



PROPOSITION—Read the sign chalked on his coat.

THINGS ARE OUT OF joint," remarked a communicative gent who shared a park bench with me the other day. "Those trusts and competition are cutting the heart out of business, and it's just dog eat dog, or every one for himself. "I used to belong to the Advertiser's Mutual Help Association, but the organization affiliated with the Benevolence Solicitors, the Insurance Canvassers, the United Colporturs, and eventually the organ grinders and mendicants, which put an end to our Halcyon days. There were complaints that the union printers would buy back blocks of returns from colporturs and poster men who were not in good standing with the association. The professional walking gentlemen also insinuated that the trade journal fakirs and fellows with schemes worked both sides of the street, and they retaliated by putting the secret 'good thing' sign on the sidewalks or doors of places when the 'oysters' were out of town, or where there was no show for 'biz' at all, which made hundreds of us waste time and even

sometimes get roughly handled." "Then some of the practical jokers marked the 'good thing' sign in front of deaf and dumb asylums to annoy the musicians, or steered sympathy men and veterans up against distributors of work or meal tickets, when there was no chance for beer money, so the entire 'profess' was soon at loggerheads." Many stenographers belong to the organization, so the meaning of the "good thing" sign as shown on the door post in the picture will be familiar to such as are posted, but being desirous of seeing just how many of the veterans recall, or may be able to decipher the meaning of the personal sign which used to be tagged or chalked on to recognized philanthropists, as shown in the picture, it is presented in the nature of a capital repus buzzle.

Why are talkative young men like young pigs? Because they are likely to become bores.

Why are tight shoes like summer showers? They make the corn grow.

When is a candle like a new tombstone? When it is set up for a late husband.

What is the difference between attempted homicide and pig killing? One is assault with attempt to kill, and the other killing with intent to salt.

Why is a reckless fellow like a man stabbing at a shadow? Because he strikes at nothing.

What ship do the ladies prefer to embark in? Court-ship.

What kind of a lock should be placed on your forest preserves? Hem-lock.

What lock requires the attention of a physician? Lock-jaw.

What is the difference between a schoolmaster and a railroad conductor? One trains the mind and the other minds the train.

What kind of essence does a young man prefer when he pops the question? Acquiescence.

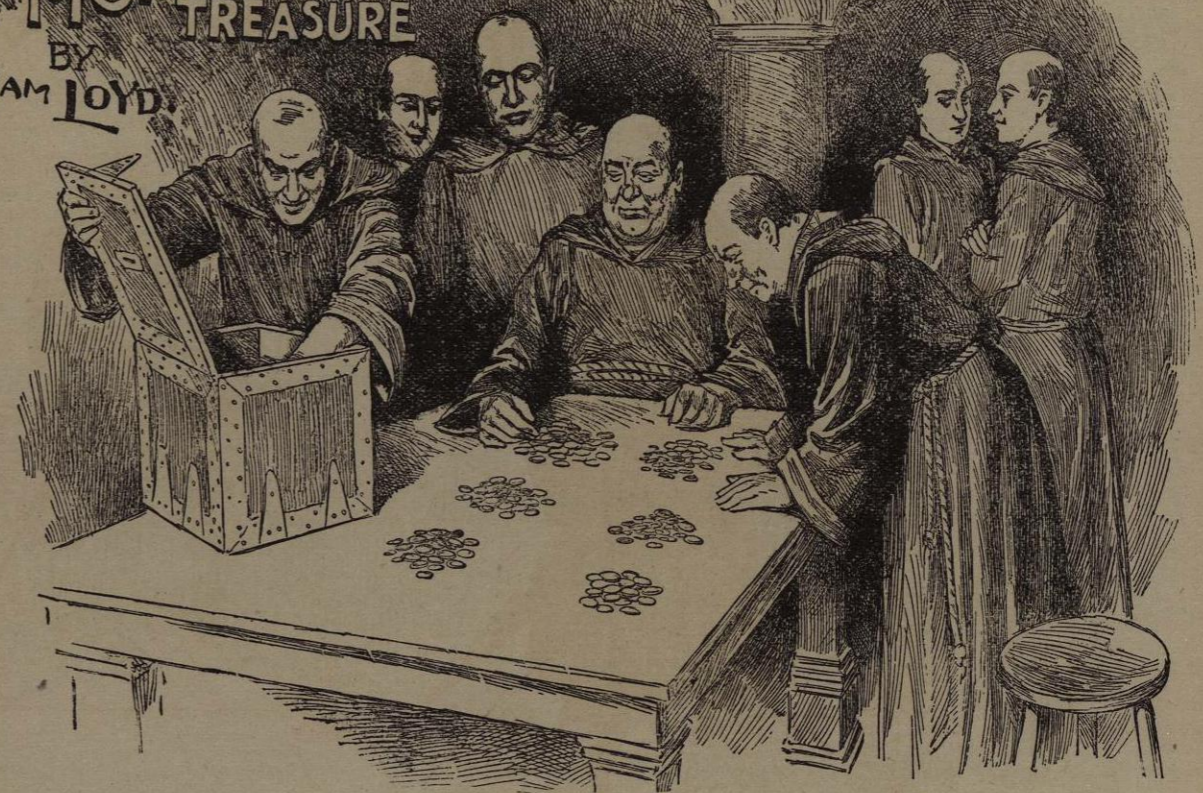
What is the difference between an auction and sea sickness? One is the sale of effects, and the other the effects of a sale.

