

Giant and Madam Rain

BY PAUL DE MUSSET
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Mr. Wind and Madam Rain

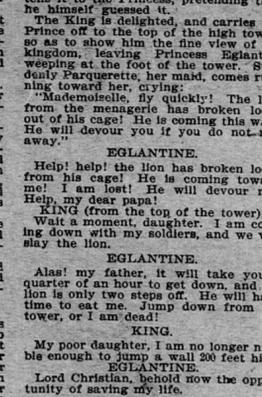
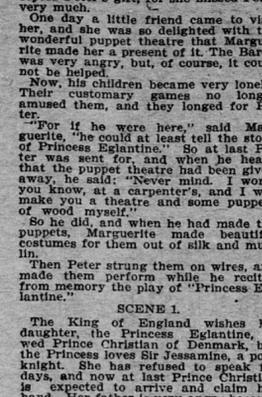
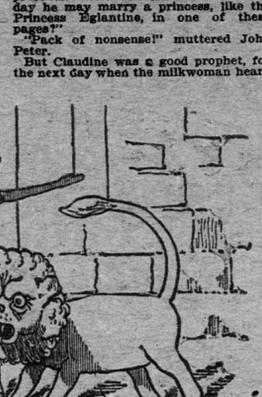


THEY PERFORM A PIROUETTE

Synopsis

A poor miller named John Peter, his wife, Claudine, and little son, Peter, lived in Brittany in the time of good King Robert. John Peter hospitably welcomed Mr. Wind and Madam Rain to his cabin one night, while his wife and child were asleep. In return for his kindness they brought property to the miller and his family. Some time afterward their lord, the Baron, seized all their savings. John Peter went to Mr. Wind for assistance and was given a tiny silver cask, from which, when tapped with a magic wand, issued a number of elves, who prepared a sumptuous meal for any number of guests. He yielded to the Baron, but received only one-tenth of the sum promised him. The money was soon spent and the miller again asked aid of Mr. Wind. He tried to deceive Mr. Wind, however, as to how the Baron happened to gain possession of the cask, and was punished by having given him a small golden cask, from which appeared, when he tapped it with a magic wand, a terrible giant, who beat him till he was sore. The greedy Baron innocently of the nature of the cask, purchased it for 20,000 francs, and received a sound thrashing from the miller. The Baron never forgave this injury, and through him poverty again threatened the unfortunate family. John Peter then sought Madam Rain and begged that she redeem the promise she made to bestow her favor upon little Peter. So she ordered her spirits to give the miller a copper box, which she had hidden for the lad, after receiving which the miller hurried home.

promised to interest herself in the welfare of their little Peter; and that he had been to see her at the Western Grotto; and that she had given him the copper box, with the wand and the gilded book," said Claudine, trembling.



(CONTINUED FROM LAST SUNDAY)

Chapter VII

THE COPPER BOX.

"WIFE!" said the miller, as he reached his own house, quite out of breath, "look, here is a fine present which Madam Rain has just made me, and she assured me that, if my little Peter should turn out less stupid than I am, there was something inside it which would make his fortune for him." "Good gracious!" exclaimed Claudine, "when you have another secret that you did not tell me of, is it possible you could have kept it so long? Who is Madam Rain, and what is this copper box? But be quick, and speak for I can scarcely contain myself, I am so longing to know the secret." John Peter then told of the visit he had received from Madam Rain the very night of the one he was favored with by Mr. Wind, and how she had

THE PLAY IS FINISHED

bling; "If there is no new giant in the box to wind up the matter with a fresh beating." "Give me the book, mother!" said little Peter, and what was written inside." Peter opened the gilded book and read the title on the frontpiece. It was, "Twelve Plays, Composed by Madam Rain for the Amusement of Little Boys and Girls, and Performed by the Wonderful Puppets in the Copper Box." "Strike the box with the wand, father," said Peter; "don't be afraid; this box is a puppet show." His father obeyed, and sure enough, the box opened, disclosing a tiny theatre and some wooden puppets five or six inches high. The moment Peter began reading some of the plays aloud out of the gilded book the puppets began to perform.

SCENE I.

The King of England wishes his daughter, the Princess Eglantine, to wed Prince Christian of Denmark, but the Princess loves Sir Jessamine, a poor knight. The King orders her to marry Prince Christian, and she is expected to arrive and claim her hand. Her father, however, because of her stubborn silence and threatens her. Just then Prince Christian is announced.

