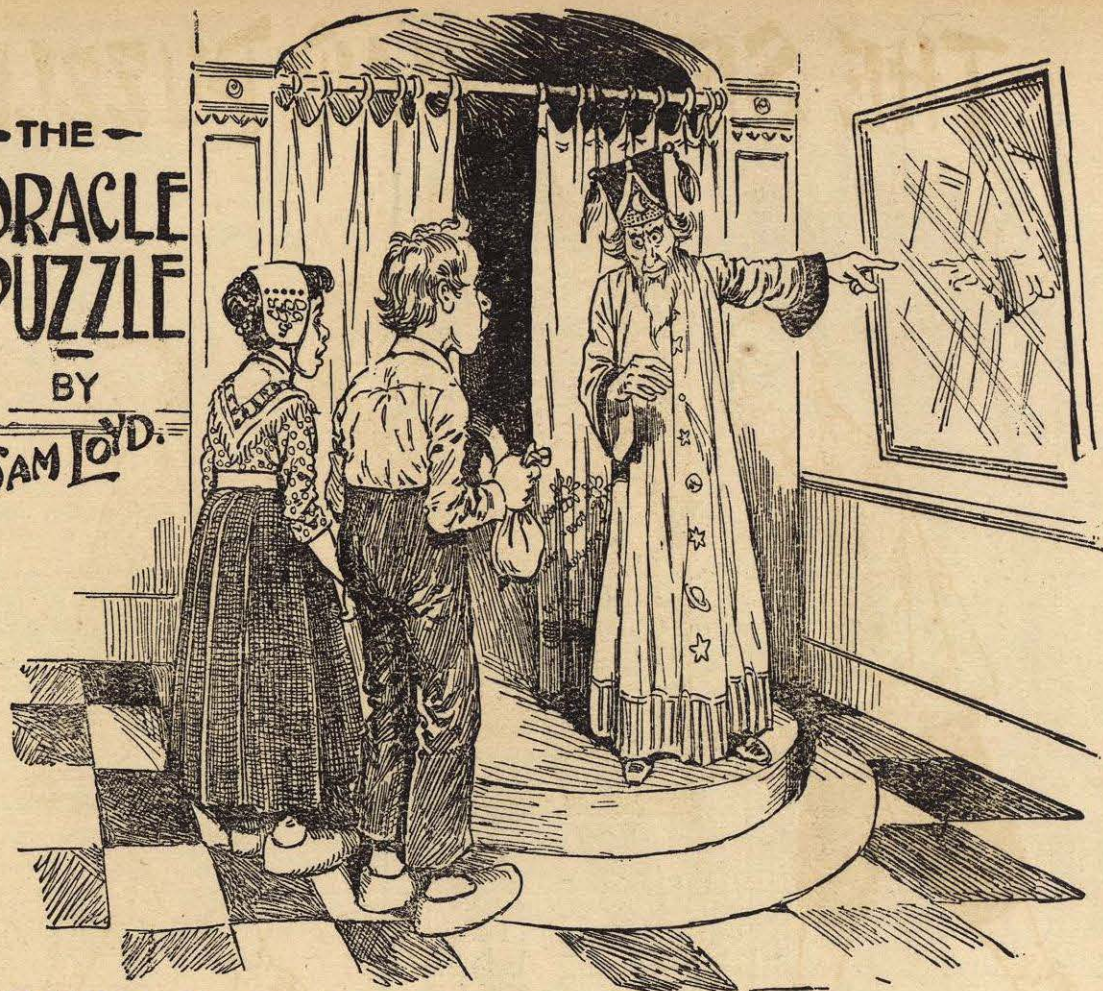


— THE —
**ORACLE
 PUZZLE**
 BY
SAM LOYD.



PROPOSITION—How large will their flocks become?

THE IMPLICIT FAITH which the ancient Greeks Romans and Egyptians placed in the oracles of their gods can best be appreciated when we realize that from the declaration of a war down to the trading of a cow, no transaction of any kind whatever was undertaken without the advice and approbations of the oracles. In the famous painting of Zeus (Jupiter) at Dodona, two peasants are shown to be consulting the oracle about some trifling affair, and are directed in a commanding way towards a mirror of polished steel.

To illustrate the overwhelming importance and dignity, or rather of mystery with which things of insignificance were surrounded, the puzzle sketch is given as showing two poor peasants who wish to know whether the great Jupiter will smile auspiciously upon the purchase of a little lamb and goat!

"They shall increase," said the oracle, "until the sheep multiplied by the goats show a product which, reflected in the sacred mirror will show the number of the entire flock!"

There is a certain ambiguity and

mystery about the words of the oracle, nevertheless it seemed to be understood by the peasants that prizes would be distributed among those who mastered the problem, so we present it for the consideration of our puzzlists.

