

# Why does a donkey eat a thistle? (this puzzle you.) Because he's an ass. Which is the best way to make a coat?—Make the vest and trousers first. All the difference—The ancients turned their dead, the moderns earn their living. When a man has "no mind of his own," a wife generally gives him a piece of hers. A miser's first rule in arithmetic is addition, but his heirs generally begin with subtraction. What is birth to a man, if it shall be a gain to his dead ancestors to have left such an offspring? Why might carpenters really believe there is no such thing as stone? Because they never saw it. Another poor girl has died in Virginia on the use of tobacco, at the age of 100. He was an orphan. Why is a man never knocked down against his will? Because it is impossible fall unless inclined. "Beauty," says a French writer, "is all the virtue of some people, and virtue is all the beauty of others." "If a civil word or two will render an angry man happy," said a French king, "he must be a wretch indeed who did not give them him." A very slender man asked a friend what character he had better assume at a masquerade, and was advised to braid his legs and appear as a whip lash. "Doctor wants to know if you will please sign this bill now?" The old gentleman asked over the items and replied: "Tell doctor I'll pay him for his medicines and turn his visits." The ignorance of some persons in the matter of simple arithmetic is perfectly astounding. We know a man who has engaged his whole life long in "looking out for number one." In reply to some observations of Mr. Sheridan in the House of Commons, Sheridan observed: "The right honorable gentleman is indebted to his memory for his facts, and to his imagination for his facts." A married lady complained that her husband had ill-used her. Her father, hearing of her complaint, said: "Tell him that if he beats my daughter I will beat a wife." Rather a pleasant prospect for a lady. They will joke in New York even about swindlers on the city treasury. One item complained of is \$8000 for hatchets, and it depended on the ground that they were derided for the purpose of "cutting down excessive appropriations." A Boston liquor dealer, on being arrested by a virtuous constable, offered twenty dollars if the officer wouldn't search the peddle. The official, stern in his integrity, refused, and had to cord up seven cords of wood, after unpling it. He is sorry he didn't take the twenty dollars. "I hope you will be able to support me," said a young woman, while walking out with her intended during a somewhat slippery state of the pavement the other day at Regent Park. "Why, yes," replied the somewhat hesitating suitor: "with a little assistance from your father." There is some confusion, and a profound silence. At a school concert the parson, who had dressed himself on the quickness and earnestness of his little ones, said, "Boys, I heard your beautiful song to-night, and to work hard to keep my feet still. Now what do you think was the matter with them?" The answer came with great promptness, "Chillblains!" "Job Printing—Job Printing!" exclaimed an old woman, the other day, as she peeped over her specs at the advertising page of a country paper—"Poor Job! he's kept him printing, week after week, ever since I first learnt to read, and it wasn't the most patient man that ever was, he never could have stood it so long, now!" Gardening for Ladies.—Make up your mind early in the morning; see buttons on your husband's shirt; do not take up any quarrels; protect the young and tender branches of your family; plant a smile of good temper in your face, and carefully blot out all bad feelings, and expect a good crop of happiness. How to Know a Goose.—"Mother, mother," cried a young rook, returning hurriedly from its first flight; "I'm so frightened! I've seen such a sight!" "What sight, son?" asked the rook. "O, white attitudes, screaming and running, and stinging their necks, and holding their heads ever so high! See, mother, there they go!" "Gee, my son, my son, my son," replied the rook, looking down at the common. "Through life, child, serve that when you meet any one who looks a great fuss about himself, and tries to lift his head higher than the rest of the flock, you may set him down at once for a goose."

## Incredible Story About a Russian Conjurer.

About the beginning of the present century a species of Cagliostro, or rather a prior kind of Wizard of the North, made appearance at St. Petersburg, and ascribed the natives by his marvelous performances. His names was Pirnetti, and he was yet in the memory of those who witnessed his unrivaled talents.

The czar Alexander, having heard Pirnetti much spoken of, was desirous of seeing him, and one day it was announced to the czar that he would have the honor of a representation of his magical powers at court, the hour fixed for him to be his appearance being seven o'clock.

A number of ladies, and a number of gentlemen, were present, and the czar, seated in a chair, was looking on with great interest.

The czar, however, was greatly displeased, but Pirnetti assumed an air of astonishment and replied with great coolness, "Did not your Majesty command my presence at seven o'clock precisely?"

"Just so," exclaimed the czar at the height of exasperation.

"Well, then," said Pirnetti, "let your Majesty design to look at your watch and you will perceive that I am exact, and that it is just seven o'clock."

The czar, pulling out his watch violently, in order to confound what he considered a piece of downright insolence, was completely amazed. The watch marked seven o'clock. In turn all the courtiers drew out their watches, which were found, as usual, exactly regulated by that of the sovereign.