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THE GAME OF BUZZ

HAVE every one sit around in a circle. Have the players begin to count "one," "two," "three" and so on up to a hundred or so, but always substituting "buzz" for the number seven or any of its multiples—fourteen, twenty-one, etc. The instant any one makes a mistake he must drop out of the game, and the player next to him must begin at "one" again. If any one forgets his number or gives the wrong number after a "buzz," he must say a forfeit. This is a tiptop game, and will keep everybody entertained.

THE GAME OF BUZZ-FIZZ

THIS game is like the game of "Buzz"—only more difficult. In addition to having to say "buzz" in place of the number seven or any of its multiples, the players must also say "quack" in place of the number three or any number in which it occurs—for instance, 31 is quack-one, 81 is quack-two, etc. "Fizz" must be used in place of the number five or any of its multiples, all the 6's must begin with "fizz." And "cockadoodle-do" must be used in place of the number 11 or any of its multiples. Counting from 1 up to 15, for example. You see you must say: 2, quack, 4, fizz, quack, buzz, 8, quack, fizz, quack, cockadoodle-do, quack, quack, buzz, quack fizz (for 11 equals 22).

FRENCHMAN'S SOLILOQUY

You all know the famous lines, "To be or not to be," in Shakespeare's Hamlet. Well, a very amusing Frenchman's version of it is as follows: "To was or not to be, To were or not to be, To shall or not to be." See if you can get any one to repeat this correctly after you at the first attempt.

"THOR, THE THUNDERER"---The Strongest of Gods and Men

THOR was the strongest of all the gods and men. He possessed three very precious things: a hammer which the mountain gods both used and feared; a belt of strength; and a pair of iron gloves. When Thor hurled his hammer into the air the whole earth trembled, the mountains rang with loud noises and the trees split and fell. When his hammer hit anything it meant death and destruction. And the most wonderful thing about it was that when thrown it would return to Thor's hand with the force of a bullet, and when worn, gave him double might. He had a pair of iron gloves which he wore whenever he used the hammer. Now, these gloves made his aim absolutely true, so that everything at which he hurled his hammer was sure to be struck. From Thor's name is derived our word Thursday (Thor's day). He was the friend of man, with his hammer kept the giants or elves from destroying the earth. A dirty yellow-brown color, and only came out at night, as they hated the sun and happiness, which were their deadly enemies. If the sun shone on them they turned at once into stone. These ugly little elves were most skillful workers in metals, and they made for Thor his wonderful hammer. Thor, because of his strength, was much loved, and I think he was most interesting, so I am going to tell you something about him.

can." So, you see, that Thor put himself in Loki's power. Loki could not induce Thrym to give up the hammer unless Thor would induce Freya, the goddess of love, to marry him. Of course, the beautiful goddess was quite horrified at the idea of giving herself to the king of the forest giants. When Loki told Thor this he was in despair and thought his hammer was lost forever. But Loki persuaded Thor to dress himself in Freya's clothes and to wear her veil over his face, and to go to Jotunheim and deceive Thrym into thinking he was the beautiful Freya. Loki said would go with him, and as they started.

blow. He also killed all Thrym's followers. Loki, said to say, was very much pleased with all this, as he liked to see bloodshed and unhappiness, so he asked Thor and his servant, Thialfi, to go on a journey into the same country again. Said Thor: "As soon as I go back and rest a while I will go with you." Now Thor's servant, Thialfi, was, of all men, the swiftest of foot. He always carried Thor's food and clothes. After a few days Thor started on the journey with Loki and Thialfi. They took much to eat and were sure that they would have a glorious time together.

But about midnight they were awakened by the whole place trembling, and then they knew that it was not a safe place for them to stay and were very much frightened, as Thor said he was sure it was an earthquake which shook everything around him. He had his two companions to lie still while he got up and hunted for a better and safer sleeping place. He went out to look about him, but he was so dark that he was frightened, and therefore, he told his companions to come, too. So they walked along in this beautiful dark forest with strange sounds on every side, and just on the right of the hall which they had left was another building with a still larger entrance, and Thor, being of an inquisitive nature, said they would go in. But as they stood at the door he said he was afraid to go any further, but would stand watch with his hammer to defend them no matter what happened. But even he with his great strength was much frightened as he heard a most terrible groaning as if there were a hundred carts going over cobblestones. But as he was afraid to go out into the dark, he concluded to stay where he was and wait until morning. At dawn they all went out and found lying near them the largest giant they had ever seen. He had been asleep and it was his morning. He had been this terrible noise they had heard and thought was an earthquake. Thor was afraid to try his hammer on this giant, so, walking up to him, he asked him his name.