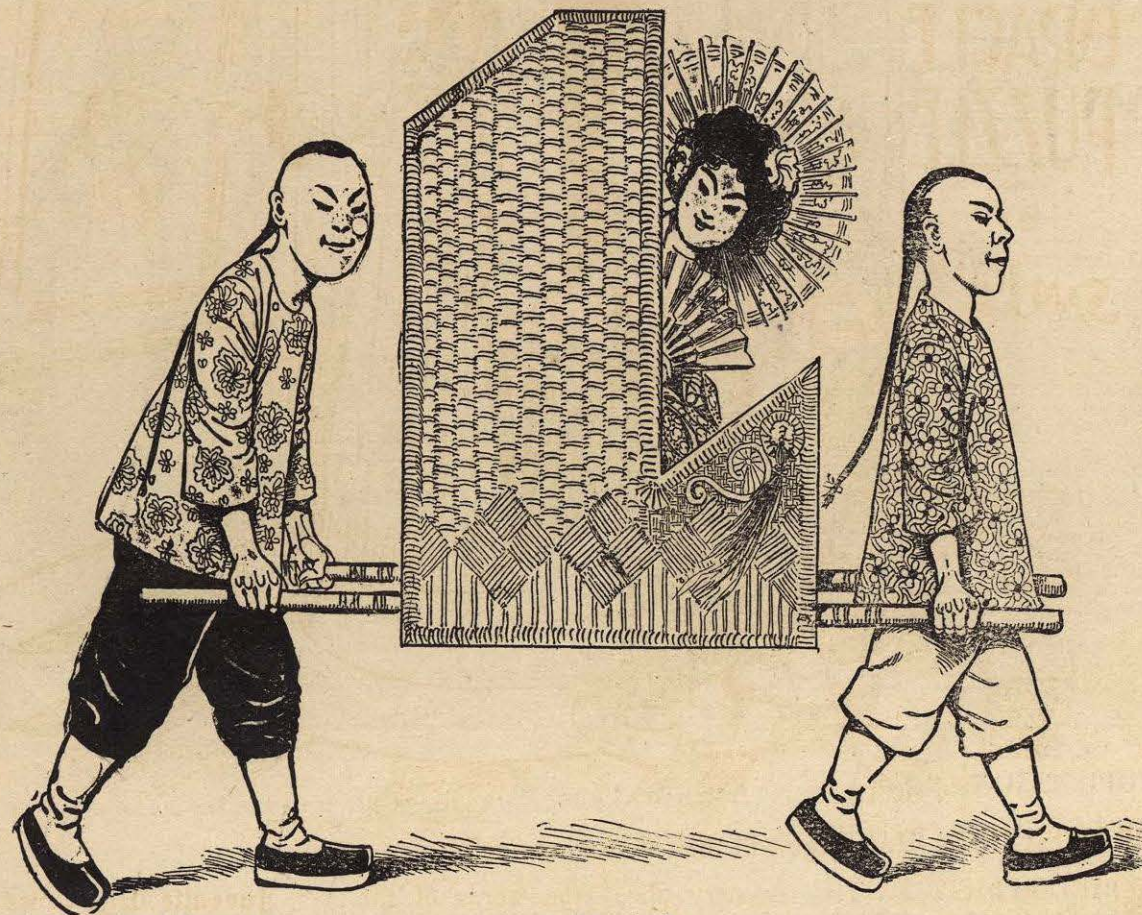
How to swallow a door. Bolt it.

Juvenile Criss-Cross Puzzle

Here is another missing-word or "neck-tie puzzle" as it might be termed, for the young folks to ponder over. Find a word which when placed in the vacant space on the bow, by being read twice makes the sentence correct by going around the circle.



THE SEDAN CHAIR PUZZLE.



PROPOSITION—Show how to close the sedan chair.

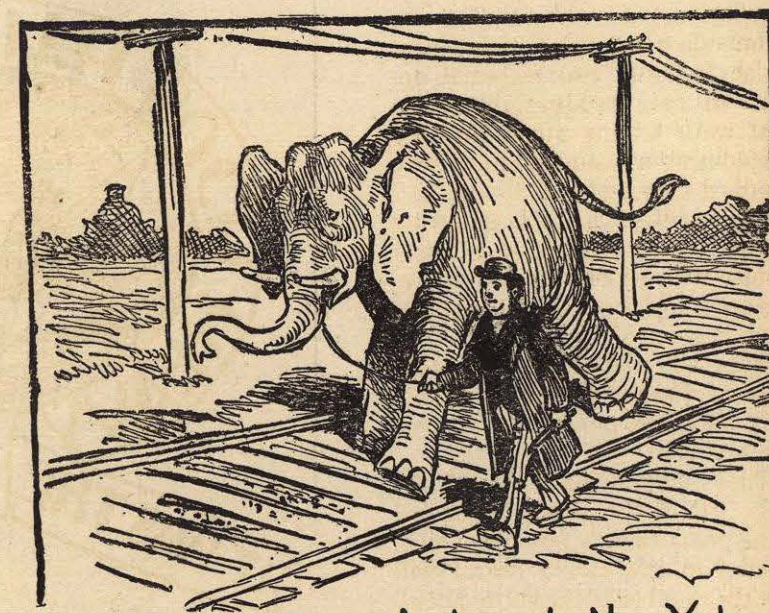
SPEAKING ABOUT the modes of conveyance in China," says a writer who has spent the most of his life in the Flowery Kingdom, "one soon gets used to being carried around in a sedan chair, which is far more comfortable and expeditious than a hack. These chairs are made of rattan wicker work and remind you very much of those little Chinese puzzle boxes, made of colored straws so cleverly put together that you cannot discover where they are joined together"—all of which is very suggestive of a clever puzzle, for those sedan chairs will close up so as to make a covered box when it rains, and yet the closest examination will not detect where the pieces are joined. To illustrate the puzzle you are asked to cut the sedan chair into the fewest possible pieces, which will fit together and form a perfect square, so that the men will appear to be carrying a closed box.

What is a young lady who refuses you? Much too "no"ing.

Students of concealed geography are given an opportunity to find the locality from whence Barnum was once compelled to lead an obstinate elephant which had taken a dislike to railroading.

What is the difference between a spendthrift and a pillow? One is hard up, the other is soft down!

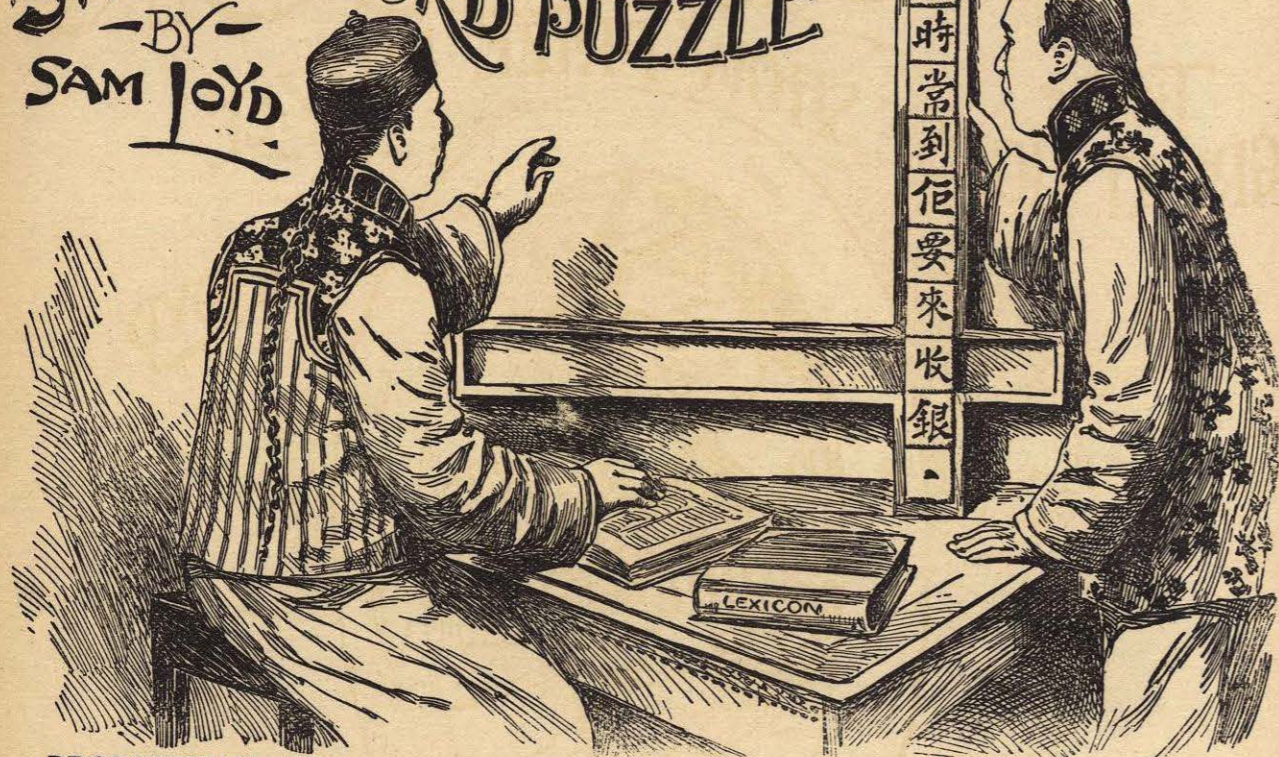
Which is the most difficult river to cross? The Arno, because there Arno boats there!



When Barnum brought Jumbo on to New York.

A CHINESE SWITCH-WORD PUZZLE

BY SAM LOYD



PROPOSITION—Select a twelve letter word and change its position in the fewest number of moves.

HERE IS AN INTERESTING word puzzle built upon the lines of my old 14-15 puzzle, in that there is supposed to be a letter placed upon each of the twelve moveable blocks, which reading from top downwards spell a correct word. The puzzle is to slide them about in a groove so as to make the word read correctly from the left to the right.

It will be readily understood that any twelve-letter word may be employed to solve the puzzle, but that every word will produce different results, so that some words will be better than others, and it is largely a matter of luck and experiment to see who can hit upon the best word which will solve the puzzle in the fewest possible number of manipulations.

More Trouble.

I will ask our young puzzlists to discover the locality of another matter which seems to be very perplexing. I was reading about the opinions of a returned missionary, for many years a resident in China, who says: "The Boxers really had but little to do with the recent disturbances. The Orientals, as a class,

are so extremely ignorant and superstitious that any little incident like the stealing of an apple by a monkey is liable to incite a riot, which, being attributed to the influence of evil demons, is liable to lead to massacres and rebellion. I am certain that more trouble is brewing."

