

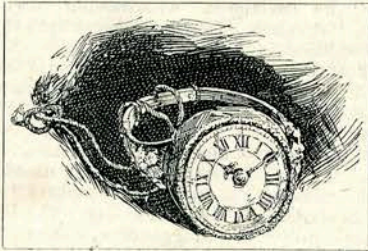
WATCHES IN MANY ODD FORMS.

As Used in Other Days.

THERE are few of us who have not, at one time or another, been much interested in the curious old watches of past generations. In many families the huge "turnip" watch, that once belonged to some respected ancestor, is carefully preserved and handed down as an heirloom, being produced only on very special occasions for the edification of the younger members of the rising generation.

These monster watches—like the one shown at the bottom of the page—were good and faithful servants, but they must have caused considerable inconvenience to their possessors on account of their weight and size. Most of the pocket-clocks were made during the eighteenth century, and many of them are richly carved and ornamented.

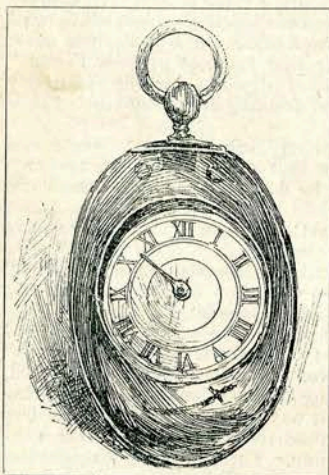
The watchmakers, during both the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, seem to have competed with each other in the production of odd-shaped watches, with the result that many remarkable timepieces were produced. They were made in all manner of shapes, such as pears, tulips, bells, stars, crosses, skulls, books, and dogs, had only one hand, and



GEORGE III.'S WATCH.

required winding twice a day. Some were very complicated, and not only denoted the time, but also the date, and each change of the moon.

A very interesting watch, which belonged to Robert Bruce, King of Scotland, was discovered by some labourers at Bruce Castle in Fifeshire. According to a description published about the time of its discovery, the outer case was of silver, raised in rather a handsome pattern over a ground of blue enamel, and the initials "R. B." could be plainly distinguished at each corner of the enchased work. On the dial-plate was engraved "Robertus B. Rex Scottorum," and over this was a convex transparent horn, instead of the glass with which we are familiar. This interesting relic—probably one of the very first watches made in this country



OLIVER CROMWELL'S WATCH.

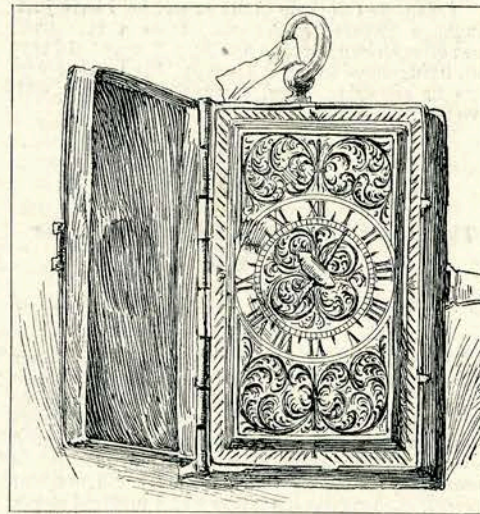
—passed into the possession of King George III., who also owned several other curious watches.

One of these is now in the British Museum, and we are, therefore, enabled to give an exact representation of its shape and size. It is set in a ring, and the dial is surrounded with small diamonds, a larger stone being set on each side, by the three and the nine. It is well worth a careful examination, on account of its beautiful workmanship and its historic association.

King George was on one occasion the recipient of a wonderful watch as a birthday present. It was very little larger than the watch just described, and was about the weight of a sixpence. It announced the hours, quarters, and half-quarters, and was altogether an exquisite piece of technical and artistic workmanship.

