

THE TRAMP'S GRATITUDE

When Blaine, at one time Vice-President of the United States, and who unsuccessfully contested the Presidency about fourteen years ago, was a young lawyer, and cases were few, he was asked to defend a poverty-stricken tramp accused of stealing a watch. He pleaded with all the ardor at his command, drawing so pathetic a picture with such convincing energy that at the close of his argument the court was in tears, and even the tramp wept.

The jury deliberated but a few minutes, and returned a verdict of 'not guilty.'

Then the tramp drew himself up, tears streamed down his face as he looked at his counsel, and said: 'Sir, I never heard so grand a plea. I have not cried before since I was a child. I have no money with which to reward you, but—drawing a package from the depths of his ragged clothes—here's that watch; take it and welcome.'

HOW WE SPEND TIME

A man with a taste for figures has been apportioning the life of a man who lives 70 years. He finds of that time a man spends nearly 25 years in bed, nearly 12 years each in work and play, nearly 6 years in eating and drinking, 6 years in walking about, nearly 3 years in dressing, 1 year and 5 months in illness, the same in reflection, in gossip, and an equal amount of time is wasted. There is about one hour a day which is wasted or given over to odds and ends at small duties. The mere act of putting on one's shoes is not considered worth mentioning, yet in his lifetime a man of 70 spends five minutes a day, 30 hours a year, or more than 12 weeks of a lifetime! Who would want seriously to sit down and do nothing every minute for three months but put on and take off his shoes? Until one analyses his day he will have no idea of time spent in locomotion, in getting from one place to another. Two hours a day is a conservative estimate of the time used this way. If a person spends but an hour each day on his toilet, in 70 years he will have devoted three years to his duty; and as for women, one hour is entirely too short a time to allow them—three is nearer right.

ODDS AND ENDS

Customer—'I want a piece of meat without fat, bone, or gristle.' Butcher (after having carefully examined his stock)—'You'd better have an egg, ma'am!'

The French Chamber and Senate have just voted the increase of the salaries of their members from £360 to £600 per annum. This will increase the national expenses by nearly £240,000 a year.

The phrase, 'his mother's white-headed boy,' is as old as the hills in Ireland. It appears in many of the Irish fairy stories of the last century. Irish mothers who knew good fairies always kept the secret for the 'white-headed boy' of the family. Gerald Griffin in one of his best short stories years ago used the phrase as one he had borrowed from an old Celtic book.

FAMILY FUN

The Alphabet Puzzle.—Arrange the players in a 'class' and give only half a minute to answer each question under pain of forfeit.

What letters form a weapon? R. O. (arrow).

What letters remind you of a flower? Your O's.

What letters should physicians use in practice? Q. R.

What size of letter promotes good health? X R size.

What three letters are your foes? Your N. M. E's.

What letter must a friend bid you search for when he praises the weather? Find A.

What letters are best for a weary person? He must take his E's.

What letter must you get to visit Europe? U must cross the C.

What letters make winter uncomfortable? I. C.

What is the hottest letter in the alphabet? B, because it will make oil boil.

Which letter is most useful to a deaf old woman? A, because it will make her hear.

Which one is best for a blind old woman? Letter C.

All Sorts

The first wooden bridge, so far as is known, was the Subicjan bridge at Rome, built in the seventh century.

'The City of Tramways.' This is the name given in South America to Buenos Ayres, the capital of the Argentine Republic.

There are about 16,000 islands between the coast of India and Madagascar. All of them are capable of supporting population, but only 600 are inhabited.

Mrs. Windfall—Just imagine, Hiram! One of the sailors told me that this boat is now in communication with her sister ship! I wonder what the conversation is about? Mr. Windfall—Humph, (most likely) each is asking the other if her cargo is on straight.

A family residing in the suburbs of Wellington recently purchased a cow, which the children found a source of pleasure and excitement. A few days after the arrival of the animal there happened to be a large garden-party given. Ice-cream was being handed round. 'Our cow made that!' remarked the four-year-old son of the house to the assembled guests.

Senator Beveridge, of Indiana, in his address to the Knights of Columbus on Discovery Day, said: 'The American people—let their progress never cease. And who are these American people? They are not Anglo-Saxon. They are American. Nearly 20,000,000 of our 90,000,000 are of German descent. As many more are of Irish descent. Nearly 5,000,000 are of French descent. More than 2,000,000 are of Italian descent. Two-thirds as many people of Scandinavian descent live in this Republic as live in Norway and Sweden combined. Every country in Christendom has supplied an element that, mingled with the rest, makes up the American people.'

At the present time, when we are told that there is a very close cousinship between butter and soap, the following note, which appears in the 'Lancet' from a correspondent in Holland, is worth noting: 'About 100 tons of butter,' he says, 'are sold in England every week containing short weight of butter fat. Unless exposed by the press it will soon be 1000 tons per week with short weight of fat in every pound. Dry colonial and other butters, containing 85 to 98 per cent. of fat, are impoverished in England by blending them with milk, which (as it comes from the cow) contains nearly 90 per cent. of water. Thus splendid dry butters which in their original condition had only 12 per cent. or less of water are made to hold about 24 per cent. Water displaces butter fat, and the poor buy the mixture for butter.'

The bakers of Pompeii had the same kind of oven that may occasionally be found in old country houses. In these the fire was built in the oven itself, and kept up until the brick or stone walls were aglow. Then the ashes and coals were brushed out, and the articles to be cooked were introduced, those needing a high degree of heat first and later the others. The walls would hold heat for forty-eight hours, and nothing ever burned if put in at the proper temperature. Epicures of yesterday say that no modern oven can produce such appetizing results as followed this slow baking. From this oven it was but a step to that of to-day heated with flues. The Dutch oven set before the fire was really but a modification of the pan upon the coals and not a separate step toward the development of the oven.

There is a little town named Markneukirchen, in Saxony, where nearly every inhabitant is engaged in the manufacture of violins. The industry gives employment to nearly 15,000 people, who live in Markneukirchen and the surrounding villages. The fiddle is usually made of maplewood, and consists of about sixty pieces, each one of which is cut, smoothed, and measured, so that everything is exact with the model. The old men make the ebony finger-boards, screws, and string holders, and the younger ones, with strong, steady hands and clear eyes, put the pieces together, which is the most difficult performance of any. The women attain marvellous skill in polishing the violin after it is fitted up, and almost every family has its own peculiar method of polishing, which is handed down from mother to daughter, some excelling in a deep wine color; others in citron or orange color. The more expensive violins are polished from twenty to thirty times before they are considered perfect and ready for use.