Why is chicken-pie like a gunsmith's shop? Because it contains fowl-in-pieces.

Which is the strongest day of the seven? Sunday, because the others are week days.

THE MONASTERY TREASURE

BY SAM LOYD.



PROPOSITION—How many coins had the monks.

THERE IS A BIT OF Italian legendry from the Fifth Century, which involves a pretty although simple problem, which will greatly interest our puzzlists. It appears that according to the rules of one of the monasteries of the St. Benedictine order founded in the Fifth Century, the black friars, as the monks of that order were called, were required to see that a weekly contribution of one coin, supposed to represent one-tenth of the money collected during the week should be dropped into the treasury chest of the monastery.

The value of the coin has nothing to do with the problem, although from its being called "tithe money," which in those days meant "one-tenth," the coins thus collected showed the annual receipts of the treasury represented in weeks and years.

The coin was dropped into the chest every Saturday, and according to the rules of the monastery, the whole amount was only counted at such times as when Saturday occurred on the last day of the year. The treasure was formally counted three times, and a record of the same made and with the chest given into the custodianship of new guardians

appointed at each meeting, although according to the word of an eminent authority on such matters, no object was ever assigned for the collection of the money, aside from the feature of keeping a record of the monastery.

If I might be permitted to make a slight digression, it may be asked how it is that, in view of there having been fourteen popes of the name of Benedict, and of the fact of St. Benedict having enforced the vow of celibacy upon his followers, by what right or reason Shakespeare leads us to style all married men as Benedicts?

But to get back to the simple little problem which our puzzlists can answer, let us assume that this particular Benedictine monastery was founded on the first day of a year beginning on a Sunday, and that one coin was dropped into the treasure chest every Saturday, until such time as the year would end on a Saturday, and that the coins might be counted by dividing them evenly into four piles, or five piles, or six piles—each pile exactly alike—how many coins would there be?

Which of the four seasons is the most literary? Autumn, for then the leaves are turned, and they are red (read).

A REBUS.

Take the head of a fish, and the heart of an ace,
With one fourth of whatever is mean and base;
To those add a title of highest degree
And the meanest and basest of mortals you'll see.

CHARADE.

Allow my first and third to meet
They form a noble ranger,
My second panders to deceit,
And in my whole there's danger.

How do we know that Lord Byron was good-tempered? Because he always kept his collar (choler) down.

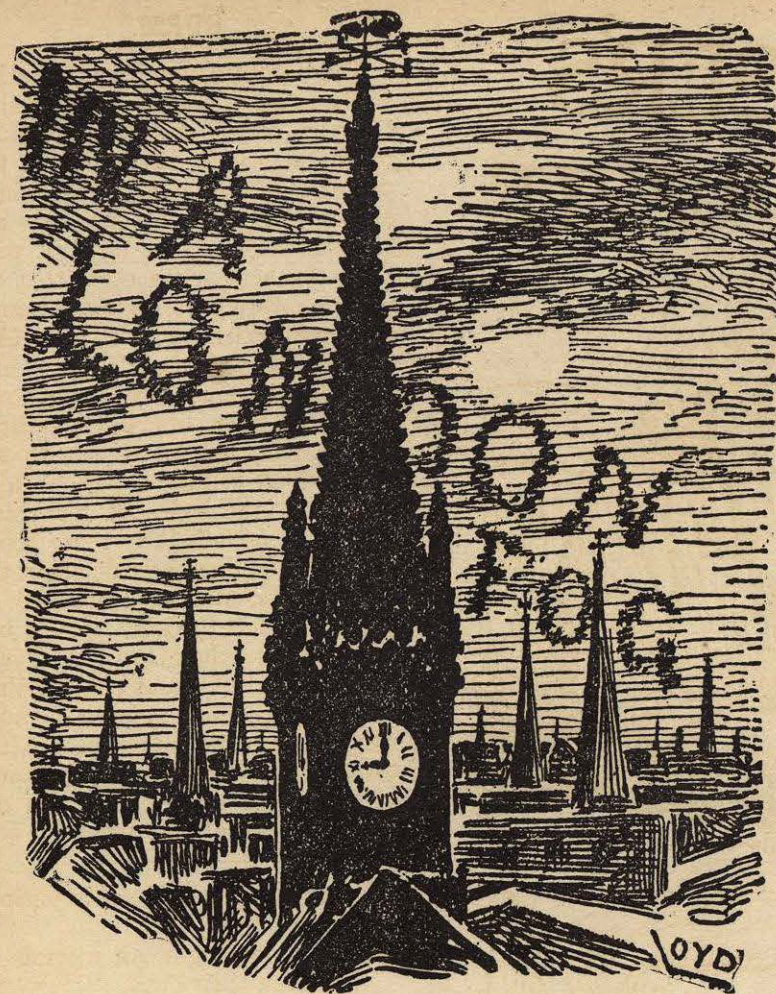
What is the difference between a person late for the train and a schoolmistress? One misses the train, the other trains the misses.

