

ing, meanwhile, to wash the excavated dirt. This we have done; and, my boy, we have never made less than three hundred dollars any day since we commenced."

"Then you think the bag a humbug, do you?"

"Why, of course," said he.

"Well, I don't, and I intend to go on looking for it."

"Now, what's the use of being foolish?" quoth Bill Jennings. "We've got as much dirt as we can wash for some time, and it pays. I can't see the use of continuing such a wild-goose chase as the hunt for that bag."

"Be that as it may," said I, "I intend to follow it up."

Hill and Jack conferred together awhile, and then the former said—

"Well, Ned, we might as well tell you first as last. I wrote that letter in order to get you to go into tunnelling."

"And the 'blazed' tree," said I, "how about that? The 'blaze' is certainly two years old."

"Jack hesitated. 'Why, you see,' said he, 'we found that tree, and wrote the letter to suit it.'"

"Then what do you think of this?" asked I, showing him the bag I had found in the cave.

Jack was nonplussed. On opening the bag, we found about three thousand dollars' worth of gold. Jack never would confess, but always insisted, that the variance between the statement in the letter and the amount in the bag was proof enough that the letter and it had no connection with each other. I don't think so, however, and I believe that Jack's assertion of having written the letter was untrue. We never could ascertain anything about Mr. Forrest, so we divided the money among us.

### THE STORY OF THE SNIDER GUN.

THE misfortunes of inventors are proverbial. A few may gather wealth and reputation as the just reward of their exertions, but the majority have to undergo the mortification of beholding their claims ridiculed or ignored by those who have derived the most profit from their discoveries. A remarkable instance of this has just occurred in England. During the last twenty years numerous attempts have been made to provide for the use of soldiers a fire-arm which should be lighter, stronger, and capable of being fired more rapidly than the common musket then in use. During the war between the United States and Mexico, the soldiers of the former Power found the possession of revolvers gave them an indisputable advantage over their opponents. A man armed with a revolver could fire seven or more shots to the single shot of an opponent armed with a common musket or pistol. This fact led various inventors and scientific men to attempt the manufacture of a really serviceable breech-loading arm—that is, a weapon loaded at the breech instead of the muzzle—but the power of routine and red-tape was too great. Excepting Prussia, no Power would venture upon the experiment of equipping its army with breech-loaders. At last came the German war, and with the successes achieved by means of the Prussian needle-gun the once despised breech-loader system at once sprang into popularity. Each Continental power became anxious that its troops should have arms constructed on the breech-loader principle. In England the Government were urged on, both by Parliament and the nation, to adopt the new system as rapidly as possible. This was comparatively an easy task; for, thanks to the invention of the Mont "Storm" breech-loader, better known as the Snider breech-loader, the authorities were at once enabled to take steps for placing—at a comparatively light cost—our armies more on an equality, as regarded breech-loaders, with those of the Continent. But they could not have done this without the aid of Mr. Snider's invention. Yet, what a sorry treatment did he receive from them! So far back as 1859 Mr. Snider presented the Mont Storm system of breech-loading to the English Government, and was called on to convert two Enfields upon that plan. Subsequently it

was suggested that the ammunition should be made up with Government powder and bullet, and Mr. Snider having applied for and received these articles, the trials duly proceeded before the Ordnance Committee. A demand was then made upon him for the sum of £1 ls. 2d. for the material thus furnished, and it is affirmed that the Government actually sued him and obtained judgment against him for that amount. At that time his experiments occupied about eighteen months. Early in 1861 he went to the Continent to pursue his researches into the best system of breech-loading. In 1863 he returned to England, and first exhibited a model of a gun which formed the basis of his present invention. He was assured that the Government would never consent to look at a system of breech-loading carrying its own ignition; but the scientific persons having the subject in charge zealously met his views, and, after eight years of labour and heavy expenditure, he had the satisfaction to see his system practically successful and adopted by the State. But the further pecuniary and painful part of the history is described to be as follows:—In June last he addressed Lord Hartington, the then Secretary for War, saying he thought the time had now come when he should be informed how he was to be dealt with. The reply was that his claim must be considered under three heads—1, reimbursement for expenses; 2, compensation for services while employed in the department; and, 3, reward for the invention; and it was added that the first two points could be speedily settled without waiting for the third. Mr. Snider accordingly named £2,700 as the sum due to him for expenditure and services, whereupon it was notified that the matter had been left entirely in the hands of Mr. Clode, the Government solicitor for War, and that his decision was to give £1,000 and no more. Harassed by creditors for debts incurred during his long and costly proceedings, and at the same time helpless from sickness, and being told that if he did not accept what was offered, and give an acquittance in full, he would get nothing, Mr. Snider consented by the advice of friends to take the amount, the whole of which went immediately to creditors, not one farthing finding its way to his own hands. When these facts became known to the public, a storm of indignation followed. The authorities, alarmed at the stir made, reconsidered in a more favourable light the question of Mr. Snider's claim, and forwarded a communication to that effect to Mr. Snider's partner. But the concession came too late: the very morning that the intelligence was received, poor Snider, worn out with anxiety and disappointment, had died of a broken heart!

