

ter,' he said. 'That patient steadfastness in the eyes the strong lines about the mouth, will come out finely. Pretty faces are plentiful enough—they mean nothing except that care and time have not yet touched them—but strong, sweet faces have to be slowly chiselled out, year by year, by some workman within.'

'So the careless young girl is even now deciding what the face of her future shall be, and somewhere, whether she chooses or not, it will be plainly pictured.'

ODDS AND ENDS

'You've got a good collection of works of fiction, Smith?'

'Pretty fair. My wife bought them to look for a poetic name for the baby.'

'And what did you call her?'

'Susan!'

'Don't you think,' asked Mrs. Oldcastle, 'that everybody is affected more or less by environment?'

'Yes,' replied Mrs. Packenham, 'if they're foolish enough to take such things, but I always turn down my glass and never touch it.'

The thickness of the armor on modern warships is truly astonishing. The side armor-plating of a first-class battleship usually varies from 16in. thick at the top of the belt to 9in. at the bottom. The gun turrets are often protected by armor from 15in. to 17in. thick.

FAMILY FUN

The Wizard's Hundred:—To the uninitiated the game of adding numbers together so that one player always reaches one hundred first is very mystifying. Two players take alternately a number which is less than eleven, each adding either 10 or some number less than 11 until the sum arrives where either 1 or 10 will make the total 100. The secret consists in choosing numbers which increase in the ratio of 11 up to 100, such as 12, 23, 34, 45, 56, etc. For instance, the first player who knows the game chooses 1, and the other player 10, which makes 11. The first player then adds 1 and says 12, his adversary may add 5 and say seventeen, when the first player would add 6 and say 23. No matter what number under 11 the adversary adds, the player to win must add the number which makes it up to 11, and will always win the game. By following this method he will invariably get the number 89, then, no matter what his adversary adds to it, he will at the next play make the sum 100. If both players are familiar with the trick, then the one who begins first will of course win.

Follow My Leader (a curious experiment with cards):—Take the cards of any suit from ace up to ten. Arrange them in regular order, and slip off without altering their order the two first cards, which would be one and two. Slip off the next two cards, three and four, and without altering their order place them above the one and two. Place under these cards the five, six, and seven, then transfer to the top of the cards the eight and nine, leaving the ten at the bottom. Shuffle them in this manner seven times, remembering to take off two cards, put the next two on top of these two, the next three under, and the next two on top, leaving always the ten at the bottom of the pack. Each time the cards are shuffled they assume a new order, but the seventh time they are thus shuffled they fall again into the same order in which they were first arranged.

The following is the order of the cards after each shuffle:—

First shuffle..... 8, 9, 3, 4, 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 10,
Second shuffle..... 6, 7, 3, 4, 8, 9, 1, 2, 5, 10.
Third shuffle..... 2, 5, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 1, 10.
Fourth shuffle..... 9, 1, 3, 4, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10.
Fifth shuffle..... 7, 8, 3, 4, 9, 1, 2, 5, 6, 10.
Sixth shuffle..... 5, 6, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 1, 2, 10.
Seventh shuffle..... 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.

It will be seen that at the seventh shuffle the cards have assumed the order in which they were first arranged. It makes the operation still more mystifying if the cards are held with the numbers turned away, only the backs of the cards being seen. One must remember the order in which the cards are taken, that is the number of cards and their position, and must also keep count of the number of times shuffled, so that at the seventh transposition he can turn the cards face up and show them in the original order. It is doubly mystifying if he shows the faces of the cards at the third or fourth shuffle.

All Sorts

Fully one-third of the land in Great Britain is owned by members of the House of Lords.

'Is this a fast train?' asked a passenger, who was tired of looking at a station at which the train was not supposed to stop.

'Of course it is,' was the guard's reply.

'I thought so. Would you mind my getting out to see what it's fast to?'

Soon after Singleton's first baby was born Mrs. Singleton went upstairs one evening and found her husband standing by the side of the crib and gazing earnestly at the child. As she stood still for a moment, touched by the sight, she thought: 'Oh, how dearly Charlie loves that boy!' Her arms stole softly around his neck and she rubbed her cheek caressingly against his shoulder. Singleton started slightly at the touch. 'Darling,' he murmured dreamily, 'it is incomprehensible to me how they can get up such a crib as that for 5s.'

Few people who have not travelled about the Russian Empire can imagine how boundless is its wealth in timber. 'Wooden Russia' is the name applied to the vast forest areas of Russia in Europe, which cover nearly 5,000,000 acres, or 36 per cent. of the entire area of the country. In Russia houses built of any other material than wood are almost unknown outside the cities, and wood constitutes the principal fuel. The forest belt called the 'Taiga,' in Siberia, stretches in a direct line from the Urals to the Pacific for 4000 miles, and is in many parts 500 miles broad. All this is the property of the Czar.

The biggest and most mysterious building job on record may be said to have been the construction of the Great Wall of China, planned by the Emperor Chin Ize Wang, 214 B.C. The length of the wall was 1250 miles, up hill and down dale, with a width and height of fifteen and twenty feet respectively. How the Wall was built of brick and granite in a region entirely destitute of clay to make the former and bare of the latter is a problem which has never been solved. Fifty thousand men were employed in its construction, and so well did they do their work that, although in many places the Wall has fallen into decay, there are still considerable portions of it intact.

The Lord Mayor of London has the right of access to the King whenever he chooses, the coveted entree at Levees and Drawing Rooms, and the privilege of driving direct into the Ambassadors' Court at St. James'. He has the badges of Royalty—the sceptre, the swords of justice and mercy, and the mace—attached to his office, is a Privy Councillor of the King, receives the Tower password signed by the Sovereign, is custodian of the city gates (a very honorary office in these days), and has the uncontrolled conservancy of the Thames from Rochester to Oxford. He controls the city purse, has many valuable appointments in his gift, and is, of course, chief magistrate of the city. These are but a few of the Lord Mayor's dignities and privileges, but they will give some idea of his importance.

It is more than half a century since a member of the British Parliament enjoyed the privilege of sending his own and his friends' letters free through the post by the simple process of writing his name on the envelope or wrapper. Of course, in the days when the postage on a letter from London to your native city was a shilling, this was a valuable privilege; but it was shockingly abused. It is said that members thought nothing of sending packages weighing a hundredweight or more by post; while they were pestered to death by their constituents for franks for their correspondence. To such an extent did the abuse grow that at one time seven and a half million letters went free through the post in a year—an average of over a thousand a month for each M.P.

There is not much originality about the names of many places in England. For instance there are no fewer than eighty-seven Newtons (to say nothing of Newtons), seventy-two Suttons, sixty-three Stokes, fifty-two Westons, forty-seven Thorps, and forty-one Burtons, to mention only the most flagrant cases. Thus, there are actually 362 places in England which muster half-a-dozen names among them. Of course, in some cases these names are used in conjunction with others, as Newton-le-Willows, Sutton Coldfield, Stoke Canon, and so on; but most of them are known by the six names mentioned, and the resultant confusion is dreadful. In many cases we find a large number of villages, etc., bearing the same name in the same county; notably in Yorkshire, where the Burtons and Thorntons number at least twenty.