

I have said that a quart of ale is equal to twenty-five bricks, and a paper of tobacco is the mortar to lay them with. There they are, the twenty five bricks and the mortar, going from many a man's pocket over the public house counter every day. Such men will never be freeholders. In Birmingham we have bought freehold land at the rate of 1s. 6d. per yard—two quarts of ale and a paper of tobacco exacty.

I remember sometime ago telling the coalheavers and the limestone quarrymen, in a meeting at Dudley, that every quart of ale was equal to half-a-yard of freehold land. One man got up at the far end of the room and said, 'What is that you say, mister?' I replied, 'Why my dear fellow, with every quart of ale you drink you swallow half-a-yard of land.' 'Well, then,' said he, 'I have swallowed many a field in my time.'

Upon a calculation, we find that the loss of money alone to a man spending 6d. a day in drink (a pint of ale for instance) amounts at the end of twenty-seven years (with compound interest at five per cent.) to the large and handsome sum of five hundred and nine pounds, sufficient to buy half-a-million of bricks, which would build, say twenty-five houses; or at one shilling and a penny per square yard, it would purchase an estate of two acres of building ground, or land enough for forty respectable houses and gardens; or it would purchase three good houses all complete.

Workingmen! is there not some inducement here to leave off this drinking? Remember that in the above calculation there is nothing whatever put down for loss of time and health; this would amount to far more than the actual cost of the drink.

#### THE DOT GAME.

A correspondent of *Hearth and Home* describes the following simple amusement, which will train the attention as well as afford attention.

Each player must be provided with pencil and paper, or slate and pencil. Let one of the party read aloud—distinctly and not very fast, and as he or she reads, let the rest each make a dot for every word read. "Easy enough to do that"—is it? Try. Probably at the first trial not one of the party of ten boys or girls will succeed in following a moderate reader accurately, even for a single page. When the page is read, count the words, and then let each player count his dots, and see who has been accurately "up to time."

**DON'T BE TOO CERTAIN.**—Boys, don't be too certain. Remember that nothing is easier than to be mistaken. And if you permit yourself to be mistaken a great many times, everybody will lose confidence in what you say.

"John, where's the hammer?"

"It is in the corn-house."

"No, it is not there; I have just been looking there."

"Well, I know it is: I saw it there not half an hour ago."

"If you say it is there it must be there of course. But suppose you go and fetch it."

John goes to the corn-house, and presently returns with a small axe in his hand:

"Oh, it was the axe I saw. The handle was sticking out from a half-bushel measure. I thought it was the hammer."

"But you said positively that you *did* see it, not that you *thought* you saw it. There is a great difference between the two answers. Do not permit yourself to make a positive statement, even about small matters, unless you are quite sure; for if you do, you will find the habit growing upon you, and by-and-by you will begin to make loose replies to questions of great importance. *Don't be to certain!*"  
—*Young Pilgrim.*

#### SOME PUZZLES.

Our sharp-witted young readers will enjoy cracking these nuts, which we find in an exchange. Some of them have thick shells, but some will crack easily.

I.

Dreaming of apples on a wall,  
And dreaming often dear,  
I dreamed that if I counted all,  
How many would appear?

II.

A stick I found, that weighed two pound:  
I sawed it up one day  
In pieces, eight, of equal weight,  
How much did each piece weigh?

[Everybody says "a quarter of a pound," which is wrong.]

III.

John gave his brother James a box:  
About it there were many locks.

James woke, and said it gave him pain:  
So gave it back to John again.

This box was not with lid supplied,  
Yet caused two lids to open wide:

And all these locks had never a key—  
What kind of box, then, could it be?

IV.

What is most like a bee in May?  
"Well, let me think; perhaps—" you say.  
Bravo! you're guessing well to-day!

V.

Three sisters at breakfast were feeding the cat.  
The first gave it sole—Puss was grateful for that;  
The next gave it salmon—which Puss thought a treat;  
The third gave it herring—which puss wouldn't eat.

[Explain the conduct of the cat.]

VI.

Said the Moon to the Sun,  
"Is the daylight begun?"  
Said the Sun to the Moon,  
"Not a minute too soon."

"You're a full moon," said he.  
She replied, with a frown,  
"Well! I never *did* see  
So uncivil a clown!"

[Query: Why was the moon so angry?]

VII.

When the King found that his money was nearly all gone, and that he really *must* live more economically, he decided on sending away most of his Wise Men. There were some hundreds of them—very fine old men, and magnificently dressed in green velvet gowns with gold buttons: if they had a fault, it was that they always contradicted one another when he asked for their advice—and they certainly ate and drank *enormously*. So, on the whole, he was rather glad to get rid of them. But there was an old law, which he did not care to disobey, which said that there must always be

"Seven blind of both eyes;  
Ten blind of one eye;  
Five that see with both eyes;  
Nine that see with one eye."

[Query: How many did he keep?]

—*Hearth and Home.*