### PASTIMES.

#### HISTORICAL ENIGMA.

The initials will give the name of a celebrated king of Scotland:—

1. A prime minister and ambitious statesman of France in the reign of Louis XIII.
2. The first martyr and the first author amongst the English nobility.
3. An eminent lawyer and law writer.
4. One of the most distinguished scholars of Germany.
5. A Bishop of London burnt at the stake for his religious opinions.
6. A celebrated French statesman and diplomatist.
7. The National poet of Scotland.
8. A gallant Dutch admiral killed in an engagement with the French.
9. An Irish divine who suffered severely during the rebellion in Charles I.'s reign.
10. An English navigator who sailed three times round the world.
11. A famous Dutch author, and the great restorer of learning in Europe.

#### CHARADES.

I.

Dame Dorothy now is a servitor old,  
And long years of labour has reckoned;  
She is greatest at my first, more great at my whole,  
But greatest of all at my second!  
She's starched and she's stiffened with buckram and bone,  
And carries a grimly set smile of her own;  
But, oh, dear me! the servants agree,  
That she carries my first to a foolish degree!

And all the year round she is busy at work,  
At all sorts and kinds of my second,  
In which fish, fowl, and game of the best,  
Beside fruits of all species, are reckoned.  
She's up to her elbows in butter and flour,  
And smiles with a grim sort of sense of her power:  
But, oh, dear me! all folks must agree,  
None accomplish my second like old Dorothy.

When Yule-tide draws near, with her pasteboard and pin,  
Unwearing her crust doth she roll,  
And batch after batch to the oven dispatch  
She doth of my wonderful whole!

'Tis the pride of her heart the rich compound to make,  
And her heart is as light as her crust and its flake;  
And, oh, dear me! we all must agree,  
That such a chef d'œuvre we never did see!

F. F. BRODERIP.

II.

My first was sailing on her way,  
O'er a boundless sea of blue,  
While fleecy cloudlets, like sheets of foam,  
Were drifting the heavens through,  
And the little stars, like a fleet of boats,  
Were darting to and fro.

She sent my second slanting down,  
To rest on sleeping earth,  
With a gentle kiss for all eyes that wept  
In human sorrow or dearth.  
"My first has let fall her silver oar,"  
Laughed the winds, in noisy mirth.

On many a varied spot below  
Is my whole's white finger prest—  
On hearts that are full of heaving strife  
As the sea's unquiet breast.  
And my whole, with its silver light, comes down,  
Like a message of calm and rest.

F. F. B.

#### RIDDLES.

1. What two letters in the alphabet have least in them?
2. What are the two most intemperate letters of the alphabet?
3. What are the two most sinful letters in the alphabet?
4. What is that which has a crown and no throne; a head, yet no body; yet which goes every where, and is admitted into all society?

#### DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

What all love best, professing to prize least;  
A Jewish tribe, inhabiting the East;  
What should be man's first law, as heaven ordains;  
Our life-long heritage of griefs and pains.

My first is very coldly pure and white;  
It covers all things with a mantle light,  
Veils all the earth, tips every leaf and spray,  
Yet flies before the sun's too ardent ray.  
My second, warm and genial, gives its light  
Alike to rich and poor, by day or night.  
My first before my second disappears  
In liquid floods of ever-gushing tears,  
That hiss and sparkle at my first's great heat—  
Such is their conduct when the couple meet.

F. F. B.

#### WORD CAPPING.

1. Complete, I am a female's name; by changing my cap, I appear as a foreigner, part of an animal's head, part of a church, a sensible person, a thorough-fare, a reed, a portion of glass, an evil, and my last is decreasing.
2. Whole, I am a glutinous substance; change my cap, and I am respectively one of the senses, to sew slightly, quickness, my next is wicked, and my last refers to the Hindoos.
3. As I stand, I am a town in England; but change my cap successively, and I become an animal, a reprobate, a Spanish coin, the flesh of an animal, a loud sound, to reconcile, prosperity, and, lastly, warmth of feeling.

#### PROBLEMS.

1. A number consisting of two digits, when squared is equal to fifty-three times the square of the units digit, together with thirteen times the square of the tens digit; and the sum of the digits is equal to the difference of their squares. What is the number?

J. VAUGHAN.

A new monthly entitled the *Albion Magazine*, is published by a large clothing-house of London. The "sensational novel" style of advertising is adopted in it, of which the following is a sample: "This man, so tall, so graceful, dressed in one of Mills & Co's. elegant black suits, at 50s., was approaching her. She trembled! It was he—it could be no other! She recognized him by the glossy hat bought of Mills & Co. for 7s. 6d., by the exquisite fit of his handsome boots, 14s., and that most gentlemanly of over-coats, sold only by Mills & Co. at 35s. Her heart beat audibly; her limbs bent beneath her; she was about to fall upon the greensward, when—" It would be an improvement for the advertisers to stop here and say, "The remainder of this very interesting story will be found in the next number of the Magazine."