From the positive manner in

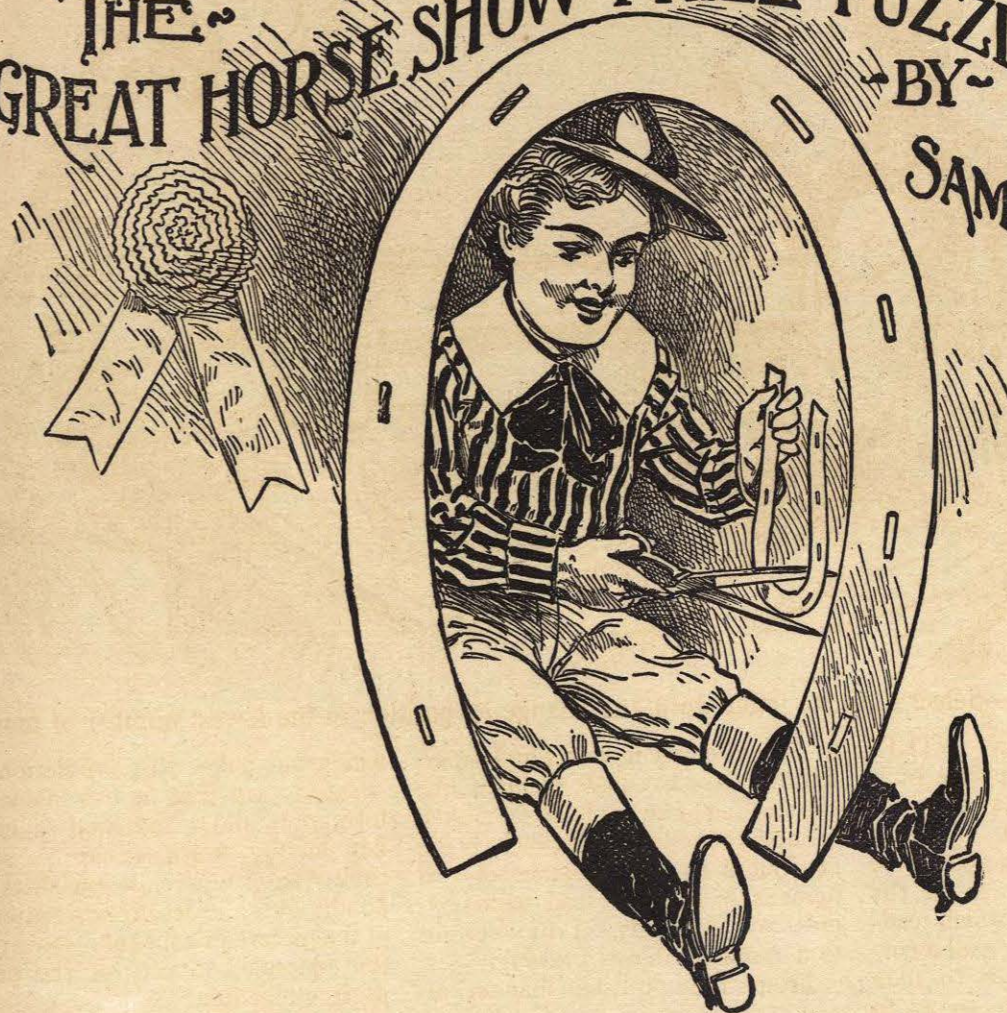
which he makes this prediction, it is safe to say that he has inside information about somebody's monkey having stolen an apple, so I shall ask our juvenile puzzlists to ponder over the descriptive sentence of the picture in hopes of discovering the concealed locality of the prospective rebellion.



"Mama, the monkey ate my apple, core and all."

GOOD LUCK

THE GREAT HORSE SHOW PRIZE PUZZLE BY SAM LOYD



PROPOSITION—With two straight cuts divide the horseshoe into seven pieces, with one nail hole in each piece.

HERE IS A SOUVENIR puzzle based upon the goblin story of "The Golden Horse-shoe," which told how it was cut into seven pieces, with a nail hole in each piece, by two strokes of a sword, and how the seven pieces were then suspended by ribbons around the necks of the seven children, as lucky talismans.

It is to be assumed that after giving the first cut the pieces may be piled up before giving the second blow, so as to divide those first pieces again, but the cuts must be straight and there must be no folding or bending of the paper. I showed the puzzle to a clever little jockey at the recent Horse Show. He made a paper horse-shoe, and with the first cut divided it into three pieces; then

by laying them together, by the second cut he succeeded in getting six pieces. The trick, however, is to get the seventh piece, and while it is really a simple puzzle it is sufficiently interesting to call for some little study.

After you have solved the puzzle as stated, you are invited to try a second stipulation of the problem which is more difficult to discover. In how many pieces can the horseshoe be divided by two straight cuts?

Why is a plum cake like the ocean? Because it contains many currants.

What street in London puts you in mind of a tooth which has pained you for a long time? Long Acre.

Why does an aching tooth impose silence on the sufferer? Because it makes him hold his jaw.

A REBUS.