The watchmaker whose loyalty found expression in the presentation of this unique gift was one Arnold, and it is related that the king was so enraptured with the remarkable watch that he sent the

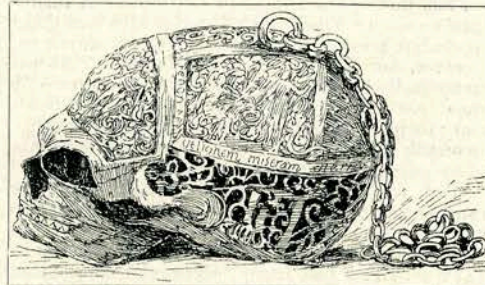
watchmaker a warm letter of thanks, together with a purse of five hundred guineas, which, without doubt,



GERMAN BOOK-SHAPED WATCH.

the loyal subject was both surprised and gratified to receive.

The little wonder set the whole court marvelling, and the watchmaker soon found himself famous. The Emperor of Russia desired an exact *facsimile*, and offered a tempting sum as an inducement to the watchmaker to undertake the task, but the work of making the original watch had already taxed the



MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS', WATCH.

clever workman to a critical degree, and he wisely declined to make the duplicate for any consideration.

In the olden days it was customary to wear watches suspended from the necks of their owners, but many were too large for this purpose, and the nobility found a use for them by placing them in their private chapels. These timepieces partook of very strange forms. The ill-fated Mary, Queen of Scots, possessed one of these in the shape of a skull, which, no doubt, served to constantly remind her of her approaching doom. It is said to have been pre-



AN OLD SERVANT.

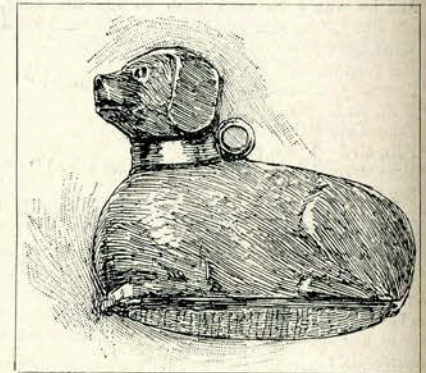
sented to her by pretty Mary Seaton, one of the queen's "four Marys." The exterior was beautifully ornamented with allegorical designs, the lower

part of the watch being of open work, in order to permit the sounding of the passing hours to be more distinctly heard as they were struck upon a silver bell in the interior.

Oliver Cromwell and the poet John Milton possessed watches almost identical in shape and size. The Lord Protector's watch, of which an illustration is given, is engraved at the top with the initials "O. C.," and at the bottom, just below the six, is a representation of a curved sword—a design intended, no doubt, to denote the owner's connection with the army. It was made in London in the year 1650. On Milton's watch the name of the poet in Latin, with the date, 1631, is engraved on the face.

Many very curiously-shaped timepieces were designed during the seventeenth century and made on the Continent—principally in France and Germany.

One of these is a German watch, made about the year 1680 by one George Glück, of Berlin. The accompanying illustration shows the exact size of this novel watch. The case, representing the cover of a book, is artistically chased, and when this is



FRENCH DOG-SHAPED WATCH.

opened the face of the watch is disclosed, as shown in the engraving.

Between the years 1620 and 1630 Jacques Joly—a French watchmaker of considerable repute—made a watch which took the odd design of a dog resting. Under the fore-paws of the watch is a small catch which secures the outer case. When this is released the dial is exposed to the view.

A traveller in Cambodia some years since relates that during a visit he made to the king he was shown the many wonders of the palace. In return for the attention and consideration shown towards him, he thought that it might

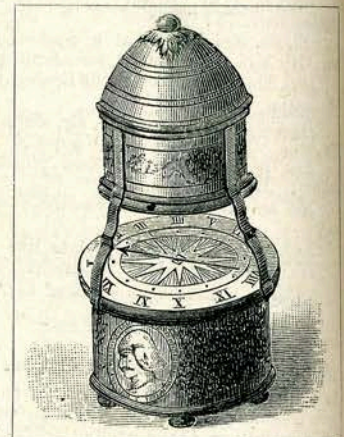
prove interesting to the king if he showed him a watch in his possession which not only told him the time of day, but the days of the week and the date.

