CROSSWORD
No. 15,724 Set by PHSSTHPOK

ACROSS
1 Arm mob with rifle after rioting (8)
6 Tax free investments started by southern California (6)
9 A short clue, this one (6)
10 Scorn one who is against court (8)
11 Champ picked up some bits (4)
12 Is almost all poetry garbled like Dracula or The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, aged 13 3/4? (10)
14 What policeman says inside lets you become obedient (8)
16 Bananas are a type of edible fruit (4)
18 Supposing America brought back mysticism (4)
19 Commendation for fighter pilot capturing area in Arctic (8)
21 How to allocate men's state benefits conclusively? (5,5)
22 Woman's love? (4)
24 Receding hair, a hat, a muffler: disguise for spy (4,4)
26 On following a sinuous, unending river (6)
27 Rub in shampoo first on hair (6)
28 In paradise, sugar merchant is toothless (8)

DOWN
2 Writer with title for monster with axes (5)
3 Discharge nitric oxide back into river on schedule (11)
4 No time for audit that is not using cash (2,6)
5 Bucks fashion for Kashmiri debauching after aid stolen (15)
6 Limited punishment for stealing fortified wine (6)
7 Assume odd characters withdrew petition (3)
8 Sucked up and praised at performance (9)
13 He seeks romance in a short suit (6,5)
15 Sparkling beer and tuna cross in blender (9)
17 Bladed boot kills Catherine (3-5)
20 Holy man shafts homeless people (6)
23 Deposit of sulphur in ground (5)
25 Scoffed at European capital (3)

Solution to Saturday's prize puzzle on Saturday December 16
Solution to yesterday's prize puzzle on Monday December 18
Winners' names will be printed in Weekend FT