

# THE PUZZLER

## No. 15.—Numerical Enigma.

An ancient philosopher famed for his cheerful disposition.  
6, 9, 10, 2, a trick, a stratagem.  
8, 7, 3, 2, too often wasted and misused.  
5, 6, 9, 10, 8, a hard outer covering.  
1, 9, 10, 8, fine earth.  
5, 6, 7, 3, 2, an offense against law.  
6, 4, 3, 2, a famous city of ancient times.  
5, 4, 3, 2, approach!  
3, 4, 1, 2, a fashion, a manner.

## No. 16.—Picture Puzzle.



What bird is shown in the center of the picture? You may find out by the initial letters of the objects surrounding it, when placed one under the other in proper order.

## No. 17.—A Winter Rhyme.

The definitions of the words in quotation marks are objects which add to our pleasure in winter:  
A sharp "inletor" Michael took  
And with it valvly tried  
To "kill" a "fish" without a hook—  
Away his fishship hid.  
Poor Mike now watches for a chance  
(This time with hook and line)  
Beside the stream, in shady haunts,  
For fish on which to dine.  
No "beauties" in the ballroom's crowd,  
In "dresses" Worth might praise,  
Were'er than honest Mike more proud  
When he his fish displays.

## No. 18.—Central Acrostic.

Words of three letters each: 1. The name of a high priest. 2. A weight. 3. Water impregnated with alkaline salt imbibed from thousands of wood. 4. A color. 5. A part of some houses. 6. The goddess of revenge. 7. "Forever." Centrals: "Fealty."

## No. 19.—A Riddle.

Forward, backward, all the same,  
A Bible woman's well known name.  
To her was given a noted son;  
A prophet and a judge was he,  
Who, when his course was fully run,  
Was laid to rest right royally.

## No. 20.—Word Changes.

The changes are made by dropping one letter from the word and substituting another letter, so forming a new word and thus continuing until the word given is changed to the one required. The letters may also be transposed. For example, change ant to bean—ant ten—Ben—bee.  
1. Change cat to dog. 2. Boy to man.  
3. Elk to pig. 4. Cold to fire. 5. Boat to pier. 6. Stag to deer. 7. Star to moon.  
8. Lock to bars.

## No. 21.—Double Acrostic.

My primals name an empress, my finals a queen.  
Crosswords (of equal length): 1. Pertaining to the Jews. 2. A severe trial. 3. A specimen. 4. The germ of a plant. 5. A man's name. 6. An exodus. 7. An affront. 8. To reckon. 9. A damsel carried off by Jupiter.

## No. 22.—Hidden Capes.

Uncle Archer and Aunt Clarice took Rob on a sea voyage.  
'Twas a bleak, cold day when Florence bought Irma yards of lace and ribbon for her party dress.  
Which river would you rather travel on, the Don or the Thames?  
When Ryan comes, tell him to plant the other flowers near a cedar tree.  
All was quiet, when, lo! Penelope entered the room, with a merry laugh, her arms full of fragrant flowers.  
Shall I take Ruth or Nellie to the matinee?

## An Ingenious Arrangement.

Open a book at random and select a word within the first ten lines and within the tenth word from the end of the line. Now double the number of the page and multiply the sum by 5; then add 20; then add the number of the line you have selected; then add 5; multiply the sum by 10. Add the number of the word in the line. From this subtract 250, and the remainder will indicate in the unit column the number of the word, in the ten column the number of the line and the remainder figures the number of the page.

## How He Got Along.

"How do you get along with your bicycle?"  
"Well," replied the truthful young man, "sometimes one way and sometimes another. Sometimes the bicycle rides me and once in awhile I ride the bicycle."

## Key to the Puzzler.

No. 7.—Letter Enigma: Ice-pond (I see "p" or "d").  
No. 8.—Shakespearean Enigma: "Good wax, thy leave. Blest be you bees that make these locks of counsel!" Imogen.  
No. 9.—Easy Diamonds:  
P O G T E N  
P O P P Y D E P O T  
A P E N O T  
Y T  
No. 10.—Synopsions: S-H-or, c-O-at, c-O-urt, m-n-D-Ing—HOOD.  
No. 11.—Pictured Diamond: B, tea, berry, ark, y.  
No. 12.—Charade: Child-like.  
No. 13.—A Pentagon:  
C H A G R I N  
A R C  
C H A G R I N  
A R R A S  
C I S  
N  
No. 14.—Prefixes and Suffixes: K-in-y, y-par-y, s-par-y, s-light-y, s-pore-s, t-wit-t, t-eam-s, y-east-y, s-late-s, s-wing-s.