Why are doctors always bad characters? Because the worse people are the more they are with them.

Why is the world like music? Because it is full of sharps and flats.

Why should a man troubled with the gout make his will? Because he will then have his legatees (leg at ease).

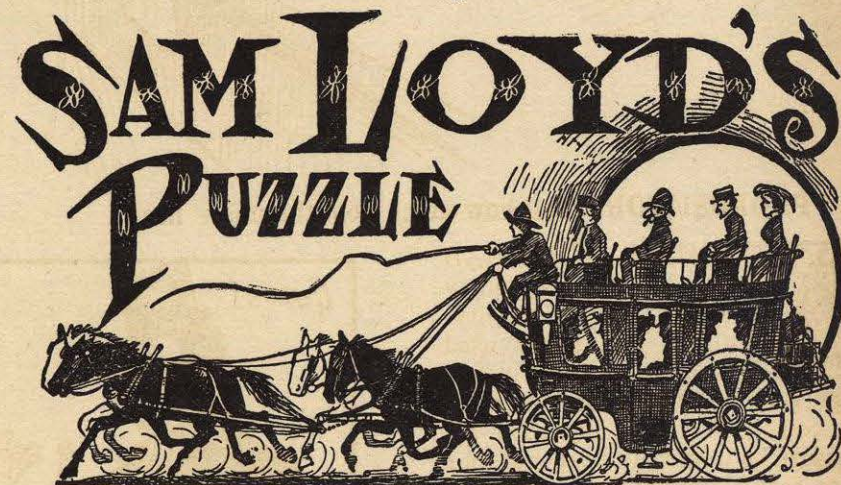
Why is a coach going down a steep hill like St. George? Because it's always drawn with the drag-on.



Once while staying in London I noticed that after a heavy wind storm, which lasted for over a week, the fog had been blown away to such an extent that we would see the tops of the church steeples. I called the attention of several Englishmen to the fact, and was told that the same thing had occurred in 1776, when it was ascertained that all of the steeples were provided with weather cocks, in order to inculcate a well-known moral lesson, and not, as one might suppose, to tell the direction of the wind.

The maxim or moral point of the lesson, however, was so well known that like all common things, it had become forgotten. I could find no one who knew it, although every one remembered the fact, and the custom of putting weather cocks upon all steeples was still maintained for that purpose.

I present a sketch taken from my hotel window and will ask my puzzle friends to help solve the conundrum as to what moral lesson is inculcated by the weather cock on a church steeple?



While going from Inverness to Glasgow, a distance of 189 miles, where the tourist has the choice of looping the loops on a veritable scenic railway, or of bumping the bumps and shooting the chutes on a lumbering old stage coach, I selected the latter as being just half a day quicker. From that circumstance I was enabled to jot down one of the most interesting puzzles of my globe trotting tour. The train as well as the diligence left simultaneously from opposite ends of the route, so, by the aid of the milestones I was

able to figure out that when we met the train from Glasgow we had beaten it just as many miles as we had been traveling hours. From this and the other facts mentioned, I ask you to tell just how far we were from Glasgow when we met?

I seen from an entry in my notebook that I asked a Scottish gentleman who was touring with his family why the Scottish gentry always traveled third-class. He replied that it was because there was no fourth class. I can not see, however, that this item had anything to do with the problem.

A Rebus

To meet a need, our maid was sent in haste; my whole is what she went in.
 Behead, transpose, the thing she bought
 Appears, and which she safely brought.
 Curtail, transpose, and take for granted
 You have the end for which 'twas wanted.
 Transpose once more, though strange 'tis true,
 The maiden's name appears in view.

