

ENIGMA.

I am a word of 14 letters.
 My 5, 14, 7, 2, 11, a hoarse ejaculation.
 My 13, 4, 12, 7, 14, an aromatic herb.
 My 6, 13, 1, 3, 9, 7, a plant with a not generally admired yet not ill-favored flower.
 My 5, 6, 10, 8, a mineralogical subject, generally inseparable from sea sickness, and not altogether foreign to the art of self-defence.
 My whole is a well known translation.

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.

Answer to Double Acrostic published last week :—

L A O
 O D O N T O
 V E R M O N T
 E T H N O L O G I S T
 I N F L U E N Z A
 N A G G I N G
 A O R E

"Love in a Cottage."

TIT-BITS.

A thoughtless boy with a shining pail went singing gaily down the dale, to where sad eyed cow with a brindled tail, on clover sweet did herself regale. A bumble bee did gaily sail over the soft and shadowed vale, to where the boy with shining pail was milking the cow with the brindled tail. The bee lit down on the cow's right ear, her heels flew up through the atmosphere—and through the leaves of a bay oak tree, the boy sailed into eternity.

At a negro wedding when the minister read the words, "Love, honor and obey," the groom interrupted him, and said: "Read that agin, sah, read it wunce mo', so's de lady kin ketch the full solemnity of de meaning, I'se been married befo'."

"Oh, will he bite?" exclaimed one of the sweetest girls, with a look of alarm when she saw one of the dancing bears in the street, the other day. "No," said her escort, "he cannot bite, he is muzzled, but he can hug." "Oh," she said, with a distracting smile, "I don't mind that."

Courtship among the Piute Indians is attended with diff. If a maiden does not like her lover she tells her grandmother, and when the young man comes again the old lady takes a shovelful of hot ashes and throws them in his face. This is equivalent to giving him the mitten.

The difference between a long and a short yarn is very well illustrated by the difference of one's feelings in holding a skein for one's grandmother or for one's sweetheart.

"Do you wish to be my wife, Mabel?" said a little boy. "Yes," incautiously answered Mabel. "Then pull off my boots."

A phrenological professor advises that in choosing a wife one should be governed by her chin. If the happy man doesn't get the chin he wants after marriage he must be phenomenally hard to suit.

Machinery has reached a great state of perfection. We saw some burnt peas put into the copper of a coffee-mill the other day, and in less than two minutes it was occupying a place in a grocery window, labelled, "Old Government Java."

"Who was the meekest man?" asked a teacher of a bright boy, "Moses, sir," was the answer. "Very well, my boy; and now, who was the meekest woman?" "Please, sir, there never was any meekest woman?"

A gentleman drove a sorrowful looking horse into the city lately, and stopping in front of the post-office, he requested a small boy to hold him a moment. "Hold 'im!" exclaimed the boy. "Just lean him up against the lamp-post—that'll hold 'im!"

Landlady—"Did you like the turkey we had yesterday, Mr. Smith?" Mr. Smith—"Did I like him? Yes, indeed; why, I loved him! I used to think when I was a little child that perhaps, after all, I should live the longest, and the thought made me sad."

"Don't you know, my son," said a kind father, "that it hurts me worse to whip you than it does you? I would much rather receive the punishment, but I whip you as an example for the other children." "Then let me give it to you," the boy replied, "and we'll explain to the other children afterward."

Tropical.—Maid (to Irish milkman): "Missus says she's sure there's been a great deal o' water in the milk lately, and that if—" Pat: "An' can ye wander at it, my dear? Small blame to the cows this thurrsy weather, poor cratures!"—Punch.

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