

IMPERTINENCE REBUKED

'You must find that impediment in your speech rather inconvenient at times, Mr. Biggs?'
'Oh, n-no; everybody has his peculiarity. Stammering is mine; what is yours?'
'Well, really, I am not aware that I have any.'
'D-do you stir y-your tea with your right hand?'
'Why, yes, of course.'
'W-well, that is y-your p-peculiarity; m-most p-people u-use a t-teaspoon.'

JUST IN TIME

A North Country miner, late one autumn, was imprisoned while at work by the fall of a huge block of coal.

With the greatest energy his friends set to work to liberate him. This, though, proved to be a task of enormous difficulty. On account of the position of the hole and the nature of the fall, it was three full days before they reached their comrade.

When finally a passage had been made the manager put in his head and called:

'Jack, how are ye?'
'All right,' was the reply. 'What day is it?'
'Monday.'
'Good. Then I'm in time for the dog show.'

ODDS AND ENDS

Lord Rutherford was sitting on the hillside with his old shepherd, and, observing that the sheep reposed in the coldest situation, he said to him: 'John, if I were a sheep I would lie on the other side of the hill.'
'Ah, my lord,' answered the candid shepherd, 'but if ye had been a sheep ye would hae had mair sense!'

A certain gentleman, when in London, boards at a lodging house, the landlady of which is very punctual in her attendance at the Sabbath services. For this reason she insists that her boarders must be down early for breakfast on Sunday morning. The gentleman, however, one Sunday came down late. 'You are late this morning, sir,' said the woman gently, but rather reprovingly. 'No, madam! I spent half-an-hour on my knees this morning—' 'That was very praiseworthy of you,' she said, smiling graciously. '—hunting for a collar stud that rolled upon the floor and under the chest of drawers,' he concluded.

FAMILY FUN

Here is a funny little feature called 'The Game of Nations.' It will serve to get the thinking cap on, and to furnish a half-hour's entertainment. On slips of paper to be given, each guest writes the questions, and when returned to the hostess with the correct answers they should be:

The nation from which we start? Germination.
The nation for teachers? Explanation.
The nation for pupils? Subordination.
The nation for actors? Impersonation.
The nation for theological students? Ordination.
The nation for a political candidate? Nomination.
The nation for an unpopular official? Resignation.
The nation for pests? Extermination.
The nation for evildoers? Condemnation.
The nation desired by monopolies? Combination.
The nation which indicates a class? Denomination.

If a man on the front of a fruit cart weighs 139 pounds, what does the man on the back weigh? The fruit.

What is the difference between a mouse and a young lady? One harms the cheese and the other charms the 'hes.'

Why is a young man engaged to a young girl like a person sailing for France? Because he's going to Havre (have her).

If a monkey wished to announce that he was sick, how could he do it and at the same time mention the medicine he wanted? 'Ape ill' (a pill).

What is it which the men that make it don't need, the man that buys it doesn't use for himself, and the person that uses it doesn't know it? A coffin.

Why is a sheet of paper like a lazy dog? A sheet of paper is an ink-lined plain (inclined plane), and an inclined plane is a slope up (slow pup), and a slow pup is a lazy dog.

All Sorts

In Italy only incomes of £18 a year or less are exempt from taxation. In Prussia the limit is £45.

An experiment has shown that 1000 tons of soot settle yearly on the 10 square miles of London's area.

Over sixty miles of tunnel have been cut out of the rock of Gibraltar.

No land animal is known to have naturally poisonous flesh. There are, however, several fish whose flesh is deadly.

Gibraltar is the smallest British possession. It measures less than two square miles. Canada is the biggest, with 3,746,000 square miles.

Never in the history of the English Parliament have the full number of members been present at one sitting.

Spain is ranked second in supplying the world with honey. Her bee-hives number over a million and a half.

In Russia an extensive domestic industry consists of the manufacture of wooden spoons, of which as many as 30,000,000 are made annually. They are nearly all of birch wood.

No other nation in the world owns so much absolutely useless territory as the British. Banks Land, Prince Albert Land, Victoria and Baffin Land, with hundreds of other Arctic islands and lands, are at present quite useless.

The world's supply of wood is decreasing rapidly. Coal, as a substitute, has not lessened the demand, and the many industries which use wood in great quantities, run the numbers of tons consumed annually into the millions.

He was a noble lord, and he was in an awful rage with one of his footmen. 'It is intolerable!' he exclaimed. 'Are you a fool or am I?' 'Oh, my lord,' replied James, with humility, 'I am sure you would not keep a servant who was a fool.'

'Yes,' said the emphatic lady; 'I tell you that women ought to enjoy the same rights as men.' 'The same rights, Matilda,' returned her husband. 'Do you mean that they should be tram conductors and policemen?' 'Certainly.' 'And soldiers?' 'By all means.' 'Then I am in favor of it. Don't you think you would like to enlist, Matilda?'

An elephant had a raging toothache, the agony of which caused her to nearly destroy her caravan. She was thrown on her side and roped to stakes. Two men held a pair of ice tongs fast round the aching tooth, and a couple of dray horses attached to the tongs by a rope did the rest. The tooth was sixteen inches long by three inches across.

The Japanese House of Representatives consists of 300 members, elected by ballot, each member receiving a salary. Its House of Peers consists of members of the royal family, princes and marquises, counts, viscounts, and barons elected as representatives of the several orders, and persons elected for seven years by and from the highest taxpayers in each city and prefecture.

How an American machinery agent secured an order in Japan is related as follows: It was a question of some lathes for a large factory which was being started. They were required of a certain size. The agent for a British firm said: 'That is three inches longer than they are made, and we can make no alteration.' 'The American said: 'I will make them to any size you like.' The American secured the order.

I found a week or two ago (says a Bible agent of Yung Ping Fu, Chihli Province, China), that our copies of the Scriptures were being surreptitiously bought from colporteurs on the streets and then employed in wrapping up copper coins, much in the same way that dollars are wrapped up by foreign banks. The reason for this is that Scriptures are sold much too cheaply; cheaper, indeed, than the commonest paper that can be purchased in China, and it seems that the Bible societies should agree together to raise the price somewhat. Better smaller sales than such wanton destruction of the Sacred Book. A large firm that had so used our books sent a written apology, undertook not to repeat the offence, and contributed the sum of twenty dollars in gold to the Government boys' school in Tientsin. In the settlement of this case, it is a pleasure to add that we are indebted in great measure to the Roman Catholic Bishop, to whom the offending business house appealed.