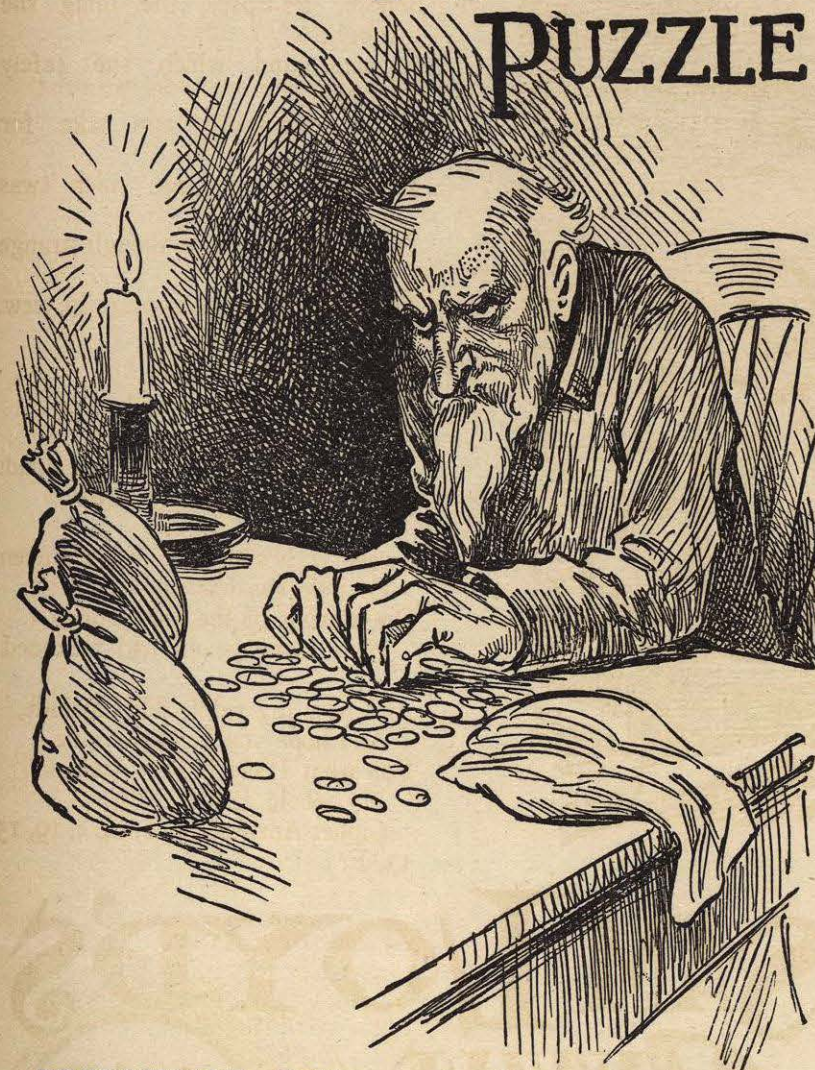
A Charade.

Fair L N promised to bestow
 My first upon her lover,
 And much I hope that no dark clouds
 Around the pair may hover.

Sweet L N's age is just eighteen,
 Of gold she has my second;
 On hearing of the lovely prize
 How many beaux had reckoned!

And now my riddle I'll conclude,
 And hope you'll not me quiz,
 For what I say is very true—
 My whole fair L N is.
 Cipher Answer.—9, 1, 14, 4, 19, 15,
 13, E.

THE MISER'S PUZZLE



PROPOSITION—Tell how much gold the miser has.



MISER WHO HAD hoarded up a quantity of five, ten and twenty-dollar gold pieces used to keep the same in five bags, each of which contained similar coins. While toying with his treasure he would divide it into four piles, each of which would be exactly alike; then, to be certain that none was lost, he would take two of the portions and construct three piles, each containing similar coins.

As by this method it could be told if any coins were missing, it should also be an easy matter to guess the exact amount of his hoard, so we will ask our puzzlists to tell just how much money this poor old man had when he starved to death.

What is a good definition for a muff? It is something or somebody that holds a lady's hand without squeezing it.

GUESS.

To give our young friends another study in geography I will say that there are certain distinctive features or characteristics pertaining to the people of our different States, which are so noticeable to one who has traveled and become familiar with their manners and accents that we unconsciously guess as to the homes of countrymen whom we meet abroad. I was surprised to find that they have the same thing down to a much finer point in Great Britain, and profess to be able to tell from which county a person came just from the tones of his voice. They talk as familiarly there about the little counties as we do about the States here, and are surprised at your ignorance because you do not know of the characteristics of the different sections, and I found that it was considered a great compliment to correctly guess one's native town. Can you discover the home of our friend concealed in the description of the picture?

