

Oft too as umpire I decide
When parties disagree,
And disputants on either side
Must bow to my decree.

II.

In earth and air I am not found,
Yet dwell in clouds and in the ground.
I am the centre of the sun,
Years by my help are said to run.
Extinguish me, and in your sport
You mar the country and the court:
Both squire and duke you would destroy,
And change a bishop to a boy.
Hundreds and thousands without me
Would lose their form, and cease to be.
Without my aid what would be pure?
Triumphant what? or what endure?
What would be dug, or cut, or spun?
And what concluded or begun?
E'en Truth without me could not stand,
Justice would perish out of hand,
Virtue herself would take to wing,
And Nature be a nameless thing.

III.

I am of paper, spotted o'er,
And portraits of the court I show;
I mark, with hieroglyphic lore,
All points from which the wind can blow.
With iron teeth I may be seen,
Prepared to pull, to scratch, and tear;
I am a servile go between,
Ready all messages to bear.
By me the sailor finds his way,
And holds his path upon the deep;
Thousands by me are lead astray,
And waste their health and lose their sleep.
The artist's and the housewife's tool,
I help them to their trade and thrift.
By me the idler and the fool
Of time and money are bereft.

J. B.

Riddles.

I.

Perfect with a head, perfect without a
head, perfect with a tail, perfect without
a tail, perfect with either, neither, or both.

II.

My head and tail both equal are,
My middle slender as a bee,
Whether I stand on head or heel
'Tis all the same to you or me;
But if my head should be cut off,
The matter 's true, although 't is strange,
My head and body sever'd thus,
Immediately to nothing change.

III.

One syllable I am, and bring to mind
No meaning, or a meaning ill defined;

But when curtail'd, two syllables I grow,
And what that means I hope you ne'er
shall know.

IV.

Two syllables I was before,
And then I shiver'd, or I burn'd,
And could not fail to move your pity;
But when I gain'd a letter more,
A monosyllable I turn'd,
And you admire me as a city.

V.

One syllable only, whose letters are four,
I always mean two, and can never mean
more;
But my second and first are so jumbled in
one,
You must take them together or let them
alone.

VI.

To half a circle add a circle,
The same again repeat,
Adding a triangle
That stands on two feet.

VII.

My days were spent in merriment,
When I was a careless boy;
'Twas a dainty treat my first to eat,
And my last was a special joy.
Now I've my whole, a merry soul
By all my guests I'm reckoned;
With girl and boy I still enjoy
My first and lively second.

E. N.

Arithmetical Question.

A farmer set his labourer John
A twelve days' job to do,
And sixteen-pence a-day he'd give;
But then 't was ordered so,
That John should forfeit eight-pence, for
Each day that e'er he played,—
Because to fuddle he was apt:
So was the bargain made.
At last just half a guinea he
Received.—Then tell me, pray,
How many days did Johnny work,
How many did he play?

J. C.

ANSWERS

TO PUZZLES FOR PASTIME IN LAST NO.

CHARADES.—1. Autumn. 2. Ale. 3. Spring. 4. Prop-er. 5. Goose-berry.
ENIGMAS.—1. The Life Boat. 2. The Maine Law. 3. Will-o'-the-wisp. 4. Short, which with the addition of *er* becomes shorter in one sense, though longer in another.
Riddles.—1. Civic. 2. Dim. 3. A tree. 4. Gold.