

THE KENTUCKY TWINS.

MANY of our readers will remember the Siamese twins, two youths named Eng and Chang, born in 1811 of Chinese parents in Siam. Their bodies were united by a flesh-band stretching from breast-bone to breast-bone. Originally the band united them face to face, but constant traction had so stretched it and changed its natural direction, that they could stand almost side by side. The greatest length of this flesh-cord was four inches, and its greatest thickness an inch and a-half. It seems to communicate with the nervous system of each, for being touched in the centre both feel the touch, this, however, is not the case when the medial band is touched in any point nearer to one body than the other, for then only the person nearest the point touched is sensible of it. This "lusus natura" was purchased at Meklong, a city of Siam, in 1829, and exhibited in America by Captain Coffin and Mr. Hunter. After making the tour of Europe they realized a competency, and settled in one of the Southern States of America, where they married two sisters, and had offspring, but, owing to odious quarrels, it was found essential to have two establishments, one for each wife, where the household arrangements are wholly controlled by the sister-in-law. The late disastrous civil war in America, which has brought ruin to so many families, has laid its hand on the Siamese twins, who are about to make another tour, and may possibly visit Canada.

The Siamese union of bodies was thought to be a unique concurrence, and therefore excited a very large share of public attention, but, strange to say, this wonderful phenomenon has been already repeated in the opposite sex. About nine years ago, two sisters were born corded together by a natural ligature precisely like that referred to above. It is fastened to the lower part of the chest in each, and its sensibility is precisely analogous to that which unites Eng and Chang. If touched midway between the two sisters, both feel the touch, but if pricked with a needle or pinched with the fingers elsewhere, only that one is sensible of the puncture or pinch which is nearest the part experimented on. Except in this flesh-bond, each sister is a separate individual: each feels her own individual wants; each suffers hunger or thirst, sleepiness or vigilance, pleasure or pain, independent of the other; they love separately, and have their individual tastes and specialties. No doubt the necessity of co-operation has modified their individuality, and trained their minds to mutual forbearance, it has shown to them by that strongest of all arguments, personal comfort, that each must sacrifice something to the other, and that they must try to act and feel in unison, but there is no oneness of mind between them, no common nervous system, no union of perception and thought; what they do in common is done by voluntary submission, habit, or sisterly sympathy. These sisters were born in Kentucky of negro parents, and were first exhibited by Mr. Barnum, in his monster American museum. It is said that they are now about to make the tour of Europe.

It has been often asked whether this uniting cord could not be cut without endangering life. The only safe answer to this question will be a reference to a case recorded by Ambrose Paré, of two sisters united by a flesh-cord in the forehead. One died at the age of ten, when it was actually essential to divide the ligature. The operation was performed most skillfully, but proved fatal, for the survivor lingered a day or two, and was then buried beside her sister. Of them it may emphatically be said, "They were united in life, and in death they were not divided."

CANTER AND DE-CANTER.—Jones's studies in physiology, equitation, and the practical chemistry of alcohol, have convinced him that a canter will give you ruddy cheeks and a decanter will give you a ruddy nose.

THE OLD ATLANTIC CABLE.

THE operation of fishing up the old Atlantic cable is thus described by Cyrus W. Field. "Our fishing-line was of formidable size. It was made of rope, twisted with wires of steel, so as to bear a strain of thirty tons. It took about two hours for the grapnel to reach bottom, but we could tell when it struck. I often went to the bow and sat on the rope, and could feel by the quiver that the grapnel was dragging on the bottom two miles under us. But it was a very slow business. We had storms and calms, and fogs and squalls. Still we worked on day after day. Once, on the 17th of August, we got the cable up, and had it in full sight for five minutes, a long, slimy monster, fresh from the ooze of the ocean's bed, but our men began to cheer so wildly that it seemed to be frightened, and suddenly broke away, and went down into the sea. This accident kept us at work two weeks longer, but, finally, on the last night of August we caught it. We had cast the grapnel thirty times. It was a little before midnight on Friday night that we hooked the cable, and it was a little after midnight Sunday morning when we got it on board. What was the anxiety of those twenty-six hours! The strain on every man's life was like the strain on the cable itself. When finally it appeared it was midnight; the lights of the ship, and in the boats around our bows, as they flashed in the faces of the men, showed them eagerly watching for the cable to appear on the water. At length it was brought to the surface. All who were allowed to approach crowded forward to see it. Yet not a word was spoken, only the voices of the officers in command were heard giving orders. All felt as if life and death hung on the issue. It was only when it was brought over the bow and on to the deck that men dared to breathe. Even then they hardly believed their eyes. Some crept toward it to feel of it, to be sure it was there. Then we carried it along to the electricians' room to see if our long-sought-for treasure was alive or dead. A few minutes of suspense, and a flash told of the lightning current again set free. Then did the feeling long pent up burst forth. Some turned away their heads and wept. Others broke into cheers, and the cry ran from man to man, and was heard down in the engine-rooms, deck below deck, and from the boats on the water, and the other ships, while rockets lighted up the darkness of the sea. Then with thankful hearts we turned our faces again to the west. But soon the wind rose, and for thirty-six hours we were exposed to all the dangers of a storm on the Atlantic. Yet in the very height and fury of the gale, as I sat in the electricians' room, a flash of light came up from the deep, which, having crossed to Ireland, came back to me in mid-ocean, telling that those so dear to me, whom I had left on the banks of the Hudson, were well, and following us with their wishes and their prayers. This was like a whisper of God from the sea, bidding me keep heart and hope. The Great Eastern bore herself proudly through the storm as if she knew that the vital cord, which was to join two hemispheres, hung at her stern; and so, on Saturday, the 7th of September, we brought our second cable safely to the shore."

