

DISMISSED IT FROM HIS MIND

When the polite French wish to compliment their friends in Ireland, they say that the far-famed Irish wit is Gallic, rather than Gaelic, 'essentially French.' Certainly the humor of the educated Irishman, who is at once a gentleman and a scholar, is of the polished shaft rather than the broad-side order; courteous, subtle, and charmingly audacious. There's a story of that late brilliant Lord Russell of Killowen, which illustrates the point. When Lord Russell was plain Mr. Russell, and when the late Mr. Justice Denman was going the northern circuit, an amusing incident happened in court, in which the future Lord Chief Justice came off the better by his ready wit and his genial arrogance. One day, just before the rising of the court on a warm summer afternoon, some very high words were flung from the bar to the bench.

'I cannot trust myself to administer reproof in my present condition of sorrow and resentment,' said the learned judge, 'but I shall take the night to consider what I ought to do, and when we meet again to-morrow morning I will announce my determination.'

In considerable commotion the court broke up, and on the following day it was crowded in anticipation of 'a scene'—an anticipation somewhat encouraged by Mr. Justice Denman's entry into court with, if possible, more than ordinary solemnity. On taking his seat, he opened the business of the day by saying:

Mr. Russell, since the court adjourned last evening, I have had the advantage of considering with a brother judge the painful incident—

Upon which Russell quickly broke in with, 'My lord, I beg you will not say a word more upon the subject, for I can honestly assure you that I have entirely and forever dismissed it from my memory'—a turn of the tables which evoked such a roar of laughter in the court that even the learned judge could not but join in it.

ODDS AND ENDS

Mrs. Jones: 'Do you know anything about your new neighbors yet?'

Mrs. Smith: 'Lots. They had their washing on the line yesterday.'

Motorist (to Irish countryman, who is driving an ass and cart): 'Why haven't you a car like mine?'

Countryman: 'Because I think the donkey's place is between the shafts, and not upon the seat.'

The noble red man is not fading away. The first actual census of the Indians was taken seventy years ago. At that time, there were found to be 253,464 Indians in the United States. Beginning with the count of 1830 the official reports of Indian population are as follows: In 1860, at the beginning of the civil war, there were 254,200. Twenty years later, in 1880, there were 256,127. In 1900 there were 272,023. To-day, by count of the Indian agents on the reservations of the country, there are 284,000 Indians.

FAMILY FUN

A blind beggar had a brother, and the brother died. What relation was the blind beggar to the brother who died? Most people answer at once, 'Brother, of course'; but the proper solution is 'Sister.'

A gentleman named Llewellynn Ottiwell Wood, being a witness in a case, and asked to spell his name, astonished the clerk as follows:—

'Double L E; double D; E double L; Y double N; G double T; I double U; E double L; double U; double O D.'

Is it Possible?—Side by side place three pieces of anything (money is most convenient), then take away the middle piece without touching it.

By removing the right hand piece to the side of the left, you thus take away the centre without touching it.

Here is a little poser that will take in not a few people. A gentleman stood upon his breakfast table two egg cups, and in each he placed an egg that had been intended for his morning meal. He had not bought the eggs, he had not stolen them, he did not himself keep hens, and the eggs had been neither lent nor given to him. How, then, did he get the eggs to put into the two egg cups?

The correct answer to the puzzle is the gentleman kept ducks.

All Sorts

A single grain of gold, after having been converted into gold leaf, will cover 46 square inches.

It has been proved by experiments that if fish get beyond a certain depth in the sea, they die, being unable to support the pressure of the water.

In England and Wales about one in four of the population has an account in the Post-Office Savings Bank; in Ireland, one in ten; and in Scotland, one in eleven.

Iodine was discovered in 1812 by Courtois. It is found in several marine plants and extracted by a simple process. Its use in medicine is said to date from about 1825, when it was first employed in the hospitals of London and Paris.

Among the treasures of the Hapsburgs in the Hofburg at Vienna is a clumsy thimble engraved 'A. V. W., 1684.' It is said to be the parent thimble of the world, and it was fashioned of a silver coin by some ingenious Dutchman, who presented it to his lady love.

Little three-year-old Bessie ran flying down the front steps with an agonizing cry of 'Papa! Papa!' Her father had started down-town, but he stopped and waited. 'What is it, Bessie?' he asked. 'I want to kiss you good-bye,' she said. 'Well, I'm waiting for the kiss,' he said. 'I'll give it to you,' she replied, with trembling lips and quivering chin, 'just as soon as I can make the pucker.'

There were some phases of country life with which the little city girl had as yet only one day's acquaintance, but the rights of property owners and property renters were firmly fixed in her mind. 'Mother!' she called in evident excitement, the morning after the family had settled for the summer in Sunset View Cottage. 'Mother! Just come here and look! There are somebody's hens wiping their feet on our nice clean grass!'

The tobacco crop for the season in Queensland will be about 265 tons. The largest crop in one year was 506 tons. Practically all of the tobacco was of the heavier type suitable only for the pipe, and was grown in the Texas district, near the New South Wales border. The price will be about 6½d per lb, so that a very large cheque is due to growers. For the most part the tobacco is taken by the Trust; but two manufacturers in Brisbane take between seventy and eighty tons, with a growing trade, owing to the increased popularity of colonial tobacco. Pipe tobacco grows about half a ton to the acre; cigar tobacco about three-quarters of a ton. Only about five acres of land were under cigar leaf in Queensland last year, but the area will expand to fully fifty acres this year.

'The history of the typewriter is interesting,' said an inventor. 'The first patented machine was Henry Mill's. It was as big as a bureau and made no popular appeal. This was in England in 1814. The first type bar machine was made in America. Its inventor was A. H. Beach. The patent was taken out in 1856. The Beach typewriter was not practical. The first practical typewriter was invented by Latham Sholes in 1867. Sholes had for partners S. W. Soule and Carlos Glidden, but these two men became discouraged and dropped out. It wasn't till some years later that Sholes got his machine ready for the market. Then he took it to a big firm of gunmakers, the Remingtons, and it at once began to sell on a large scale. Sholes remained in the employ of the Remingtons up to the time of his death.'

The lightest, finest-grained, and whitest bread in the world is that of France, where bread-making is regulated by law and is done almost wholly by bakers. Very few servants or housewives of France bake bread, and never except in country places. The material, size of loaf, and weight are regulated by law, and any buyer may demand of the baker that he shall weigh the loaf before accepting it. If it falls short then a fine follows. Wheat is the grain of which French breads are made, and black bread finds no favor in this land of dainty eaters. There is no other country where the law has given so great attention to the staff of life as in France, and sour bread is not to be found there. If one likes that he can visit Germany and eat pumper-nickel, a bread of rye, less nutritious than wheat, and quite uninviting until one becomes accustomed to it. Germany is the land of black bread as France is of white, and just as the people of the two countries differ in intellectual qualities do their breads differ in character.