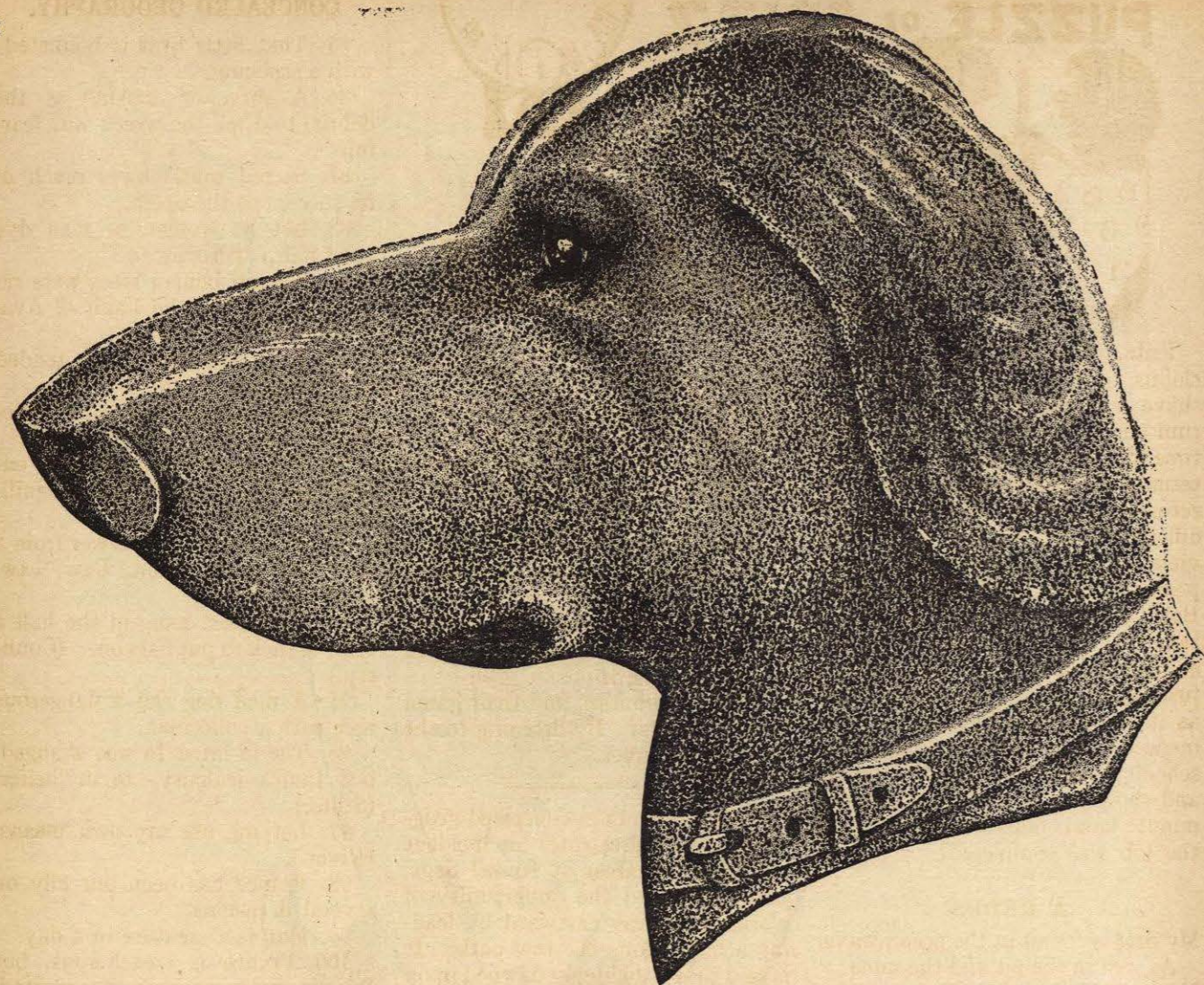
A selfish, idle race are we
And sots in us their image see;
But place the head upon the tail,
And when we're advertised for sale,
Ye sons of luxury, beware!
Destruction spreads a tempting snare.

Cypher Ans. 19, 23, 9, 14, 5.

What kind of essence does a young man like when he pops the question? Acqui-essence.

What is that which by losing an eye has nothing left but a nose? A noise.

Why are the makers of the Armstrong gun the most dishonest persons in Her Majesty's service? Because they rifle all the guns, forge the materials, and steel all the gun breeches.



PROPOSITION—How would you cut this gingerbread dog's head into two pieces of the same shape?

THERE IS A PRACTICAL problem in simple division which is calculated to baffle some of our young puzzlists for the reason that it will not yield to ordinary arithmetic. You see, Toodles has received the present of a gingerbread dog's head and is told that she must divide the same evenly with her little brother. In her anxiety to be fair and equitable in the matter she wishes to discover some way to divide the cake into two pieces of equal shape and size.

How many of our clever puzzlists can come to her assistance by showing how the dog's head may be divided into equal halves?

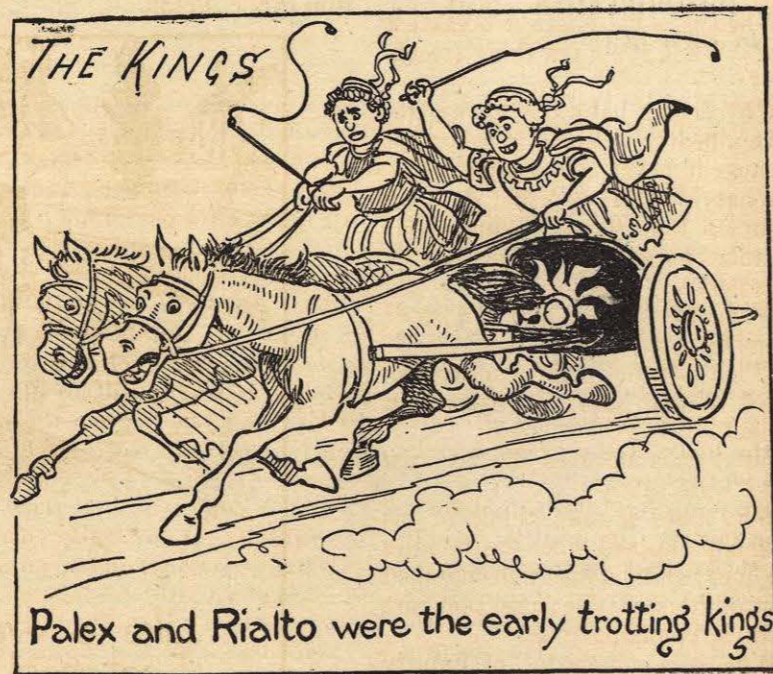
My first makes company,
My second shuns company,
My third assembles company,
My whole puzzles company.
Co-nun-drums.