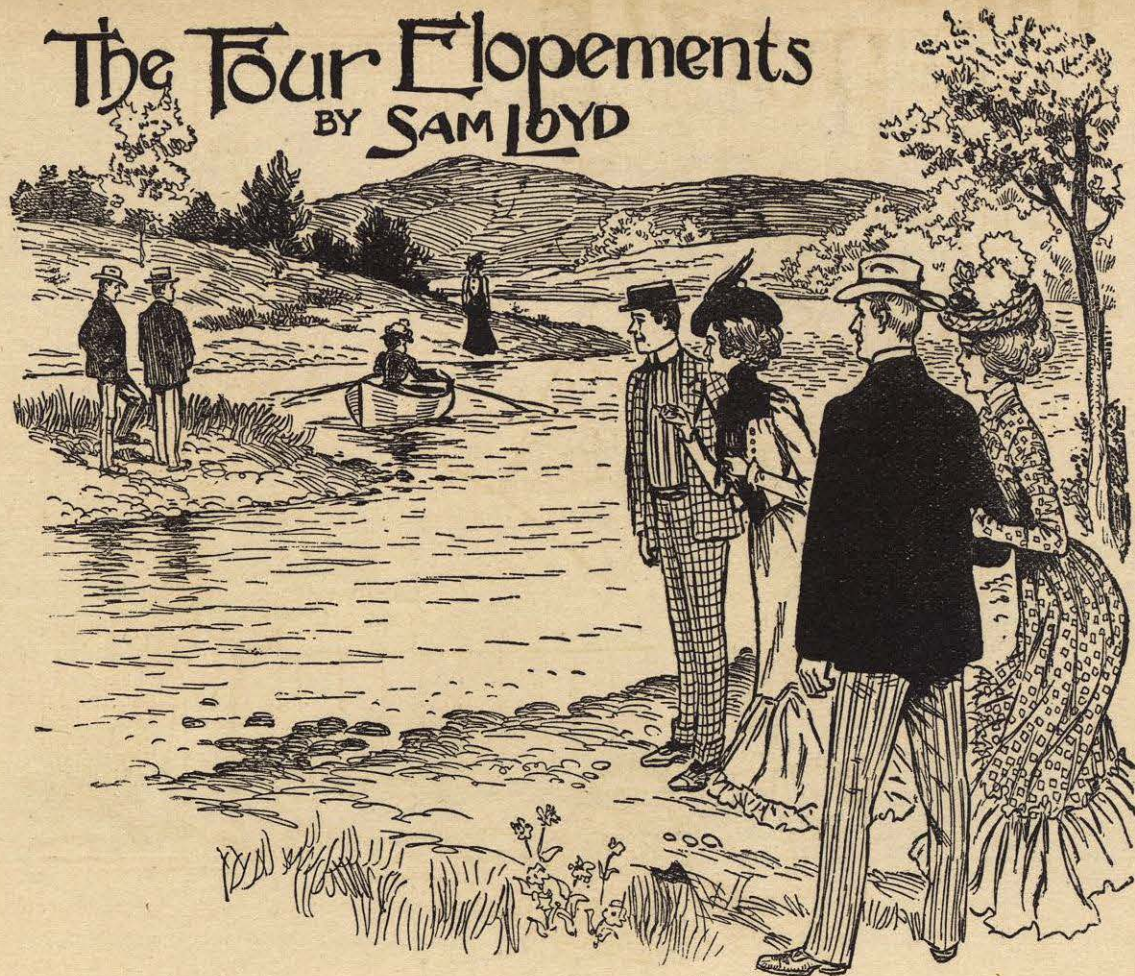
What is pretty and useful in various ways,
 Though tempting weak mortals to shorten their days.
 Take one letter away, and then will appear
 What youngsters admire every day in the year;
 Take two letters away and then without doubt
 You will be what it is if you don't find it out!
 Glass.



"My good man, are you of Celtic or Kentish origin?"

The Four Elopements

BY SAM LOYD



PROPOSITION—Ferry four jealous couples across the river.

IF COURSE ALL GOOD puzzlists are familiar with the time-honored problem of the countryman who had to ferry a fox, a goose and some corn across a river in a boat which would carry but two at a time. The story of the four elopements, equally old, is built upon similar lines, but presents so many complications that the best or shortest answer seems to have been overlooked by mathematicians and writers on the subject.

It is told that four men eloped with their sweethearts, but in carrying out their plan were compelled to cross a stream in a boat which would hold but two persons at a time. It appears that the young men were so extremely jealous that not one of them would permit his prospective bride to remain at any time in the company of any other man or men unless he was also present.

Nor was any man to get into a boat alone, when there happened to be a girl alone on the island or shore, other than the one to whom he was engaged. This feature of the condition looks as if the girls were also jealous and feared that their fellows

would run off with the wrong girl if they got a chance. Well, be that as it may, the problem is to guess the quickest way to get the whole party across the river according to the conditions imposed. Let us suppose the river to be two hundred yards wide, with the island in the middle. How many trips would the boat make to get the four couples safely across in accordance with the stipulations?

Why is a madman like two men? He is like one beside himself.

Why is your hand like a hardware store? Because it has nails.

Why does a man who runs in debt remind you of a clock? He goes on tick.

Why is a drawn tooth soon forgotten? It is out of your head.

Why is a jailer like a musician? He fingers the keys.

Why is a painted lady like a pirate? She displays false colors.

What relation is your uncle's brother to you, who is not your uncle? Your father.

What class of people might we call those who can't improve? "Mend I cants."

What medicine is a cross dog fond of? Bark and wine (whine).

What is the difference between perseverance and obstinacy? One is a strong will and the other is a strong won't.

What country does a baby cry for? More-rock-oh, or Lapland.

Why is a coat worn by a weather-beaten tramp like a man with insomnia? Because it has not had a nap for a long time.

Why are spiders good correspondents? Because they drop a line by every post and at every house.

What does a young lady become when she ceases to be pensive? Expensive.

What is the sure sign of an early spring? A cat watching a hole in the wall with her back up.

A lady asked a gentleman how old he was? He answered, My age is what you do in everything—excel (XL).