Seven o'clock indicated with a common accord all the watches and clocks of the palace. The art of the magician was at once manifested in this strange retrogression in the march of time. To anger succeeded astonishment and admiration. Perceiving that the czar smiled, Pirnetti thus addressed him:

"Your Majesty will pardon me. It was by the performance of this trick that I was desirous of making my first appearance before you. But I know how precious truth is at court; it is at least necessary that your watch shall tell it to you, sire. If you consult it now you will find that it marks the real time."

The czar again drew forth his watch—it pointed to a few minutes past eight; the same reflection had taken place in all the watches of those present, and in the clocks of the palace. The exploit was followed by others equally amusing and surprising.

At the close of the performance the czar, after having complimented Pirnetti, brought back to his remembrance that in the course of the evening's amusements he had declared that such was the power of his art that he could penetrate everywhere.

"Yes, sire, everywhere," replied the conjurer, with modest assurance.

"What!" exclaimed the czar, "could you penetrate even into this palace, were I to order all the doors to be closed and guarded?"

"Into this palace, sire, or even into the apartment of your Majesty, quite as easily as I should enter into my own house," said Pirnetti.

"Well, then," said the czar, "at midnight, to-morrow, I shall have ready in my closet the price of this evening's amusements—one thousand rubles. Come and get them. But I forbear you that the doors shall be closed and carefully guarded."

"To-morrow, at midnight, I shall have the honor of presenting myself before your Majesty," replied Pirnetti, who bowed and withdrew.

The gentlemen of the household followed the conjurer to make sure that he quitted the palace; they accompanied him to his lodgings, and a number of police surrounded the dwelling from the moment he entered it. The palace was instantly closed, with positive orders not to suffer, under any pretext whatever, any one to enter, were he prince or valet, until the czar himself should command the doors to be opened.

"These orders were strictly enforced, confidential persons having watched their execution. The exterior openings to the palace were guarded by the soldiers. All the approaches to the imperial apartments were protected by high dignitaries, whom a simple professor of the art of legerdemain possessed no means of bribing. In short, for greater security, all the keys had been carried into the imperial cabinet. A few moments previous to the hour fixed for Pirnetti's interview with the czar, the Chamberlain on service brought to his Majesty a dispatch which a messenger had handed him through an opening in the door. It was a report from the Minister of Police that Pirnetti had not left home.

"Ah!" He has found out the undertaking, it is impracticable, and he has abandoned it," observed the czar, with a smile.

Twelve o'clock sounded. While the last stroke yet reverberated, the door which communicated from the bedroom of the czar to the cabinet opened, and Pirnetti appeared. The czar drew back a couple of paces, his brow darkened, and, after a momentary silence, he said:

"Are you aware that you may become a very dangerous individual?"

"Yes, sire," he replied; "but I am only an humble conjurer, with no ambition save that of amusing your Majesty."

"Here," said the czar, "are the thousand rubles for last night, and a thousand for this day's visit."

Pirnetti, in offering his thanks, was interrupted by the czar, who, with a thoughtful air, inquired of him:

"Do you count on remaining some time in St. Petersburg?"

"Sire," he replied, "I intend setting off this week, unless your Majesty orders a prolongation of my sojourn."

"No!" hastily observed the czar, "it is not my intention to detain you, and, moreover," continued he, with a smile, "I should vainly endeavor to keep you against your will. You know how to leave St. Petersburg as easily as you have found your way into this palace."

"I could do so, sire," said Pirnetti; "but far from wishing to quit St. Petersburg stealthily or mysteriously, I am desirous of exhibiting it in the most public manner possible, by giving to the inhabitants of your capital a striking example of my magical powers."

Pirnetti could not leave like an ordinary mortal; it was necessary that he should crown his success in the Russian capital by something surpassing his previous efforts; therefore, on the evening preceding the day fixed for his departure, he announced that he should leave St. Petersburg the following day, at ten o'clock in the morning, and that he should quit by all the city gates at the same moment! Public curiosity was excited to the highest degree by this announcement. St. Petersburg at that day had fifteen gates, which were encompassed by a multitude, eager to witness this marvelous departure.

The spectators at these various gates all declared that at ten o'clock precisely Pirnetti, whom they all perfectly recognized, passed through. "He walked with a slow pace and with head erect, in order to be better seen," they said, and he bade an adieu in a clear and audible voice."

These unanimous testimonies were confirmed by the written declaration of officers placed at every gate to inspect the passports of travelers. The inscription of Pirnetti's passport was inscribed in the fifteen registers.

Not every one can be a President, but all can buy SILVER TIPPED SHOES for their children and themselves from their shoe-lace two-thirds. For sale by all.

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