THE LITTLE
RIDDLER.

WORCESTER:
PUBLISHED BY S. A. HOWLAND.
THE LITTLE RIDDLE.
WITH MANY ENGRAVINGS.

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Little Riddler.

1.

We are little airy creatures,
All of different voice and features;
One of us in glass is set;
One of us you'll find in jet;
One of us is set in tin;
And the fourth a box within;
If the last you should pursue,
It can never fly from you.
2.
I have no head, and a tail I lack,
But oft have arms, and legs, and back;
I inhabit the palace, the tavern, the cot—
'Tis a beggarly residence where I am not.
If a monarch were present, (I tell you no fable,)
I still should be plac’d at the head of the table.

3.
Though but small my size and figure,
Yet I am in general use;
THE LITTLE RIDDLER.

To every blessing I contribute,  
To all happiness conduce.

No delight exists without me;  
I attend each beau and belle,  
Also grace the shepherd’s cottage,  
And the lonely cell.

From a gracious king I’m banish’d,  
In his court I’m never seen;  
But I with redoubled duty  
Daily wait upon a queen.

I belong to men of learning,  
Dwell with genius, taste, and sense;  
Yet to every simple blockhead  
I my friendly aid dispense.
THE LITTLE RIDDLER.

I was never in a passion,
    But I always am in love.
I promote the noblest feelings,
    And from virtue ne’er remove.

I partake of each amusement,
    And of pleasure have my share;
Yet am oft observed in trouble,
    And can never fly from care.

 Stranger to malicious bosoms,
    Gentle breasts my influence find;
Yet though in your hearts you place me,
    I am never in your mind.

I am ever in amazement,
    Deal in wonder and surprise;
Never in your sight appearing,
    Yet I’m here before your eyes.
THE LITTLE RIDDLER.

4.

When innocence first had its dwelling on earth,
In my first lovely form it alighted;
And still to this time, from the hour of its birth,
In my first it has greatly delighted.
My second's a part of a smart lady's dress,
Yet on age it may also be found;
Again, 'tis a garb when the heart feels distress:
My whole will with pleasure abound.

From the dark and dismal cell
Where subterranean beings dwell,
To towns and cities was I brought,
And rules of civil life was taught,
In palaces I oft reside,
And dwell among the sons of pride;
Address the great, the rich I fear not,
And cringe to those for whom I care not.
Balls and assemblies I frequent,
And to the ladies I present
The courtly bow and compliment.
Thus I attained to lofty station,
High above all men in the nation;
And of all subjects I alone
Dare to take place above the crown.
But, good, as well as great, I shed
Comfort and joy on each man's head.
The poor as well as rich I warm,
And guard and keep them safe from harm.
But such the fickleness of fate,
Such the false faith of man ingratitude,
I am despised when I am old,
And perish in the rain and cold.
Doom'd by those ills my life to end,
From which I others did defend.
6.

Destined by fate to guard the crown,
Aloft in air I reign,
Above the monarch’s haughty frown,
Or Statesman’s plotting brain.
In hostile fields, when danger’s near,
I’m found amidst alarms;
In crowds where peaceful beaux appear,
I instant fly to arms.

7.

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 ’tis strange,
My head and body sever’d thus,
Immediately to nothing change.

8.

The beginning of eternity,
The end of time and space,
The beginning of every end,
And the end of every place.
9.

Though my first's a simple thing,
Yet many hundred from it spring,
To men and animals a treat,
For each will freely of it eat.
Now I declare it is a flower
That sweetly scents the verdant bower.
THE LITTLE RIDDLER.

And when Aurora's tints are spread,
Behold my second leave its bed;
Undaunted by a sense of fear,
Its courage now will soon appear;
For, when contesting for a prize,
It never yields, though sometimes dies.—
My whole, I now beg leave to say,
Is always deck'd in gay array.

10.

Children, I pray, my name declare,
For surely without me
You neither would be tall nor fair,
Nor could you clearly see.

Graceful you never would be deem'd
Nor amiable, nor smart;
And tho’ you might be much esteem’d,
You’d never gain a heart.

To cards and dancing I’m a friend,
At balls I’m often one;
And though on vice I ne’er attend,
Virtue I always shun.

11.
At theatres I’m always seen,
Also in silent walks of green;
At Operas, Astley’s, Sadler’s Wells,
Frequent in rooms of beaus and belles;
THE LITTLE RIDDLER.

Though sometimes told I am not right,
Yet many view me with delight;
In music I range o'er the land,
For in myself I am a band;
I the dulcet flute combine,
And to the pipe my powers I join.
In courts of law I'm a credential,
King's Bench and Pleas a grand essential;
The polar powers I retain,
Sound in the ear I long retain;
In battle's rage I strike the foe;
Not laboring, yet a drudge I go;
Oft do I raise the grateful voice,
And make the heart with glee rejoice:
Thus I am proved hic et ubique,
Perhaps my portrait soon will strike ye;
But if not so, I give resource,
Look to your watch, 'twill wind my course.
12. What is the difference between fish alive, and live fish?
13. Why is a feeble old man like a nail driven up to the head in a post?
14. Why is a dog biting his tail like a good economist?
15. Which letter in the alphabet is most useful to a deaf old woman?
16. In which month do ladies talk least?

SOLUTIONS.
1 Vowels. 5 Hat. 9 Peacock.
2 Chair. 6 Hat. 10 A.
3 E. 7 8. 11 Watch.
4 Childhood. 8 E.
12 There is a difference.
13 He is in-firm
14 He makes both ends meet.
15 H—it makes ear hear.
16 February—it is the shortest month.