# FOR LITTLE FOLKS.

## THE BIRDS' OIL CANS.

How the Feathered Tribe Protect Themselves in Rainy Weather.

Ted's eyes opened wide with surprise. "Oh!"

Two birds were sitting on the hedge in the yard, enjoying the rain hugely—if one could judge from their merry "Che-e! che-e! che-e!"

"They don't mind the rain," laughed grandpa, "for their little oil cans have done them a good service today."

"Whoever heard of a bird having an oil can? Birds don't have lamps, do they?" And Ted moved away from the window with an air of positive unbelief.

"They don't have any lamps, for they use their oil for something else," laughed grandpa, more heartily than before.

"Don't you ever see the hens use their oil cans?"

"No!" replied Ted shortly.

"Well," continued grandpa, "every bird has a little oil can—some call it an oil gland, but it means just the same thing. This tiny oil can or gland is placed at the base of the tail. It is of great value to birds, for they don't always have a home to shelter them, and it would be very disagreeable to them to be drenched to the skin every time it rains. To prevent this they have their little oil cans. They dip their little bills into their tiny cans and cover them with oil, and then they rub the oil over their feathers, and it thus makes their feathers waterproof—in fact, Ted, they all have a gossamer for rainy weather."

"Do they all have an oil can?" inquired Ted, with delight. "The hens too?"

"Yes, indeed," answered grandpa. "Now, Ted, get the umbrella, and we will go down to the barn, and who knows but that we shall find the hens using their oil cans, so they can go out for a worm!"

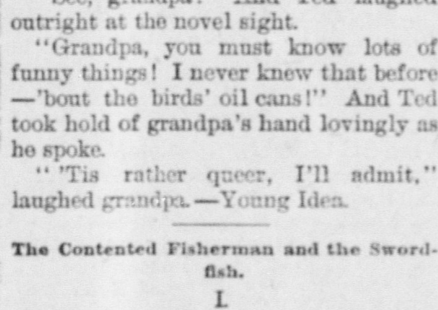
Sure enough! When Ted reached the barn Old Speckle and Bright Eyes were just putting on their gossamers!

"See, grandpa!" And Ted laughed outright at the novel sight.

"Grandpa, you must know lots of funny things! I never knew that before—'bout the birds' oil cans!" And Ted took hold of grandpa's hand lovingly as he spoke.

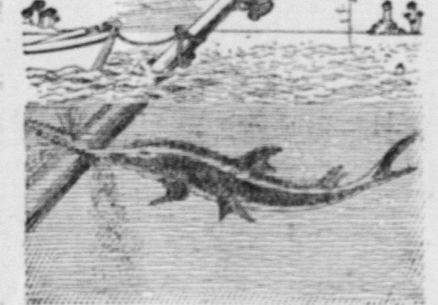
"'Tis rather queer, I'll admit," laughed grandpa.—Young Idea.

The Contented Fisherman and the Swordfish.



## The Secret of His Success.

A lady once crossed a street where a little boy was busily sweeping the crossing. She noticed with pleasure the care with which he did his work and smiled as she said to him, "Yours is the cleanest crossing I pass." He lifted his cap with a gallant air and quickly said, "I am doing my best."



## Mammoth Onions.

A writer in Field and Fireside says: "I do not think that extra large size is so very desirable in onions. Prize winners weighing a pound apiece or a little more may do well enough for crating or for home market in a small way, but the average city or village buyer who purchases onions by the peck or bushel usually fights shy of the very large ones and will more readily take a medium sized onion. The very large ones do not keep so well, either, as the smaller specimens. But the extra large ones often come handy as prize takers at the fairs and otherwise. I am informed that Mr. W. Atlee Burpee of Philadelphia has awarded the prize offered by him for the largest specimen grown in 1895 to a perfect prize taker weighing 5 1/2 pounds. It was not a double onion, either, but a single perfect bulb."

## Skeleton Lands.

The term "skeleton lands" is applied in northern New Hampshire to designate forest area where most of the sawlogs have been cut and hauled off, the remaining growth being small and either fit for low grade pulp wood or more valuable still for future growth and subsequent cuttings of timber during the next generation. According to American Cultivator, skeleton lands vary in value according to the character and extent of the forest cuttings.