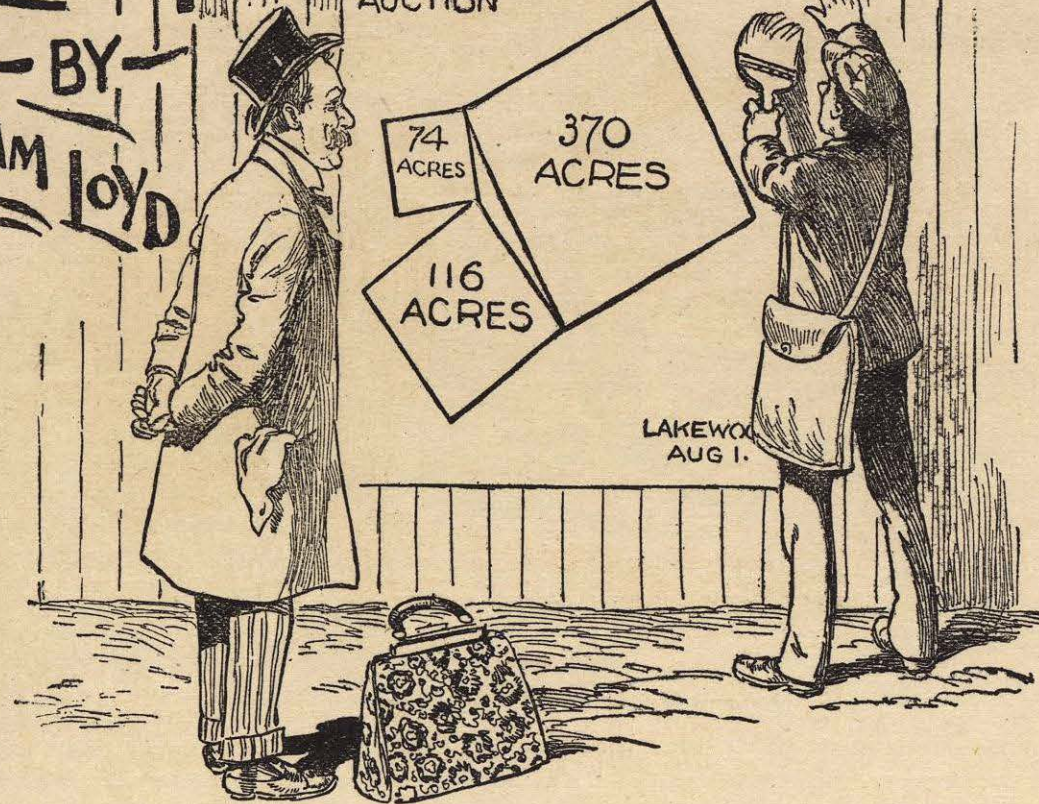
Why is the world like a cat's tail? Because it is fur to the end of it.

If a two-wheeled wagon is a bicycle, and a three-wheeled wagon is a tricycle, what would you call a five-wheeled one? A V-hicle of course.

THE LAKE PUZZLE

BY SAM LOYD

560 ACRES AND LAKE AT PUBLIC AUCTION



PROPOSITION—Tell how many acres the lake contained.



WENT TO LAKEWOOD the other day to attend an auction sale of some land, but did not make any purchases on account of a peculiar problem which developed regarding what the buyer would get for his money. It was advertised as shown in the posters on the fence as 560 acres, including a lake. The three plots show up the 560 acres without the lake, but as the lake was included in the sale, I, as well as other would-be purchasers, wished to know whether the lake area was really deducted from the land.

The auctioneer guaranteed 560 acres "more or less," which was not satisfactory to the purchasers, so we left him arguing with some Katy Dids, and shouting to the bullfrogs in the lake, which in reality was a swamp.

The question which I ask our puzzlists who revel in just such questions, is to determine just how many acres there would be in that triangular lake, surrounded as shown by square plots of 370, 116 and 74 acres. The problem is of peculiar interest to those of a mathematical

turn, in that it gives a positive and definite answer to a proposition, which, according to usual methods, produces one of those ever-decreasing, but never-ending decimal fractions.

A CHARADE.

My little criticising first
Is found on either side;
My faithful second guards the crown
With dignity and pride:
My whole delights in summer flowers

And lovely Autumn's fruitful
bowers.
Cypher Ans. 5, 1, 18, 23, 9, 7.

A REBUS.

I am fat and well favoured
When made up complete.
Curtail and you'll find me
Quite wholesome to eat;
Bestore me my tail, and
In lieu take my head,
Like feathers I'm light,
Or as heavy as lead.
Cypher Ans. 16, 12, 21, 13, 16.

A lady wrote on the bottom of a flour barrel: O I C U R M T how did her husband decypher it?

A CHARADE.
When o'er the wave the vessel flies,
Her masts and sails my whole sustain;
Behold, though vast my length and size,
I move with swiftness o'er the plain;
Again behold, come when I will,
The farmer frets and grumbles still.
Cypher Ans. 19, 20, 18, 9, 14.

