

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

1. A tribo.
2. An English sovereign.
3. A Huntress.
4. A Jewish priest.
5. An American Republic.
6. An Ottoman Emperor.
7. An Irish city.

The initials and finals from the names of two companies which have been a long time "on the boards," are well known to the Halifax public and may appear again shortly.

C. A. C.

The CRITIC will be sent free for one year to the person giving the only correct answer to above puzzle. When two correct answers are sent in, THE CRITIC will be sent free for six months to each of those answering correctly. Answers should arrive at CRITIC Office before Tuesday P. M., marked answer to puzzle.

Solution of Double Diagonal Diamond Puzzle published last week.

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THE  
FLEET  
THICKET  
THEORITIC  
ILLICIT  
WATER  
BIT  
O

TIP-BITS.

One of the most marked differences between English and Americans in matters of diet is in their relative use of coffee and tea. In Great Britain tea has long been the favorite, while in the United States coffee is preferred. The difference becomes constantly more striking. For some years past the consumption of coffee per capita has remained stationary or has fallen off in the United Kingdom, while that of tea has been steadily increasing. In the United States, on the other hand, the consumption of tea has of late fallen off rapidly, sinking from 1.54 pounds per capita five years ago to only 1.16 last year, while the consumption of coffee has increased only less rapidly, until it now reaches about nine and a half pounds a year per capita. The English now drink five times as much tea as coffee, while the Americans drink eight times as much coffee as tea. The *American Grocer* is of opinion that the reduction in the consumption of tea in this country of late years is largely due to a falling off in the quality of the leaf, while the coffee trade has distributed the bean in a roasted rather than a green state more generally than formerly, which has enabled consumers to secure a more agreeable drink than when the beans were roasted at home in skillets or frying-pans, as used to be the almost universal rule in the South. These influences have doubtless had some weight, but it is obvious enough from an examination of the statistics that people in this country are more and more coming to prefer coffee to tea on general principles.

1711. The incident known as the "Dagger Scene" in the House of Commons took place on the 28th of December, 1792. The House was discussing the "Aliens' Bill," on which Burke and Fox were widely opposed. Burke rose to address the House, and at the proper moment, when the attention of the House was concentrated on him, and when his actions, whatever they might be, were certain of being reported, he put his hand inside his waistcoat and drew forth the dagger, which he flung before him on the floor of the House. "This," said he, pointing to the dagger, "is what you are to gain by an alliance with France; wherever their principles are introduced their practice must follow. You must equally proscribe their tenets and their persons from our shores;" and he ended an impassioned address by begging the House to strengthen the hands, not of the Ministry, not of the Opposition, but of the country, by passing the Aliens' Bill. It is said that Sheridan threw great ridicule on this theatrical exhibition by saying, "The gentleman has brought his knife with him, but where's the fork?"

Here is another peep behind the scenes in a Royal Household, this time in Italy. The King, though only forty-two, has been for some years getting grey, and his hair is now so nearly white that his amiable consort, Queen Marguerite, lately induced him, after much difficulty, to allow her to order from Paris a case of those toilet preparations best suited to hide the traces of Father Time's tell-tale fingers. So the case arrived, and was committed into the King's hands by his loving spouse, with the injunction to use some of the varied contents at once. The next morning Her Majesty, on descending to her gardens as usual before her dejeuner, was much surprised to find that one of her pet dogs, a favorite white spaniel, had become of a bright apple green. In the course of her inquiries she met her husband, who at once offered an explanation. "You see, my dear," he said, "that before trying those hair washes which are not dyes that you have so kindly procured for me, I was anxious to try their effect, and so I accordingly rubbed one handful on your little dog. You see the result. To-morrow I propose to try another kind of preparation on your pet parrot." But the same evening Queen Marguerite took very decisive measures to rid the palace of the box and the remaining toilet concoctions, and King Humbert is now allowed to grow grey in peace.—*London Figaro*.

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