The traveller's astonishment may well be imagined when the king, after carefully examining the watch, said, with much good humour—

"It is indeed a wonderful watch, but I also have one of strange device. Would you care to see it?"

The traveller readily assented, and the king's watch was brought for his inspection. It was found to be by the same makers, a firm in Geneva; but there were some important improvements, for the king's watch told also the month and the phases of the moon, and was, in addition, a repeater. The cases were most elaborately jewelled; upon the front was a row of large pearls round the rim, and within the circle was the crown, composed of rubies, sapphires, and other valuable stones, whilst below were the royal initials in diamonds of different sizes—the whole costing the king over two hundred pounds.

Our last illustration shows one of the old-fashioned



OLD TABLE-WATCH.

table-watches in use many years ago. There were also some peculiar "touch-watches," by which a person could tell the time during the night by merely touching the face of the watch. They only possessed one hand, and had raised pins at each hour, so that the time could readily be known in the dark.

The latest invention, still in process of development, emanates from the fertile brain of a Geneva clock-maker. It is a "speaking watch," and is said to be an application of the phonograph to the old repeater. The hours will be proclaimed by the human voice loud enough to be heard in an adjoining room. This invention, however, may have drawbacks as well as advantages, for there are many occasions when we would rather not be disturbed by hearing a strange and, perchance, sepulchral voice reminding us of the flight of time.

H. WOOD SMITH.

**Some Funny Nicknames.**

IN accordance with the promise made on page 221, a selection of curious and funny Nicknames is given below, all of which were received in our recent "Funny Nickname" Competition. It would take too much space to state the reason which led to the bestowal of each nickname, but where the latter was a play upon the name or the initials of the bearer we have added the latter in parentheses:—

- |                      |                            |                 |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Turps.               | Skewey.                    | Pepper (K. N.). |
| Low Water Mark.      | Boiled Lobster.            | Flycatcher.     |
| Prairie Bill.        | Penny Blander.             | Missing Link    |
| Chips (Little-wood). | Crafty Bacon (Cunningham). | (F. O. O. L.).  |
| Puddle (Pool).       | Soup.                      | Egg-boiler.     |
| Mustard.             | Red Fright.                | Braiser.        |
| McNab the Nabber.    | Fusee.                     | Town Pump.      |
| Copper Hole.         | Paste.                     | German Sausage  |
| Linseed Oil.         | Mugger.                    | (German).       |
| Bouncer.             | Tallow Candle.             | Snipe (Bird).   |
| Black Beetle.        | Rasher (Bacon).            | Spoony.         |
|                      |                            | Nuts (Almond).  |

**Not So Bad a Shot.**

RULERS have always been flattered, from Canute's time downwards; it being, it would seem, an unwritten law that a monarch's weak points should pass unrecognized. Napoleon III. once said, in consoling a friend who chanced to be shooting with him for his poor marksmanship—

"You need not fret about it; the emperor (by which he meant his uncle, the great Napoleon I.) was even a worse shot than you are; the only time they put a gun in his hand, he killed a poor hound, and went away thinking he had killed a stag.

"In those days the stag, wherever brought to bay, was left for the emperor to kill. One day, however, the emperor was not to be found, and the master of the staghounds finished the animal with his knife. Just then the emperor came in sight.

"They hurriedly got the dead stag on its legs, propping it up with branches, and so forth, and handed the emperor the 'carabine of honour,' as it was called. The emperor fired, and of course the stag tumbled over, but at the same time there was a piteous whine from one of the hounds, which had been shot through the head.

"The emperor wheeled round, unconscious of the mischief he had done, saying to one of his aides-de-camp—

"After all, I am not as bad a shot as they pretend!"