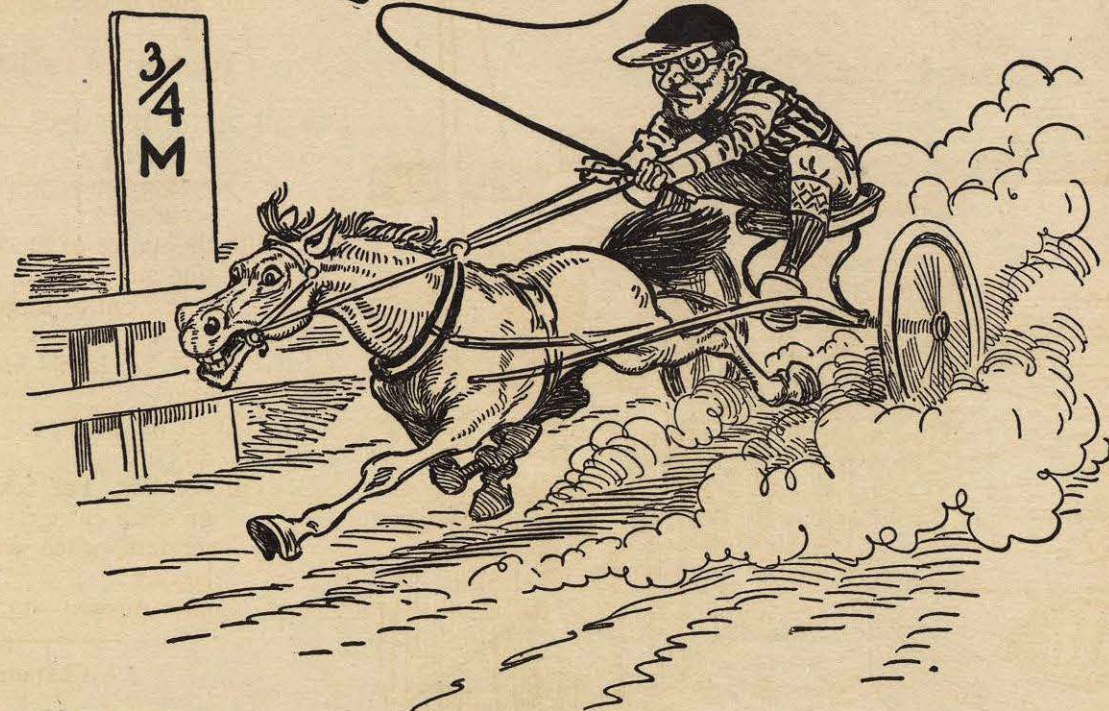
A REBUS.

When whole 'tis true, I sometimes
lend my aid—
Nay daily, to the tidy servant maid;
Once take my head, 'twill clearly
then appear
My useful hole is often wanted there;
Transposed, a foreigner I boldly
stand,
Or represent a stretch of land.
Cypher Ans. 2, 18, 15, 15, 13.

A CHARADE.]

My first appears in verse and prose,
My next true merit will disclose;
My whole reveals a poet's name,
Encircled with immortal fame.
Cypher Ans. 23, 15, 18, 4, 19, 23,
15, 18, 20, 8.

BEATING THE RECORD BY SAM LOYD



PROPOSITION—Tell the speed of the horse.

PEAKING ABOUT the manner of scoring the time on the quarter miles, in the recent wonderful performance of the trotting queen, Lou Dillon, was struck by an odd little problem which occurred between a couple of the timekeepers, which proved to be too much for their limited knowledge of mathematics.

It appears that the first three-quarters of a mile were trotted in 81¾ seconds, while the timekeeper who recorded the finish showed that the last three-quarters were trotted in 81¼ seconds, and that the last half of the race was just as fast as the first half.

Despite the paradoxical appearance of there being six quarters to that mile, both timekeepers were correct, but they lacked the services of a clever puzzlist to tell the time for the whole mile. How many of our puzzlists can guess it correctly?

A Study in Hams.

Here is a problem for the juvenile class, which will surely interest the young puzzlists and probably baffle some of the "children of a larger growth."

It appears that a Dutch farmer, who knew more about curing hams than he did about arithmetic, was in the habit of starting out once a

year with a wagon load of hams, which he would sell among his neighbors at wholesale or retail.

The hams were so nearly of a size that he did not trouble himself about weighing them, but sold them at the uniform price of a dollar and a quarter each. He did not like to cut a ham, however, but in order to be accommodating established the rule that he would sell the half of a ham when it was asked for, but would charge double for it. In the innocence of his heart, he did not see that he was charging the same price for half a ham as he asked for a whole one, and as many of his customers knew less than he did about arithmetic, he sold many a half of a ham for what he asked for the whole one.

Well, one day he started off with his load of hams, and the first person he met was so pleased with their appearance that he purchased the half of his stock and half a ham.

He was equally successful with his next customer, who was also a dealer, as he took half of the stock he had left and half a ham, besides directing him to another place where he readily disposed of half of what remained and half a ham.

He then came to a large hotel, the proprietor of which was not at home, but he managed to prevail upon his wife to take half of his

stock and half a ham. He continued on his journey, but had not gone more than a quarter of a mile when he met the hotel proprietor and a friend. The hotel man, not knowing that his wife had purchased any of the hams, took half a ham and the half of what remained, and induced his friend to take half of what was left and half a ham, as it just cleaned out his stock.

