

Why are fixed stars like pens, ink and paper? Because they are stationary (stationery).

Why should a person not like to gaze on the Niagara forever? Because he would have a cataract in the eye.

What bridge is warranted to support any strain? The bridge of a fiddle.

Why are laws like the ocean? The most trouble is caused by the breakers.

Why does an aeronaut dislike to speak about his trips? It is a soar point with him.

Why is a Chinaman never at a loss for a word? Because he always has his cue.

What is the most popular paper at the summer resorts? Fly-paper.



The Chinese Cash Puzzle
BY SAM LOYD

PROPOSITION—To tell the cost of the puppy dog!



AFTER ARRIVING AT a happy understanding with our Celestial neighbors, regarding the payment of the indemnities demanded for the attacks upon our missionaries, and having convinced them of the necessity or advantage of beheading themselves in preference to doing battle with the combined armies of the world, a little light may be thrown upon their methods of finance, as illustrating in a small way some of the difficulties which confronted our peace commissioners in the settlement of the award of damages.

The Chinese coined money thousands of years before the Christian era, but their inability to comprehend the fundamental principles of currency has led them at times into wild and experimental extravagances. In the Flowery Kingdom large transactions are paid in gold ingots, stamped with the date and name of the banker, but the currency of the country consists of taels or cash of fluctuating value. They made the tael thinner and thinner, until 2,000 of them piled

together was less than three inches in height. In like manner the common cash, which is a brass coin with a round, square or triangular hole in the middle, and worth but little more than a mill of our money, is of variable thickness. They compute their value by stringing them on a wire, so as to measure their height in chips or bits, which necessitates considerable aptitude for mental arithmetic in their ordinary transactions, as shown by the following pretty problem which is offered as a fair example:

Supposing that 11 coins with round holes are worth 15 bits, while 11 square ones are worth 16 bits, and that 11 of triangular shape are worth 17 bits, tell how many round square or triangular pieces of cash would be required to purchase that fat little puppy dog, worth 11 bits?

It would be a simple problem to estimate in dollars and cents, but in its present form proved to be an instructive lesson to our Peking commissioners in the settlement of indemnities.

When is a fowl's neck like a bell?
When it's rung for dinner.

Why is a crow the bravest bird in the world? Because it never shows the white feather.

Why is a vote in Congress like a bad cold? Because sometimes the ayes (eyes) have it, and sometimes the noes (nose).

What kind of medicine does a man take for a scolding wife? He takes an elixir (an' he licks her).

Why is a tramp like flannel? Because he shrinks from washing.

Why does a horse eat in a very odd way? Because he eats best when he has not a bit in his mouth.

What is the only organ without stops? A woman's organ of speech.

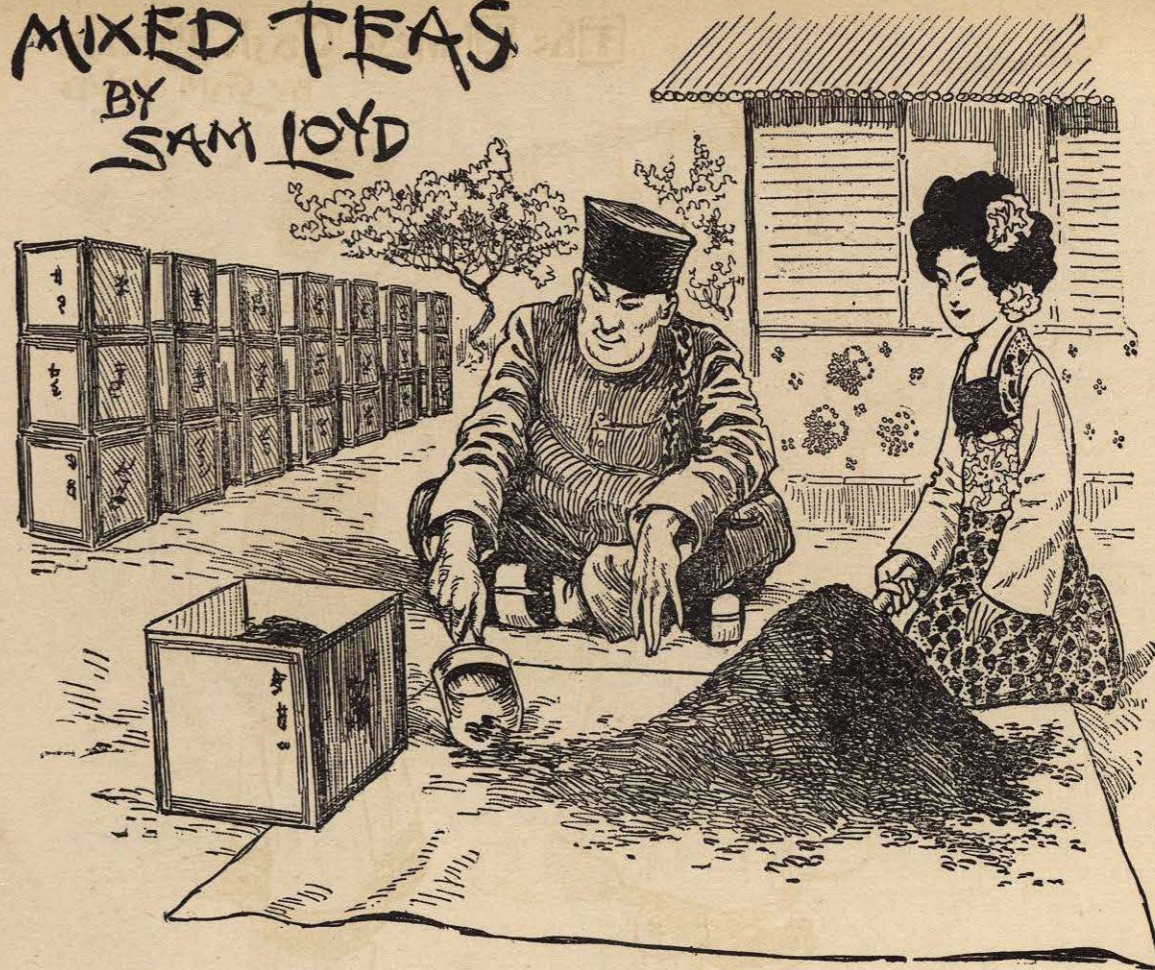
What is the proper length for a young lady to wear her dress? A little above to feet.