**Killed by a Rat.**

THE following facts were given to the writer by a friend who has for several years been engaged in the study of natural history.

I was fortunate not long since (he said) in capturing, without injury, a very fine specimen of a rattlesnake. Wishing to study the habits of this species, I did not take the usual precaution of extracting its poison fangs, but placed him in a large, strongly-built wire cage.

From the day of his imprisonment he exhibited the utmost indifference to his surroundings. All day he would lie coiled up in one corner of his cage, taking no notice of my presence unless touched by a switch.

It seemed as if the switch had some peculiar effect upon the reptile, as, on being touched by it, his rattles instantly sounded, and he became the most perfect embodiment of rage that I have ever seen.

A peculiarity of the sound emitted by the rattles of this snake was that it was difficult to locate it. In a patch of weeds or grass, a person would be likely to be so uncertain as to the direction from which it came as to walk into danger in his endeavour to escape it.

To supply the reptile with food, I obtained several common toads, which I had noticed served as food for some species of snakes, and, of course, I

expected they would prove dainty morsels for his majesty the rattler.

When placed in the cage, the toads showed no signs of fear, nor did the snake take any notice of them. I thought this might be caused by a loss of appetite on the part of the creature, so I determined to let the toads remain in the cage for a day or two, and note results.

But the rattlesnake did not touch them, and in a short time they were jumping upon the snake's body, and even perched themselves on his head, without exciting the slightest resentment.

After two or three days had passed I took the toads from the cage, and gave them their liberty. I next obtained a large rat. The snake in the meantime had maintained his attitude of placid indifference to his surroundings.

No sooner was the rat placed in the cage than he exhibited every appearance of fear. It crouched in a corner as far away from the snake as the cage would permit, and remained there trembling, and watching its enemy.

The snake, however, on the appearance of the rat, exhibited the first signs of animation that I had noticed since his imprisonment. His head, slightly elevated, vibrated from side to side; every muscle of his body seemed in a quiver of expectancy; his rattles, gently vibrating, kept up a low, monotonous sound. The whole appearance of the snake recalled vividly many of the stories of snake-charming that I had heard or read.

Just when the snake was in this attitude, the rat opened the tragedy by suddenly, with great swiftness, springing across the cage and upon the snake. Without pausing a second, it sprang back and resumed its original position in the corner. The snake gave a slight start when the rat struck him, but its attitude was for the moment unchanged.

Gradually, however, the movements of the snake ceased, and in a brief time after the rat struck him, he fell on his side and died without a struggle.

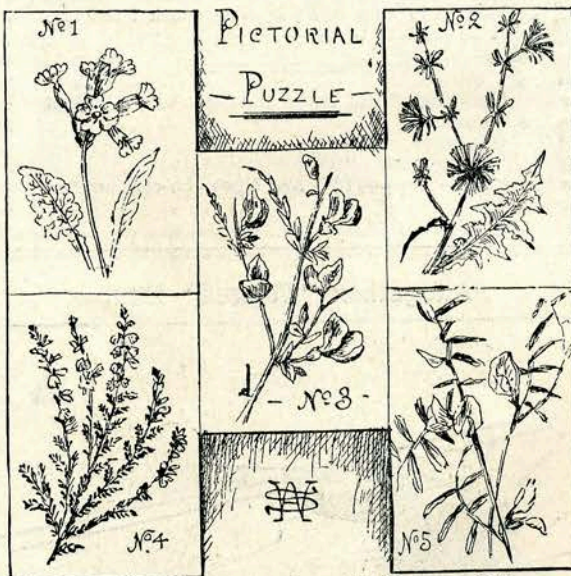
An examination of the reptile showed two wounds through the back of his head, corresponding to the teeth of the rat. I could not find the heart to kill the rat, but gave him the right to life and liberty which I thought he had well earned.

**OUR PUZZLES.**

No. 1.

