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AGENTS

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ALTON WATCH CO., Dept. 368, Chicago.

10c gets the liveliest Democratic paper in U. S. one year. The Farmer, Raleigh, N. C.

An Opportunity Grasped

Edward Willston Frentz writes for the Youth's Companion a charming story of how a young lady seized an opportunity. The story carries with it its own moral:

For one who traces to their sources the growth and development of popular "crazes" and "fads," the conclusion is almost inevitable that luck or chance sometimes has a hand in the result. Nevertheless, there is always present in addition the something that is better than luck, namely, an idea of more or less originality, effectively executed.

A little more than a year ago a young woman in eastern Massachusetts desired to raise some money for a children's hospital. In casting about for some new aim at which to direct her efforts, she recalled the "sliced animals" and "cut-up maps" which had been at once a source of amusement and of instruction in her childhood. These games will be familiar to thousands of readers of the Companion, and therefore need no more description than to say that they were maps or pictures of animals printed on tough paper and pasted securely upon wood a quarter of an inch thick. The wood was then cut up into small pieces by a fine bracket-saw or scroll-saw. The game or puzzle consisted in reconstructing the maps or animals from the jumbled-up pieces.

With a recollection of the pleasure this old-time amusement had afforded, the girl procured some thin wood and some attractive magazine covers printed in colors. The pictures were glued to the wood, and were then sawed up by a scroll saw, with the purpose of making a puzzle that should be really difficult to solve. Cuts were first made along the principal outlines of the picture, but the pieces thus produced were again divided and subdivided, until from one hundred to two hundred sections were produced.

The puzzles were tried upon the youngsters in the hospital, and were so immediately and emphatically successful that they were placed on sale at a fair held for the benefit of the institution.

Their reception here was more than a success; it was a furor, and the originator of the idea began to make the picture-puzzles in large numbers, and to place them on sale in women's exchanges. There they were seen by the buyers of the toy departments of the great retail stores and orders began to increase.

During the first winter the young woman made $600, but by that time the "craze" had begun to spread, and the department stores were beginning to demand a far larger supply than any one source of production could furnish. This was because an idea that had been intended at first to appeal only to children had been found to have its chief source of success in the interest of older people.

Unlike their prototypes, the "sliced animals" and "cut-up maps," these puzzles were not easy of solution. There were plenty of cases reported where a whole family of educated and intelligent adults had worked four or five hours in the effort to put one of these puzzles together.

The result was a demand for the new amusement not only for home use, but for summer hotels and seaside and country cottages.

Urged by the department stores, others took up the work of making the puzzles, and hundreds of women and girls are now engaged in this curious home industry. Magazines have been stripped of covers, colored pictorials have been rubbed of every suitable picture, and all sorts of wood have been used for the background. Thin pine box-covers, the sides and tops of old cigar-boxes, and specially prepared basswood, whitewood, bay-wood and mahogany, all have been utilized. Because some of the material used had been insufficiently seasoned, and because all natural wood shows a disposition to warp when coated on one side only, one enterprising firm of lumber dealers has prepared basswood in three-ply form, the grain in two sections running in one direction, and in the intermediate section at right angles; and they have already sold thousands of feet at eight cents a square foot.

Hotel parlors and verandas, home living rooms and club libraries have been filled with earnest groups busily engaged in trying to find a better place for Arabella's head than on Adolphus' shoulder, and still the craze shows small sign of abating. In many of the large cities and at some of the summer resorts "puzzle exchanges" have been established, where these puzzles can be hired, like books from a circulating library, at five cents a day.

The price at which they are sold by the stores depends both upon the excellence with which they are made and the number of pieces they contain. The retail price is usually at the rate of a cent a section; that is, a puzzle containing three hundred pieces will cost $3, one containing one hundred pieces, $1.

The price paid by the dealers to those who make the puzzles is about half a cent for each piece; that is, $1.50 for a three-hundred-piece puzzle.

AS COROT EXPLAINED IT

Corot, the famous French painter, had a generous heart and a whimsical wit, both of which showed to good advantage in a story taken from the London Globe. Corot and his sister were joint owners of some house property in Paris. One day one of the tenants—a tailor—came to Corot and said he could not pay his rent.

"What can I do for you?" asked Corot. "I can not intercede for you with my sister because I'm not on good terms with her."

As a matter of fact, the great artist was regarded as a "failure" by his family.

"However," he added, after a thoughtful pause, "here is the money to pay the rent, only don't let anyone know I have given it to you."

The tailor after this used to return periodically when his rent was due and obtain the money from Corot.

"I appear to be very generous," the artist remarked on one occasion, "but I am not, because I get half of it back from my sister as my share of the rent."

A GIFTED BOSTON BULLDOG

A Boston bulldog owned by George H. Clapp was so determined to capture a woodchuck which he had chased into its den, that he followed after and stayed in the hole all Thursday night. When the dog had got his jaws about the enemy he found that he could not get out, owing to the small size of the animal's hole.

Rather than lose his prey, the dog retained his hold on the woodchuck over night and was helped out by his master in the morning. The dog was nearly exhausted and revived after feeding and drinking in a curious manner.

He consumed about two quarts of unguarded ice cream which had been set aside for a party. After this the dog seemed still somewhat dazed, [illegible] the Humane by falling into a bucket of lemonade.—Worcester Telegram.

A CARD

This is to certify that all druggists are authorized to refund your money if Foley's Honey and Tar fails to cure your cough or cold. It stops the cough, heals the lungs and prevents serious results from a cold. Cures la grippe coughs and prevents pneumonia and consumption. Contains no opiates. The genuine is in a yellow package. Refuse substitutes.—Advertisement.

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