

1882

trans. Peter Constantine

QUESTIONS
POSED
BY A
MAD
MATHEMA-
TICIAN

1. I was chased by 30 dogs, 7 of which were white, 8 gray, and the rest black. Which of my legs was bitten, the right or the left?
2. Ptolemy was born in the year 223 a.d. and died after reaching the age of eighty-four. Half his life he spent traveling, and a third, having fun. What is the price of a pound of nails, and was Ptolemy married?
3. On New Year's Eve, 200 people were thrown out of the Bolshoi Theater's costume ball for brawling. If the brawlers numbered 200, then what was the number of guests who were drunk, slightly drunk, swearing, and those trying but not managing to brawl?

4. What is the sum of the following numbers?
5. Twenty chests of tea were purchased. Each chest contained 5 poods of tea, each pood comprising 40 pounds. Two of the horses transporting the tea collapsed on the way, one of the carters fell ill, and 18 pounds of tea were spilled. One pound contains 96 zolotniks of tea. What is the difference between pickle brine and bewilderment?
6. There are 137,856,738 words in the English language, and 0.7 more in the French language. The English and the French came together and united their two languages. What is the cost of the third parrot, and how much time was necessary to subjugate these nations?
7. Wednesday, June 17, 1881, a train had to leave station A at 3 a.m. in order to reach station B at 11 p.m.; just as the train was about to depart, however, an order came that the train had to reach station B by 7 p.m. Who is capable of loving longer, a man or a woman?
8. My mother-in-law is 75, and my wife 42. What time is it?

AMERICA
IN
ROSTOV
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DON

THE FOLLOWING CURIOUS
notice adorned the last couple of issues of the *Don Bee*.

My wife, Efrosinya Alexandrovna, ran away—"to find some love and happiness"—with an army officer. As I am perfectly happy without her, I ask, first of all, that she never come back again, and second, that whoever might find her does not deliver her back here, and third, that I refuse to recognize any further extensions to my lineage, except for our two children, Alexander (4), and Yevgeni (4 months).

Yakov Selvestovich Ribalkin

This notice led us to the following modest reflections: