

CHAPTER III

Conundrums, Riddles and Enigmas

THE following collection of conundrums will, we hope, give as much amusement:—

Why is a dog biting his tail like a good manager?
Because he makes both ends meet.

If a spider were late for dinner, what would he do?
Take a fly.

Why are fowls the most economical things a farmer can keep? Because for every grain they give a peck.

Why is a watch-dog bigger by night than by day?
Because he is let out at night and taken in in the morning.

What piece of coin is double its value by deducting its half? Half-penny.

When is a clock on the stairs dangerous? When it runs down.

If a bear were to go into a linen draper's shop, what would he want? Muzzlin'.

If a tree were to break a window, what would the window say? Tree-mend-us!

State the difference between a grocer selling a pound of sugar, and an apothecary's boy with a pestle and mortar?
One weighs a pound and the other pounds away.

When a hen is sitting across the top of a five-barred gate, why is she like a penny? Because she has a head on one side and a tail on the other.

What is the most dangerous time of the year to go into the country? When the trees are shooting and the bull-rushes out!

Why was the whale that swallowed Jonah like a milkman who has retired on an independency? Because he took a great profit out of the water.

Who is the most tender-hearted man in the world? The bell-man, because he will cry if you give him a shilling.

What is the key-note of good manners? B natural.

I am for ever, yet was never? Eternity!

When may you be said to literally "drink in" music? When you have a piano-for-tea.

What is the difference between an engine-driver and a schoolmaster? One minds the train and the other trains the mind.

Why is *o* the noisiest of all the vowels? Because you can't make a horrid loud noise without it, whilst all the others are inaudible.

Why can you never expect a fishmonger to be generous? Because his business makes him sell-fish.

When is a bonnet not a bonnet? When it becomes a pretty woman.

What is that which works when it plays, and plays when it works? A fountain.

In what tongue did Balaam's donkey speak? Probably in the He-bray-ic.

What is the difference between a fisherman and a lazy schoolboy? One baits his hook and the other hates his book.

What words may be pronounced quicker and shorter by adding syllables to them? Quick and short.

Why is it certain that *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was not written by a female hand? Because it was written by Mrs. Beecher's toe.

How many cows' tails would it take to reach from London to Ramsgate upon the rule of $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches to the foot, and having all the ground levelled between the two places? One, if it were long enough.

Why are birds melancholy in the morning? Because their little bills are all over dew!

What is the difference between the Prince of Wales, an orphan, a bald-headed old man and a gorilla? The first is an heir apparent; the second has never a parent;

the third has no hair apparent; and the fourth has a hairy parent.

What is the difference between your last will and testament and a man who has eaten as much as he can? One is signed and dated, the other dined and sated.

When does a leopard change his spots? When he moves from one spot to another.

What would a pig do who wished to build himself a habitation? Tie a knot in his tail and call it a pig's tie!

Which are the lightest men—Scotchmen, Irishmen, or Englishmen? In Ireland there are men of Cork; in Scotland men of Ayr; but in England, on the Thames, we have lighter-men.

What extraordinary kind of meat is to be bought in the Isle of Wight? Mutton from Cowes!

Why is a miserly uncle with whom you have quarrelled like a person with a short memory? Because he is ever for-getting and never for-giving.

Why is a comet more like a dog than the dog-star? Because it has a tail, and the dog-star hasn't.

What was it a blind man took at breakfast which restored his sight? He took a cup and saw, sir!

When is a teapot like a kitten? When your teasin' it (tea's in it!).

When is a blow from a lady welcome? When she strikes you agreeably.

What's the difference between a professional pianoforte player and one that hears him? One plays for his pay, and the other pays for his play.

How do we know Moses wore a wig? Because he was sometimes seen with Aaron and sometimes without 'air on.

What is the difference between an accepted and an unaccepted lover? One kisses his missis, an' the other misses his kisses.

When is a fruit-stall like a strong swimmer? When it stems the currants.

Why is love like a canal boat? Because it's an internal transport.

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

When were there only two vowels ? In the days of No-a before U or I were born !

What is the difference between love and war ? One breaks heads, the other hearts.

What is that from which you may take away the whole and yet have some left ? The word wholesome.

What sort of tune do we all enjoy most ? For-tune, made up of banknotes.

How many P's are there in a pint ? One P !

Why would an owl be offended at your calling him a pheasant ? Because you would be making game of him.

What is it gives a cold, cures a cold, and pays the doctor's bill ? A draught.

What is that which is black, white, and red all over ; which shows some people to be green, and makes others look black and blue ? A newspaper.

What game do the waves play at ? Pitch and toss.

What was Joan of Arc made of ? She was Maid of Orleans.

When is a black dog not a black dog ? When he's a grey-hound.

Why are sugar-plums like race-horses ? Because the more you lick them the faster they go ?

Which eats most grass—black sheep or white ? White, because there are more of them.

When is a schoolmaster like a man with one eye ? When he has a vacancy for a pupil.

If I buy four oranges for a penny, and give one away why am I like a telescope ? Because I make a far-thing present.

What letter in the Dutch alphabet will name an English lady of title ? A Dutch S.

What is that which every one wishes for and yet wants to get rid of as soon as obtained ? A good appetite.

What did the engine-whistle say to the stoker ? Don't touch me or I'll scream !

Why is a waiter like a racehorse ? Because he runs for cups and plates and steaks !

Why should the poet have expected the woodman to

"spare that tree" ? Because he thought he was a good feller.

What is that which is put on the table and cut, but never eaten ? A pack of cards.

How many wives are you allowed by the Prayer-Book ? Sixteen : viz., fo(u)r better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer ; total, sixteen.

What is that which lives in winter, dies in summer, and grows with its root upwards ? An icicle.

Why have chickens no fear of a future state ? Because they have their next world (necks twirled) in this.

Why was the first day of Adam's life the longest ? Because it had no Eve.

Why is the nose on your face like *v* in civility ? Because it is between two eyes.

Why is a little dog's tail like the heart of a tree ? Because it is farthest from the bark.

When is an alderman like a ghost ? When he's a goblin.

ENIGMAS

A short collection of enigmas, acrostics, and other exercises for the ingenious.

Guess what these are :—

We are little airy creatures,
All of different voice and features ;
One of us in glass is set ;
One of us you'll find in jet ;
One of us is set in tin ;
And the fourth a box is in :
If the last you should pursue,
It can never fly from you.

The Vowels : A. E. I. O. U.

Four things there are all of a height—
One of them cross'd, the rest upright ;
Take three away, and you will find
Exactly ten remain behind ;
But if you cut the four in twain
You'll find one half doth eight retain.

Ever eating, never cloying,
 Never finding full repast,
 All devouring, all destroying,
 Till it eats the world at last ?

FIRE.

Through thy short and shadowy span
 I am with thee, child of man ;
 With thee still, from first to last,
 In pain and pleasure, feast and fast ;
 At thy cradle and thy death,
 Thine earliest wail and dying breath.
 Seek thou not to shun or save,
 On the earth or in the grave ;
 The worm and I, the worm and I,
 In the grave together lie.

The letter A.

There is a noun of plural number,
 Foe to peace and tranquil slumber ;
 But add to it the letter s,
 And, wondrous metamorphosis !
 Plural is plural now no more,
 And sweet what bitter was before ;

CARES—CARESS.

Five hundred begins, five hundred ends it,
 Five in the middle is seen ;
 The first of all figures, the first of all letters,
 Take up their stations between ;
 Join all together, and then you will bring
 Before you the name of an eminent king.

DAVID.

My *first* is a circle, my *second* a cross ;
 If you meet with my *whole* look out for a toss !

OX.—

Without my *first* you'd look very strange,
 My *second* you much want to be ;
 My *whole* is what many a lady has worn
 At a ball, an assembly, or play.

NOSE-GAY.

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My love for you will never know
My *first*, not get my *second* ;
'Tis like your wit and beauty, so
My *whole* 'twill aye be reckoned.

END-LESS.

My *first* I hope you are,
My *second* I see you are,
My *whole* I know you are.

WELL-COME.

Your initials begin with an A ;
You've an A at the end of your name,
The whole of your name is an A,
And 'tis backwards and forwards the same ?

ANNA.

My *first*, loud chattering, through the air
Bounded 'mid tree tops high,
Then saw his image mirrored, where
My *second* murmured by.

Taking it for a friend, he strayed
T'wards where the stream did roll,
And was the sort of fool that's made
The first day of my *whole* ?

APE-RIL (L).

My *first* doth affliction denote,
Which my *second* is destined to feel ;
But my *whole* is the sure antidote
That affliction to soothe and to heal.

WO-MAN.

My *first's* an airy thing,
Toying in the flowers ;
Evermore wandering
in fancy's bowers :
Living on beauteous smiles
From eyes that glisten,
And telling of love's wiles
To ears that listen.

GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

But if, in its first blush
 Of warm emotion,
 My *second* come to crush
 Its young devotion,
 Oh! then it wastes away,
 Weeping and wailing,
 And on some sunny day
 Is best in breaking.

HEART-ACHE.

I am in the fire, but not in the flame;
 I belong to the master, but not to the dame;
 I belong to the church, but not to the steeple;
 I belong to the parson, but not to the people.

The letter R.

The Indian lover burst
 From his lone cot by night;
 When Love has lit my *first*,
 In hearts by passion nurst,
 Oh! who shall quench the light

The Indian left the shore,
 He heard the night wind sing,
 And cursed the tardy oar,
 And wished that he could soar
 Upon my *second's* wing.

The blast came cold and damp,
 But all the voyage through
 I lent my lingering lamp,
 As o'er the marshy swamp
 He paddled his canoe.

FIRE-FLY.