THOR'S HAMMER STOLEN
Once upon a time it happened that Thor fell asleep and forgot to chain his hammer to his arm, which was his custom, and while he slept the giant Thrym stole it from him and buried it deep down under the sea, and rocks of Jotunheim, the home of the giants. When Thor awoke he was worried and called Loki, the god of fraud and mischief, who was the dear friend of the giants, and asked him to beg Thrym to give him back his hammer. Thor said to Loki, "If you will return the hammer I will pay you a large reward and will help you whenever I

A HUNGRY BRIDE
Thrym received them courteously, and was more than pleased to see, as he thought, the beautiful Freya. He invited his beautiful bride to have supper, and was very much surprised when he saw what a large appetite she had. She ate twelve large salmon, a grown cow, six chickens and many other small things, washing them all down with three large barrels of wine. He said: "I never thought any woman could eat so much; but she seems hungry, and, though I wish to be good to all women, and especially my bride, I never thought a maid could eat so much." Loki laughed so loud and long that Thor feared all was lost for him. When Loki answered Thrym that his bride had not tasted food for eight long nights in her haste to see the ruler of Jotunheim, the giant was more than pleased, but at least he had the beautiful Freya under his bride's veil. He started back in horror, and said: "I have never seen a maiden's eyes gladden with such fire! Can this be the beautiful Freya?" But Loki said: "Her eyes sparkle with her great love for you," and the giant was again pleased and said no more. Of course, he believed that Thor was Freya, and so he ordered his hammer to be brought and laid at his bride's feet. As soon as Thor saw his hammer he threw off his disguise, and grasping it by the handle, he killed Thrym with one mighty

THE GIANT SKRYMIR
"My name is Skrymir, and I know that your name is Thor. Everybody knows Thor, but I do not know why you come down here to meddle with my gloves. Where are my gloves?" he said. Thor then saw that that they had taken for a hall was the giant's glove, and that they had been in the middle of a finger. "How would you like me to travel with you, if you are going through this great land of ours?" asked the giant. "I will like it very much," answered Thor, "but we do not want any one unless he will work and help us; and

THE LOBSTER AND MAID

He was a gentle lobster (The boats had just come in); He did not love the fishermen; He could not stand their din; And so he quietly stole off. She was a little maiden; He met her on the sand; "And how do you do?" the lobster said, "Why don't you give your hand?" For why she edged away from him, He could not understand. "Excuse me, sir," the maiden said; "Excuse me, if you please;" And put her hands behind her back And doubled up her knees; "I always thought that lobsters were A little apt to squeeze." "Your ignorance," the lobster said, "Is natural, I fear;" Such scandal is a shame," he sobbed; "It is not true, my dear," And with his pocket handkerchief He wiped away a tear. So out she put her little hand, He thought she would be kind; Then someone grabbed him suddenly And put him in a pot. With water, which, I think, he found Uncomfortably hot. It may have been the water made The blood flow to his head; It may have been that dreadful fry Lay on his soul like lead; This much is true—he went in gray, And came out very red. FRED. E. WEATHERLY.

A TONGUE TWISTER

Here is another tiptop tongue-tripper. See if you can say it fast without a mistake: Betty Botta bought some butter. "But," she said, "this butter's bitter. But a bit of better butter. Will that make my butter better." So she bought a bit of better butter. But a bit of the bitter butter. And it made her better better. So, 'twas better Betty Botta Bought a bit of better butter.

"A DONKEY TEAM"

VERY quaint, aren't they, these two mules dragging the canal boat? They are to be seen in Holland, not in the large cities, but in the villages and the country. And, really, although the windmills are picturesque, they are not a bit more fascinating to our American eyes than the sight of such a mule team. Everything helps to make the scene attractive—the wonderful green of the grassy bank, the gleaming tidiness of the houses, all reflected in the water; and last, but not least, the simple Dutch lad of a driver in his homely, much-patched clothes and wooden shoes.



PUZZLES AND PROBLEMS

Now DUSKY AT ANSWER MY RIDDLE
What is It?
Who can make out the answer to this puzzle?
Here's a Poser.
Word Puzzles.
Sting Puzzle.
Answers to Last Week's Puzzles and Problems
Christmas Enigma.
How Many Ties?
Flower Arithmograph.
Picture Puzzle.
Hidden Words.

A TRAGIC STORY

THERE lived a sage in days of yore, And he a handsome pigtail wore; But wondered much, and sorrowed, Because it hung behind him. He mused upon this curious case, And swore he'd change the pigtail's place, And have it dangling at his face, Not dangling there behind him. Says he: "The mystery I've found— I'll turn me round"—he turned him round; But still 't hung behind him.

A DAY OF "COASTING"