ADD a central letter to my initials and finals, and the whole will give the name of a famous explorer and of the object of his last expedition: "a dagger," "to bury," "a tear," "a girl's name," "to upset," "rent," "a flower," "a stone," "to play," "a complaint," "a cape," "an American state," "a sheep," "loitering," and "a number."

No. 2.



The above represents five wild flowers. When the names have been placed in their numbered order, the central letters will give the name of a poet. [Drawn by W. A. SMITH, 33, York Terrace, Leigh, Lancashire, to whom a Solid Silver Pencil-Case has been forwarded.]

**ANSWERS TO PUZZLES IN No. 117.**

- No. 1.—Drought—trough—rough—ought.
- No. 2.—Notts Forest—Preston North End—Aston Villa—Wolverhampton Wanderers.

**Five Minutes with the Famous.**

THE German Emperor, who is a clever composer, first learnt the violin when a student at Bonn, in order to surprise and please his parents.

A DIRECT descendant of Pierre d'Arc, a brother of the famous Joan of Arc, has recently died in Normandy, aged sixty-five. He was station-master at Rouen.

THE fifteen children of the Duke of Parma have one hundred and thirty-one names between them. Another youngster of his has not yet been named.

S. F. EDGE, the famous cyclist, is almost a teetotaler. He takes plenty of dumb-bell practice to keep him in good form; but he has, curiously enough, no faith in cold baths.

MR. GLADSTONE says that ambition was first kindled in him when his tutor, Mr. Hawtrey, "sent up his Latin verses for good" to the headmaster of Eton. He was then only twelve years of age.

CZAR NICHOLAS is about twenty six and a half years of age. There are only three sovereigns in the continent of Europe who are younger—Alphonso of Spain being eight, Wilhelmina of Holland fourteen, and Alexander of Servia eighteen.

A BROTHER officer once challenged Lord William Beresford to drive a four-in-hand from the top to the bottom of a steep hill in Cork. He accomplished the feat by taking the wheels off the coach, and thus turning it into a kind of sleigh.

M. SARDOU, father of the famous French dramatist, who has recently died, aged over ninety, distinctly remembered the great Napoleon patting his head when he was a youngster, and commending him for doing him some trifling service.

MARK TWAIN fell into the Missouri river, and was pulled out again, safe and sound, nine times before he was fifteen. He also distinguished himself at a very early age by running away from home, and was very much like his hero, Huck Finn, in character.

PROFESSOR HENRY DRUMMOND, with some American friends, had some capital sport while visiting the Chicago Exhibition. The party clad themselves in shawls and sheets, and solemnly passed themselves off as Turks and Arabs, completely taking in other visitors by their clever disguise.

THE Prince of Naples, heir to the King of Italy, has recently been presented by a firm of bicycle manufacturers with a magnificent machine, with ivory handles, and the royal arms inscribed upon it. The King has learnt to ride, and proved a very apt pupil, taking only two hours to acquire the art.

FIFTY years ago, Mr. Matthew Hodder, the publisher, came up from Windsor to London on top of a stage-coach, in order to start his apprenticeship to a firm of City publishers. He is fond of telling how he used to sit on a high stool all day, clad in a blue coat with brass buttons, waiting for customers.

DR. BARNARDO, when he was eleven, emptied his pockets out for the benefit of a beggar-woman, and took her and her baby home with him, where he endeavoured to induce his sister to give her further help. Unfortunately for his first efforts at philanthropy Miss Barnardo had already met the woman two or three times before, each time with a different baby.

WHEN the Archbishop of Canterbury was headmaster of Wellington, one of the junior boys, whose cousins were staying with the Doctor, was invited to meet them at breakfast. The party consisted of the headmaster, the senior boy in the College, the cousins, and the small boy himself, who was naturally rather shy on finding himself in such distinguished company. His nervousness was increased when one of his cousins innocently inquired whether he had received a box of fireworks from her in good time for Guy Fawkes Day—fireworks, of course, being strictly prohibited in the school. Fortunately, perhaps, for the boy, the headmaster passed the disclosure over without notice.