What is the difference between a pitcher of water and a man throwing his wife over a bridge? One is water in the pitcher, the other is pitch her in the water.

What confection did they have in the ark? Preserved pairs (pears).

What is the difference between a French pastry cook and a bill sticker? One puffs up paste, the other pastes up puffs.

MIXED TEAS
BY SAM LOYD



PROPOSITION—What are the proportions of green tea to black?



THE BLENDING OF teas with the Orientals is such an exact science that the production of certain flavors resulting from the combination of different kinds of teas is figured down to the millionth part of an ounce! And it is said that the formulas which belong to some noted growers of tea have been kept secret for hundreds of years and cannot be imitated so as to avoid detection.

Just to illustrate the accuracy and importance connected with the science of blending teas and to show the difficulty of penetrating the mystery with which the art is surrounded, attention is called to a simple puzzle based upon two blends, which suggest some idea of the complications pertaining to the mixing of half a dozen varieties.

The mixer has received two cases, perfectly square, but of different sizes, the one of green and the other of black tea, and has mixed them together so as to fill twenty-two square chests of equal size. What are the proportions of green tea to black? It looks as "childlike and bland" as a sum in simple addition which can be answered in a thousand

ways, and so it can, for it merely turns upon guessing the size of two cubes which will hold exactly as much as twenty-two smaller cubes! See! One large chest of black tea and a smaller chest of green tea. The contents being mixed together is divided into twenty-two square chests. Tell the proportions of black and green tea and you will have mastered the pretty problem of Tschen Si.

A grammatical puzzle.

"Let the rich, great and noble banquet in the festal halls,
And pass the hours away, as the most thoughtless revel:
Then seek the poor man's dreary home, whose very dingy walls
Proclaim full well to all how low his rank and level."

Now change just one letter in one single word in the above stanza so as to make it a different word, and by that change totally alter the syntactical construction of the whole sentence, changing the moods and tenses of verbs; turning verbs into nouns; nouns into adjectives and adjectives into adverbs, etc.,

and so make the entire stanza take on quite a different meaning from that which it now has, and all by the substituting of one letter in a single word!

This puzzle has baffled many clever puzzlists and literary scholars as well, and yet the marvelous metamorphosis is effected by changing the first L into S, so that it will read: "Set the rich and noble banquet, etc., etc."

Why is a New York milkman like the fish that swallowed Jonah? Because he finds a profit (prophet) in the water.

Why is it easy to break into an old man's house? Because his gait is broken and his locks are few.

What word of six letters admits of five successive elisions, leaving at each abbreviation a well-known word? Brandy—brand—bran—ran—an—a.

What word is composed of five letters, from which, if you take two, one remains? Stone.

Name two English words, one of which, being of one syllable only, shall contain more letters than the other of five syllables. Stretched—Ideality.