PASTIMES.

We shall be glad to receive from any of our friends who take an interest in this column original contributions of Puzzles, Charades, Problems, &c. Solutions should in each case accompany questions forwarded.

ARITHMOREM.

- 1. 650 and no aque = A town in France.
2. 56 " roe = A man's name.
3. 4 " err = A large current of water
4. 1,500 " cra = An illusion.
5. 1,550 " Bertha run on = A county of England.
6. 1,001 " year = An imperial power.
7. 51 " the = A town in Scotland.
8. 650 " sat on = A country of Europe.
9. 500 " onset = A town in Holland.
10. 1,005 " be Nore = A calendar month.
The initials will name a famous sailor, whose exploits are read with admiration.

CHARADES.

- 1. My first is a fog, my second a French article, my third a part of the foot, and my whole is seen at Christ mas.
2. I am a word of nine letters My 2, 3, 8, 4, 6, 6 is the edge of anything; my 4, 7, 9 is to be merry; my 2, 3, 9 is a month, my 4, 1, 6 is a spirit, my 2, 3, 8, 9 is a lady's name, my 2, 3, 5, 6 is the principal part, my 8, 7, 2 is a sheep; my 8, 3, 4, 6 is what we could not do without, my 4, 3, 7, 1, 6 is corn, and my whole is visionary. J. C.
2. I'm bright, and I'm black. I'm clean, and I'm dirty; I'm round, and I'm oval; my age? perhaps thirty; I'm wet, and I'm dry; I'm hot, and I'm cold, And not often used before I am sold. I'm useful to many, and valued by all, For I'm found in the cottage, camp, mansion, or hall. I've never learned music, But yet I can sing— Now am I not, reader, A wonderful thing? H. R.
3. The thunder roars and lightnings flash, The sea runs mountains high, A gallant bark is tempest-tossed; For help the sailors cry. In eager haste my first to save, They try my second's aid: And leave the vessel to her fate; Fearful, yet undismayed. They turn their gaze o'er waters vast: Now hope inspires each soul— For, hastening to their rescue then, They see my gallant whole. W. S. L.

DECAPITATION.

Complete, I'm a very small word, of meaning great— Dear reader, don't think that I wish to prate; Behold, I'm a relation, then let me state, Whose affection, we trust, may never abate, Again behold, transpose, and then will be found A cask of large size, which is kept underground; Once more transpose me, and then I abound In the woods; now turn me around.

FLORAL ANAGRAMS.

- 1. Hans a cut. 7. Bend veal.
2. The sear see. 8. Pile hot ore.
3. O' midd ray. 9. Lead no din.
4. Rub cut, pl. 10. Dr. Potzoff.
5. Lucan run us. 11. Check us only.
6. Munch my hearts. 12. R law fellow.

GEOGRAPHICAL REBUS.

- 1. A town in England. 6. A river in Spain.
2. A river in England. 7. A country of America.
3. A country of Europe. 8. A chain of mountains in Europe.
4. An island in the Mediterranean. 9. A river in France.
5. A country of Asia.

The initials, read downwards will name a joyous season.

PROBLEM.

A grazier being asked the number of his live-stock, replied, "I have some horses, five times as many neat cattle as I have horses, and eight times as many sheep as I have neat cattle. If I had fewer horses by 6, and fewer neat cattle by 10, and if my sheep were 9 times as many as my neat cattle would then be, I should have 710 head in all." Required the number he had of each kind of stock, and how many altogether. R. B.

SOLUTIONS TO ENIGMA, &c., No. 62.

Enigma.—1, Mercury, Medina, Edinburgh, Rotterdam, Calcutta, Ushant, Rheims, York. 2, Age. Decapitations.—1, Glass-lass-ass. 2, Spear-pear-sear. 3, Sword-word-rod. 3, There-her-ere.

Charades.—1, Sol-acc. 2, Brace-let. 3, Wreck-crew. 4, Amirande.

Arithmorems.—1 William Makepeace Thackeray. 2, Charles Dickens. 3 Edward, Bulwer Lytton. 4, Hannah Moore. 5, Theodore Hook. 6, Mayne Reid.

Problem.—9 gallons @ 22s. 12 " @ 15s.

SOLUTIONS TO ARITHMOREM, &c., No. 63.

Arithmorem Leonidas.—1, Lucan. 2, Euclid. 3, Ovid. 4, Numidicus. 5, Ixion. 6, Diocletian. 7, Alcibiades. 8 Simonides.

Enigma.—A bay.

Charade.—An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Anagrams.—1, Anthony Trollope. 2, Charles Dickens.

Problem.—£600 each.

The following solutions have been received. No. 62.—Problem, G. Legge.

No. 63.—Arithmorem, C. J. C., H. H. V., Ellen, Bericus, Charade, J. E. D'A., Ellen, Usherwood, Pilot. Anagram, J. E. D'A., H. H. V., Pilot, Bericus. Problem, Custus, Leoni.