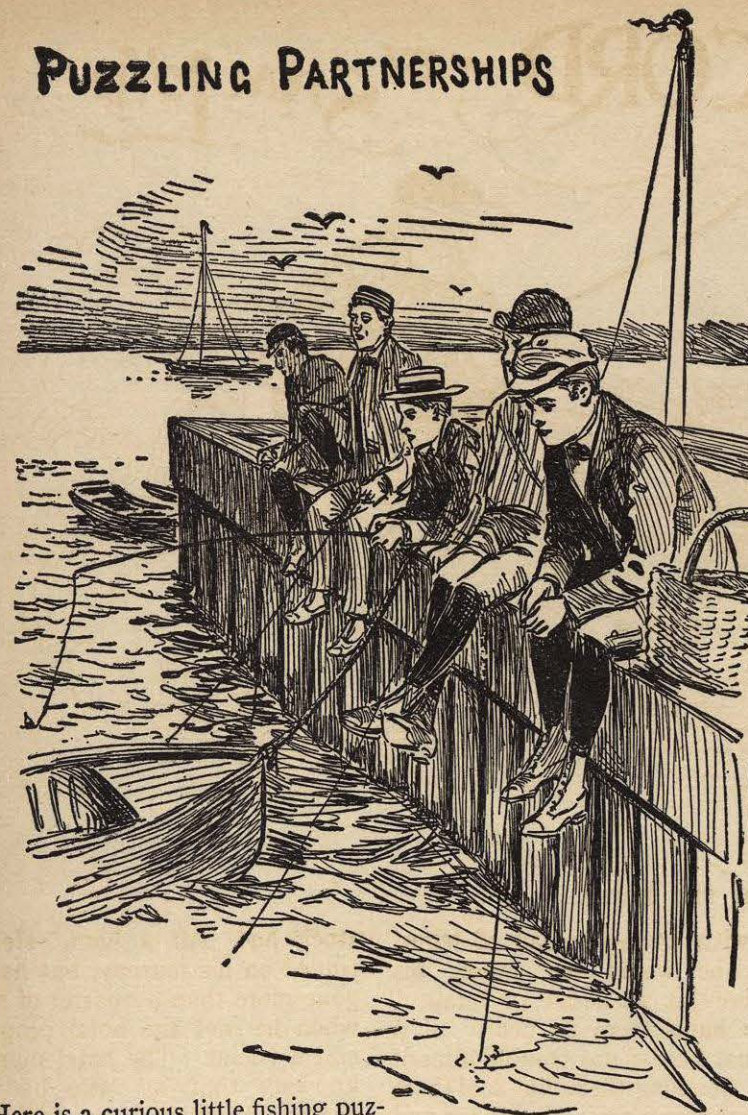
Now, what I want our young puzzlists to do is to figure out just how much money this lucky Dutchman received for his hams, and be sure that you don't make a mistake, for the problem was sent to one of our universities and pronounced unsolvable! which would make it rank with the squaring of the circle.

How much money did Hans get for his hams?

A STUDY IN HAMS



PUZZLING PARTNERSHIPS



Here is a curious little fishing puzzle which will prove interesting, as it yields readily to experimental methods without much arithmetic, although some who are well versed in figures find difficulty in grasping the situation according to ordinary rules. It appears that five boys whom we will designate as A, B, C, D and E, went fishing, and entered into certain agreements regarding the divisions of the spoils, which solve readily in actual practice when distributing the fishes, but looks like a complicated partnership agreement, as each boy has to pool his luck with the one next to him. It appears that A and B caught 14 fish, B and C 20; C and D 18, D and E 12, while A and E each caught just alike. We will now go into the complications of the separate partnerships and ask our puzzlists to tell from the figures given just how many fishes each caught. It is a puzzling problem to solve mathematically, but in actual practice C just pooled his catch with B and D, and each of them took just one-third. Each one does the same, adds his stock to those of his two side partners, and then divides the same

into three portions until all five are just alike. Can you guess how many fish each boy caught?



Here is a pretty problem culled from the notes of two gentlemen of leisure, returned from their summer's outing: Weary Willie, who had outstayed his welcome at Joytown, started for Pleasantville simultaneously with the departure of Dusty Rhodes from Pleasantville. They

A Charade.
An object for which many thousands do sigh,
A blessing I prove, or a curse;
And when to the altar of Hymen you hie,
You take me for better or worse.

I am of both sexes—both husband and wife,
You court me, you love me, you scout me;
I'm the source of much joy, contention and strife,
Yet few can be happy without me.

I travel by land—on the ocean I range,
With the fowls, too, I soar in the air;
I'm constant, I'm fickle—too much given to change,
Therefore, when you choose me, beware!
Cipher Answer.—13, 1, 20, 5.

A Charade.
See how majestic I'm borne!
Behead, some treat me with scorn;
Yet knaves, with all their art and guise,
Deem me too often as a prize.
Restore my head, transpose, what more?
I'm higher than I was before!
Cipher Answer.—13, 1, 3, 5.

What kind of a diary is productive of harm?
Incen-diary.