

"Well, what do you think of that!" she exclaimed.

For a full minute she stood there and thought it all over, and then she suddenly threw her head down and caught Mr. Cat square on the tips of her horns. In another instant the cat was tossed fifty feet into the air clear over the top of the chicken house and into a hornet's nest on the other side.

By the time he got out of this new trouble he had learned a good lesson—never to try to deceive.

How Truffles are Gathered

Cahors, a quaint capital of Southern France, is the greatest truffle market in the world. About it the soil and the oak trees are peculiarly fitted for the growth of the truffle, which is a round, potato shaped tuber, about two inches in diameter. It is of the nature and order of the mushroom, but, unlike the later, it is very aromatic. Like the mushroom, it grows from spores and is considered by the French to be a great table delicacy. In fact, no Parisian dinner is complete without the national dish, and the truffle always appears on the menu of a well-appointed dinner.

Truffles grow under ground, thriving upon the fibrous roots of the oak tree. Their presence can often be located by the absence of vegetation about the trunks of the trees on whose roots they feed, for they are of parasitical growth and kill the vegetation that dares to infringe upon their territory.

The manner of truffle-gathering by the peasants is very unique. A pig—preferably a sow—is trained to go rooting for them, and after locating them by their odor uncovers the dainty tubers by the strength of her snout. The peasant, who has the sow in charge, keeps close beside her, and as soon as she reveals truffle strikes her nose with a stout stick, preventing her from biting the coveted tuber, which he immediately takes possession of.

The pig is trained in truffle-hunting while very young by his food being mixed with sliced truffles that he may cultivate a taste for them and become familiar with their odor. Then, when turned into the woods where the truffles grow his acute sense of smell will readily lead him to the spot where they are hidden under the soft soil.

The Scarlet Thread

Ever since the day of Nelson, a peculiar custom has been observed in the British navy. A scarlet thread is woven into every one of the thousands of ropes used in the British naval service. This includes all ropes, from the smallest heaving line to the largest hawser. Several romantic suggestions have been advanced as to why the thread is woven into the ropes, but the real reason is simple and practical.

It simply means a sure way of identifying royal property, and if any rope with the red thread is found in unauthorized hands the presumption is that it was improperly taken. It is forbidden that any rope manufactured for private use contain the red thread, in just the same way that in the United States the manufacture of paper for private use

containing bits of silk is forbidden. This paper in the United States is used for currency purposes only.

Letter Enigma

My first is in dog, but not in bark;
My second is in burn, but not in spark;
My third is in kneel, but not in pray;
My fourth is in cart, but not in dray;
My fifth is in eagle, but not in wing;
My sixth is in chorus, but not in sing;
My seventh is in ant, but not in hill;
My eighth is in paper, but not in bill;
My whole spells a name
That good children hate,
For it's something, that's put
On a bad child's pate.

Conundrums

Why is the heir to a throne musing on his father's government like a rainbow?
Because it's the son's (sun's) reflection on a steady reign (rain).

Why is the inside of anything always mysterious?

Because we cannot make it out.
When does a cook break the game laws?
When he poaches eggs.
Why is an egg like a young colt?
Neither is of any use till broken.

Riddles and Answers

My first makes company;
My second shuns company;
My third assembles company;
My whole puzzles company.

ANS.—Co-nun-drums.

Can you tell me why a hypocrite's eye
Can better desery than you or I,
On how many toes a pussy cat goes?

ANS.—A man of deceit

Can best count-er-feit;
And so I suppose,
Can best count her toes.

Letter Puzzles

How should the following be read?

(1)

U 0 a 0, but I 0 thee;
O 0 no 0, but O 0 me;
Then let my 0 thy 0 b,
And give me O 0 I 0 thee.

(2)

Yy u r yy u b;
I c u r yy 4 me.



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