Name that which with only one eye put out has put a nose left?

THE KINGS.

Our study in concealed geography presents two ancient and famous racers, so the problem is for our

young friends to discover something about their pedigree by finding the scene of their prowess hidden in the description of the picture.



Fritz, the calculating barber, claims to have given a first-class shave and hair cut, including bay rum and conversation in the record time of fifteen minutes. The International Association, however, refuses to accept the same as an official record because the kodak view, as shown does not give the position of the hands on the clock. Both Fritz and his patron maintain that they noticed that at the end of the feat, the minute hand was just as far ahead of the hour hand as it was behind it when he commenced! Cannot some of our clever schoolchildren come to the rescue and show just where the hour and minute hands must have been when the job was completed?

A REBUS.

My first is found in the ocean wave,
As well in the pit and the mine;
My second below the surface we have
Where never the sun can shine.
My whole the festal board to grace
But seldom fails to find a place.
Cypher Ans. 19, 1, 12, 20, 3, 5, 12,
12, 1, 18.

When is a baby like a breakfast cup? When it's a tea thing (teething).

Why does a baby boy always receive a hearty welcome in a family? Because it never comes a-miss.

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

When is a sailor like a corpse? When he is in the shrouds.

When is a sick man a contradiction? When he is an impatient patient.

What does an artist like to draw best? His salary.

Why does a man think of his mother's slippers when he handles the lines behind a fine, well-matched pair of horses? Because they are such a spanking pair.

Why is a committee of inquiry like a cannon? It makes a report.

A REBUS.

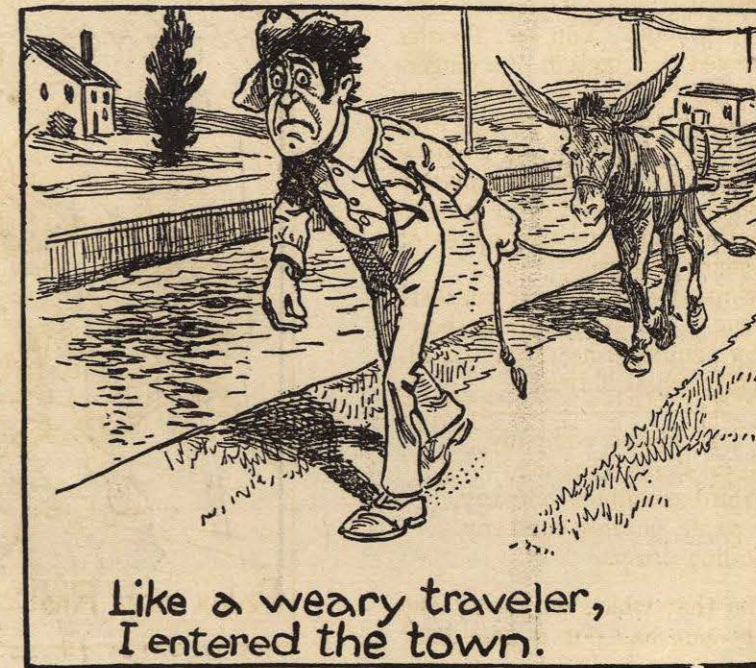
My first's an ugly insect,
My next an ugly brute;
My whole an ugly phantom
Which naught can please or suit.
Cypher Ans. 2, 21, 7, 2, 5, 1, 18.

What is more wonderful than a horse that can count? A spelling bee.

Why are tallest people she laziest? Because they are always longer in bed than oshers.

How can hunters find their game in the woods? By listening to the bark of the trees.

Here is a study in concealed geography which illustrates an incident in the early career of Russel Sage, when he seized the opportunity of working his way eastward by leading a mule along the tow path. It is said that it suddenly dawned upon him that it was a case of a donkey leading a donkey, for if he had to walk he might as well do it without leading another donkey, so he struck out for himself at a certain point, which will be found in his description of the sketch.



CONCEALED GEOGRAPHY.

