

dow, on the same spot, on his head, and again walked away unhurt, what would you call that?

The same man? demanded the witness.

Yes.

The same window?

Yes.

And fall on the same sidewalk?

Yes.

I should call that a habit.

TAKING PRECAUTIONS

An old Queensland farmer, while on a visit to Brisbane, was taken with a violent toothache, and, calling on a dentist, was informed that the tooth must be extracted and that he had better take gas for the operation.

The patient agreed to this, and then started to count his money.

The dentist remarked, 'Oh, you need not pay me until I have finished.'

'I reckon not,' replied the farmer, 'but if you are going to make me unconscious, I thought I'd jest like to see how I stand.'

ODDS-AND ENDS

According to the representative of Armstrong, Whitworth, and Co., who certainly ought to know, the greatest advance in mechanical industry during the last twenty-one years has been in the making and designing of machine tools. As these twenty years have seen nearly all the growth of traction by electricity, the rise of the motor industry, and the adaptation of the turbine to naval requirements, this means much.

Bill Jones is a country storekeeper in Queensland, and last spring he went to Sydney to purchase a stock of goods. The goods were shipped immediately, and reached home before he did.

When the boxes were delivered at his store by the drayman, his wife happened to look at the largest. She uttered a loud cry and called for a hammer. A neighbor, hearing the screams, rushed to her assistance, and asked what was the matter. The wife, pale and faint, pointed to an inscription on the box, which read as follows: 'Bill inside.'

FAMILY FUN

An Omelet Cooked in a Hat Over the Flame of a Candle.—State that you are about to cook an omelet; then you break four eggs in a hat, place the hat for a short time over the flame of a candle, and shortly after produce an omelet, completely cooked and quite hot.

Some persons will be credulous enough to believe that by the help of certain ingredients you have been enabled to cook the omelet without fire; but the secret of the trick is, that the omelet had been previously cooked and placed in the hat, but could not be seen because the operator, when breaking the eggs, placed it too high for the spectators to observe the contents. The eggs were empty ones, the contents having been previously extracted, by being sucked through a small aperture; but to prevent the company from suspecting this, the operator should, as if by accident, let a full egg fall on the table, which, breaking, induces a belief that the others are also full.

What is that which no one wishes to have and no one wishes to lose? A bald head.

Why is a gatepost like a potato? Because they are both put into the ground to propagate.

Why are coals like towns given over to plunder? Because they are sacked and burned.

What is that which is often brought to the table, always cut, and never eaten? A pack of cards.

What moral lesson does a weathercock on a church steeple continually inculcate? 'Tis vane to a spire.

Why shouldn't a boy throw dust in his teacher's eyes? Because it may occasion harm to the pupil.

What are the most unsociable things in the world? Mile stones, for you never see two of them together.

What is that which Adam never saw, never possessed, and yet gave two to each of his children? Parents.

Why is chicken pie like a gunsmith's shop? Because it contains fowl-in-pieces.

What word may be pronounced quicker by adding a syllable to it? Quick.

All Sorts

In 1875 the United States possessed a population between 40,000,000 and 45,000,000. It has doubled in thirty years.

The length of time elapsing between the issue of a Bank of England note and its return varies curiously. A thousand pound note's 'life' is fifty-five days; the life of a hundred pound note is thirty days; of a ten pound note, fifty-eight days, and of a five pound note sixty-two days.

New trigonometric measurements in Nepal, India, made by an English surveyor, show that Mount Everest is 29,142 feet high, or 140 feet higher than it was supposed to be, and much the highest mountain in the world. Mount Everest is found to be north of the Himalaya range and not part of it, as has been supposed. It is a member of a group of peaks that are not Himalayan.

A worthy but somewhat pompous member of a North Island school committee, addressing the pupils at the annual breaking-up ceremony, said:—'My young friends, let me urge upon you the necessity of not only reading good books, but also of owning them, so that you may have access to them at all times. Why, when I was a young man I used frequently to work all night to earn money to buy books, and then get up before daylight to read them!'

Among the Israelites, the delivery of a shoe was used as a testimony in transferring a possession. A shoe was drawn off and handed to a neighbor, and that was a testimony in Israel. Throwing a shoe on property was a sign of new ownership, as, 'Into Edom will I stretch out my shoe,' Ps. lx. 10. From this came the custom in England of throwing an old shoe after a bride, as a symbol that the parents gave up all authority over their daughter. In Turkey, after marriage a bridegroom is pelted with slippers as he leaves with his bride.

It is regarded by patriotic Englishmen as a grave reflection on one country's horticultural prestige that the highest prizes at the National Rose Society's Show at Westminster should be carried off not by English, but by Irish growers (says the London correspondent of the 'Freeman's Journal'). The only new roses that gained the gold medal, the highest distinction in the rose-growing world, was the 'Mrs. Page Roberts,' exhibited by Messrs. A. Dickson and Sons, Newtownards, and the 'Mrs. Stewart Clark,' grown by Mr. Hugh Dickson, Belfast. The first was a salmon pink shaded tea rose, and the second a tea rose of a novel magenta shade. It is evident that there is something in the soil and climate of Ulster especially favorable to the production of roses.

There are domestic fires burning in Yorkshire today which have never been out for hundreds of years. At the old-fashioned farm-houses in the dales of Yorkshire peat is still burnt. The fuel is obtained from the moors and stocks of it are kept by the farmers in their stack garths. The country round about is noted for its 'girdle cakes,' which are baked from dough baked in quaint pans suspended over the peat fires. These fires are kept glowing from generation to generation, and the son warms himself at the fire which warmed his sire and his grandsire and his grandsire's sire. There is a fire at Castleton, in the Whithy district, which has been burning for over 200 years. The record, probably, is held by a farm-house at Osmotherley, in the same district. This fire has been burning for 500 years, and there are records to show that it has not been out for three centuries.

Dr. Schmidt, a German medical man who assisted at the last Olympian games in Athens, has published some very curious results of scientific observations made by him on that occasion. It appears that he examined the hearts of the German athletes before they engaged in the competitions, and that, having found them to be of abnormal size, he came to the conclusion that they had no chance in contests requiring great energy and endurance. His conclusion proved to be right. Yet one cannot help remembering that when the greatest racehorse ever known, Eclipse, was opened after its death, it was found to have a heart something like double, or more than double, the size of the hearts of the many competitors it had beaten during its wonderful career. Dr. Schmidt found that the American athletes had hearts smaller than the smallest hearts ever measured in a German hospital; and the Americans did well. Dr. Schmidt attributes the enlarged hearts of his fellow-countrymen to a wrong system of training and injudicious living.