## Hop Picking Machines.

The hop picking machine is surely coming, although its progress is necessarily slow. C. C. Green, the New York state inventor who has spent much time on the picking machine, is still at work and continues to see success in the near future. He has good reason for sanguine expectations, for he has already a machine which will pick hops rapidly and well, but his ideal is high, and he is not yet satisfied, says The New England Farmer.

## A Model Child.

Her temper's always sunny; her hair is ever neat;  
She doesn't care for candy—she says it is too sweet!  
She loves to study lessons—her sums are always right,  
And she gladly goes to bed at eight every single night!  
Her apron's never tumbled; her hands are always clean;  
With buttons missing from her shoe she never has been seen.  
She remembers to say, "Thank you," and "Yes, ma'am, if you please,"  
And she's never in her life known to whines; she's ne'er been known to tease.

## Each night upon the closet shelf she puts away her toys;

She never slams the parlor door, nor makes the slightest noise,  
But she loves to run on errands and to play with little brother,  
And she's never in her life been known to disobey her mother.

"Who is this charming little maid!  
I long to grasp her hand!"  
She's the daughter of Mr. Nobody,  
And she lives in Nowhereland!  
—Helen Hopkins in St. Nicholas.

# FARM FIELD AND GARDEN

## ECONOMY WITH FERTILIZERS.

Statements of an Eminent Authority on a Question of Widespread Interest.

The low prices of farm products have made it necessary to use the utmost economy in all farm operations, but economy in the wrong place is often a waste of money. In this connection American Cultivator calls attention to an article by Professor Maereker, director of the experiment station at Halle, Germany.

Professor Maereker takes in order the four elements of plant food—nitrogen, phosphoric acid, nitrogen and lime. He inquires whether it is possible to save by using less quantities of any of these ingredients than the farmer has done heretofore.

With regard to lime Professor Maereker says this material should by no means be discontinued or limited. Where lime is necessary it should be used. He recommends only a slight change of the system of applying lime. He recommends to use smaller doses of lime and frequent applications rather than large applications intended to last for several years. "It would be highly detrimental to profitable agriculture," he says, "even at the present time of low market prices, to reduce the ordinary applications of lime and marl where they are needed."

Professor Maereker arrives at a similar conclusion with regard to nitrogen. He reviews the subject very thoroughly and shows on the whole that too little rather than too much of this costly element is used. Therefore not to use nitrogen where it is needed means to cut short the crop and is false economy. Professor Maereker pays attention to the importance of green manuring, whereby nitrogen is obtained from the air in ordinary rotation of crops or by planting legumes to be plowed under. Of course it is not possible to dispense altogether with the artificial application of nitrogenous fertilizers, and in certain soils judicious rotation and green manuring are not always practicable, and hence an artificial supply of nitrogen must be given.

With phosphoric acid an entirely different state of affairs must be faced. Professor Maereker presents figures and facts concerning quantities of phosphoric acid which are generally used by farmers upon various crops. He is positive that phosphoric acid is usually supplied in larger quantities than required by plants. Therefore farmers can afford to reduce the amount of phosphoric acid, and where an oversupply of this ingredient has been given for some years its use may be dispensed with for some time. It is, moreover, wasteful to apply phosphoric acid in larger quantities than can be taken up by the crop which it is intended to benefit and the ensuing clover crop.

The use of potash in farming is discussed and at length. By investigations which are confirmed in practice it has been shown that on a certain soil about two-thirds of the total amount of potash applied becomes directly available to plants. Upon a sandy soil in a common rotation, consisting of rye, oats, potatoes and clover, an average amount of about 63 pounds of potash per acre is needed annually, even including a certain amount of potash supplied by the customary application of stable manure. This quantity, Professor Maereker says, is absolutely necessary in order to keep up the productive capacity of a sandy soil. If less potash be supplied, the yield of crops will fall off. Moreover, the intelligent use of potash salts has become one of the most important factors in agriculture. It has been proved that by the system of green manuring and potash-phosphate fertilization, even on the poorest soils, most remarkable yields of farm crops can be obtained. But it is only possible to reap the full benefit of this system if enough potash be supplied to the soil.

He invited his intimate friend Sykes and a duke and duchess. The widow's mother was left out. The dinner was given in the apartments of the widow and was sent in from outside the hotel. The decorations were pink roses. A gardenia was placed at the prince's plate as his special flower. When he saw the table, he expressed great admiration for the decorations and remarked:

"The English women can't seem to compare with the American women in arranging things of this kind."

The dinner passed off pleasantly, the only unusual formality observed being that care was taken to address the prince always in conversation as "Sir." After the dinner the party went to the theater. It is said to be one of the very few appearances in recent years the prince has made at the theater without some other member of the royal family. The widow and her mother returned to New York about six weeks ago. On the occasion of the prince's birthday, a few weeks ago, the widow sent her congratulations by cable, and she received a prompt personal reply from the prince. She refers to her acquaintance with the prince very seldom, but her mother has many friends, and that is the way it became known that her daughter's dinner to the prince cost only \$60.—New York Sun.

## Polar Origin of Humanity.

Believers in the Laplace theory of the origin of the sun and the planets are of the opinion that the original stock of the human race first came into existence at the poles of the earth and gradually moved out toward the equator. All believers in the nebular hypothesis are fast conforming their ideas to the belief that this earth was once a red-hot ball of fire, and that the human race came into existence as soon as a portion of the globe had cooled sufficiently to admit of their living upon it. The portion most likely to cool first was the poles, and the evidence deduced from this speculation is that upon which is founded the idea of the polar origin of the human family.

On the above theory is explained the mysterious finding of the remains of tropical birds, beasts and plants far up in the polar regions. If it is really true that the poles were the first habitable spots on the earth's surface, and that they were rendered so by the globe first cooling at the spots least affected by the sun, it must be also true that the polar regions are gradually encroaching upon the temperate and torrid zones. Who knows but the centuries yet to come will fill the Indian ocean and gulf of Mexico with icebergs and keep the Nile and the Amazon frozen solidly throughout the year?—St. Louis Republic.

## Election News Via Brazil.

William J. Ewing of Baltimore, who is now in Rio Janeiro, Brazil, writes that the Brazilian papers were all mixed up about the recent elections in the United States, and said he was anxious to know if Gorman had been "snowed under." He says the Rio Journal electrified its American readers by stating in glaring headlines on its front page that the Republicans had elected "Mr. Tammanyhal" mayor of New York.—Baltimore Sun.

## HAD WALES AS HER GUEST.

The Dinner an American Widow Gave the Prince at Homburg.

It is not necessarily expensive to give a dinner to the Prince of Wales. The friends of a young American widow who has received much attention from the prince at Homburg and in England in the last two years are telling of a dinner which she gave last summer to him at the German watering place. There were five persons at dinner, and it cost only \$60.

The widow is well known in New York and Boston society. She is tall, slender and remarkably handsome. About four years ago she married a wealthy Boston architect. She and her mother have been seen frequently in Central park on bicycles. Her husband died about a year after their marriage and left her nearly \$1,000,000. Before their marriage she had met the prince at an English country house where she was visiting, and since her widowhood she has retained his warm friendship. Her acquaintance with him began through the admiration his eldest son showed for her long before being engaged to Princess Mary. The Duke of Clarence was a frequent visitor at some of the country houses where the beautiful American girl was welcomed and spoke to his father about her. The latter did not disguise his admiration for her after he had seen her two or three times.

When the bicycling craze came, the widow and her mother practiced long and regularly and soon became experts in riding. Their home for three years has been in New York, and all last spring they were to be seen every morning on their wheels preparing for a bicycle trip abroad. They went abroad early in July and took their wheels with them. They had the smartest kind of bicycle costumes, and when they arrived at Homburg they attracted much attention by their graceful appearance as they glided over the roads.

The Prince of Wales arrived at Homburg and became devoted to the young widow and her mother. It is said that he was so charmed by the bicycle costumes that he often asked the young widow and her mother to wear them on informal occasions at the chateau. The prince asked the younger woman to attend the races one day and said:

"After the races we will have dinner."

"Why wouldn't it be a good idea for me to give the dinner to you?" asked the widow.

"That would suit me," replied the prince.

Then, in accordance with custom, she asked him what he would like to have for dinner and whom he wished to have invited. The prince suggested a clear soup, a squab and hock and champagne of a certain brand.

"As to the rest, suit yourself," he said.

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