85. That little brat is bonneted with a stocking.

86. A surveyor, looking at the debris, told me the wreck was fearful.

87. Sacred music owes much of its success to the opera.

88. Let no woman or man dye their hair. (Province.)

89. Several banian trees were required to shelter the Fakir of Ava. (Country.)

90. It is said that Nepos tended bar at Rome.

91. One lie generally necessitates many.

92. Men are ruined through entertainments of too great magnificence.

93. If you want an answer from a daw, ask a question. Caw, caw, caw.

94. You must hang in the hall a brad or tack to put hats on. (Country.)

95. A mad dog ran a dangerous race with a policeman.

96. The ill-fated Io was changed, by Juno's jealousy, to a heifer. (State.)

97. Let me use my own means. (River.)

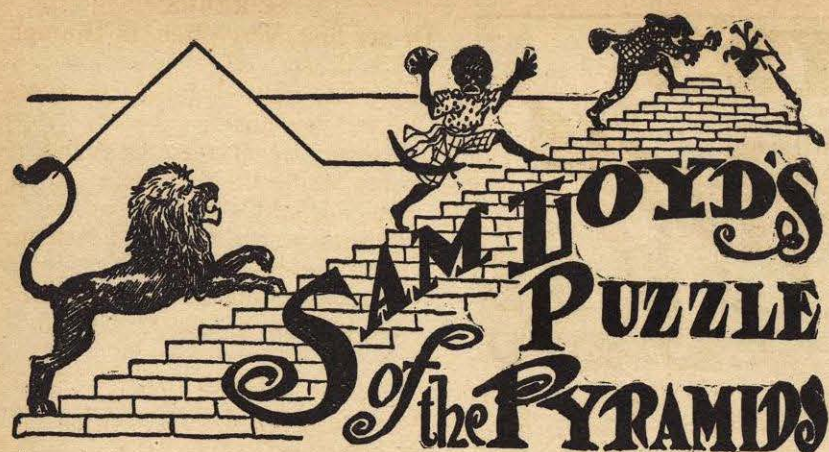
98. France has been our ally on several occasions.

99. Man is a creature of a day.

100. France is treacherous, but Prussia may perhaps be trusted. (Country.)

101. Never is error long triumphant. (River.)

Spell one word with the letters: Great helps. (Telegraphs.)



A simple but interesting problem developed from a thrilling adventure which befell me during my ascent of the pyramids. The guide, as you may observe, was armed with a sword for the purpose of slaying any lions which might come our way, and it was stipulated that I was to have the skins from any we might capture. We were just preparing to climb the smaller of the Cheops when one of the beasts which infest that neighborhood came in view. I hastened to the top to place my belongings in safety, taking five steps at a time, my guide six, and the lion seven. The situation is somewhat complicated, as the sketch shows that none of the measurements will bring any one of the parties to the exact summit. Nevertheless, despite the fact of the lower steps being out of view, you will find sufficient data to estimate the exact height of that little pyramid.

I may say incidentally, that the rascally guide whom I instructed to save the lion's skin while I deposited my belongings in safety must have stolen the same, as I never saw him again.

A REBUS.

Let go! let go! you naughty first,
In my gown you'll cause my second,
And make my wrath impetuous
As my whole is ever reckoned.
Ans. 3, 21, 18, 18, 5, 14, 20.

A CHARADE.

In Africa once, delighting to range,
On the tail of my owner I sped!
But now I adorn, oh wonderful change,
Instead of the tail, a new owner's head.
Ostrich feather.

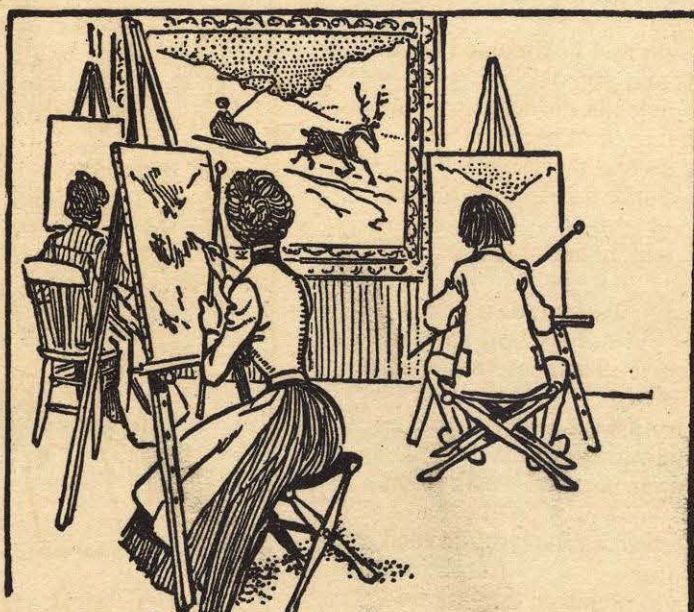
Why does a railway official punch a hole in your ticket? To let you through.

A REBUS.

In olden days great was my power,
Oft have I saved the embattled tower
From the invading foe;
Transpose me, ah! how great my fall,
I am then the smallest of the small,
And lowest of the low.
Ans. 13, 15, 1, 20.

To give the young folks a chance to exercise their ingenuity, it may be said that Dauber, the artist, is back from Europe, where he has been studying the old masters. He brought a portfolio of paintings which bear witness to his industry, but when he showed me a picture of a deer sketched from life, and offered to bet I could not guess where he painted it, I said Dusseldorf at once, for I have seen a class of twenty sketching that same picture at the Academy, many moons before he was born.

How many of our puzzlists can discover the locality of the scene of the painting concealed in the description.



Art class (at Dusseldorf) in landscape painting.

A REBUS.

Entire I am capital; curtail me
and I am capital still, but behead
and transpose me and I am looking
for capital. Ans. 6, 21, 14, 4.

A CHARADE.

My first is four-sixths of a step that
is long,
My second a person of state;
My whole is a thing that is known
to be wrong,
And is a strong symptom of hate.
Cypher Ans. 19, 20, 18, 9, 11, 9,
14, 8.

A REBUS.

My first when in a circle found,
Betakes to whirling round and round
My second, elevated high,
Calmly surveys the passer by;
My friendly whole acts like a brother
Not for himself, but for another.
Cypher Ans. 19, 16, 15, 11, 5, 19, 13,
1, 14.

If I were to bite off the end of
your nose what would the magis-
trate compel me to do? Keep the
peace (piece).

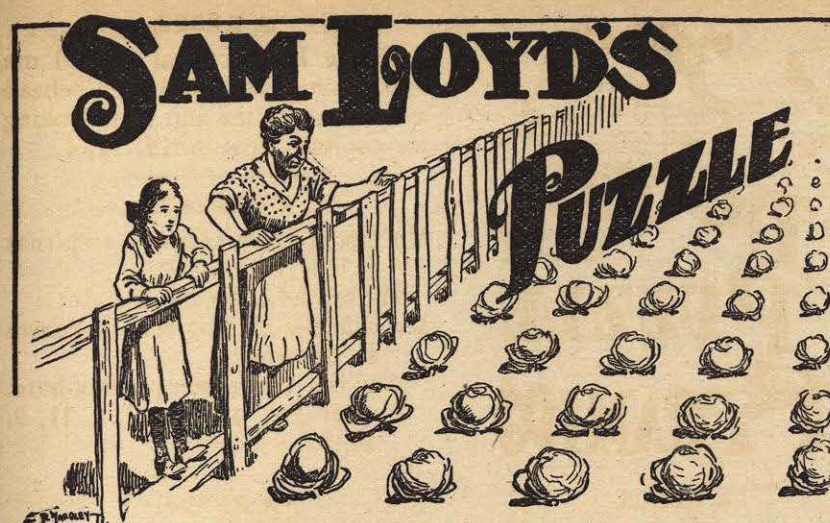
Why is a child with a cold in its
head like a winter's night? Be-
cause it blows, it snows (its nose).

Why are the complaints of mar-
ried people like the noise of the
waves on the shore? Because they
are the murmurs of the tied (tide).

When is a lover like a tailor?
When he presses his suit.

How many peas would you sup-
pose there are in a pint? One P.

Why is a man committing murder
like a hen walking across the street?
Because it's a foul proceeding.



In this odd little puzzle, which is a simple but instructive one, Mrs. Wiggs is explaining to Lovey Mary that she has a larger square cabbage patch now than she had last year, and will therefore have 211 more cabbages.

How many of our mathematical experts and agriculturists can estimate upon Mrs. Wigg's crop of cabbage heads so as to get a line upon the Saurkraut Trust?

A CHARADE.

On the casement pane the wind beat high,
Never a star was in the sky;
All Kenneth Hold was wrapt in gloom,
And Sir Evererd slept in a haunted room.
I sat and sang beside his bed;
Never a single word I said,
Yet did I scare his slumber;
And a fitful light on his eye full glistened,
And his cheek grew pale as he lay and listened,
For he thought and he dreamed that the fiends and jays
Were reckoning o'er his fleeting days,
And telling out their number.
Was it my second's ceaseless tone?
On whose small hand he laid his own—
The hand which trembled in his grasp,
Was crushed by his convulsive clasp.
Sir Everard did not fear my first,
He had seen it in shapes that men deem worst,
In many a field and flood;
Yet, in the darkness of his dread,
His tongue was parched—his reason fled;
And he watched, as the lamp burned low and dim,
To see some phantom, great and grim,
Come dabbled o'er with blood.

Sir Everard kneeled, and strove to pray,
He prayed for the light of early day,
Till terror checked his prayer;
And ever I muttered clear and well,
"Click, click," like a tolling bell,
Till, bound in fancy's magic spell,
Sir Everard fainted there!
Ans. Death-watch.

A REBUS.

Without my first, I'd have you know
My beard a frightful length would grow;
Discordant noises from my next
Might make you feel annoyed and vexed;
My whole's the best—you need not doubt it,
For he's a rogue who is without it.
Cypher Ans. 8, 15, 14, 5, 19, 20, 25

Here is an opportunity for the concealed geography class to display cleverness in discovering the locality of the scene depicted in the sketch.



Wonderful! He plays in A flat and she sings in G sharp!

A REBUS.

Of my first, very often, in triumph
you boast;
My next, when beloved, is some-
times your toast,
As gaily the glass passes round.
In my whole the fair ladies do al-
ways delight,
And with youth, rank and fash' on,
both morning and night,
I may certainly always be found.
Cypher Ans. 6, 5, 1, 20, 8, 5, 18.

A CHARADE.

A source of joy my first may be,
Or of acutest agony;
With my second it is said
The innocent are oft betrayed;
My whole when exquisitely sweet
With sparkling beauties is replete.
Ans. 19, 15, 14, 14, 5, 20.

A REBUS.

Within my first is often placed,
What from my next is taken;
And both are usefully employed,
To cook your beef and bacon!
My whole you'll find—no matter
when,
The first production of your pen.
Ans. 16, 15, 20, 8, 15, 15, 11.

Why is an oyster an anomaly?
Because he grows a beard without a
chin, and you take him out of his
bed to tuck him in.

Tell us the difference between a
good and a bad oyster? One is a
native, the other is most certainly a
settler!

I called to my second, requesting
him to clean my first, before which
it was necessary that he should
bring my whole. Boot-jack.