

ODDS AND ENDS

'There is but one thing in this world that we can put our faith and reliance in with confidence, children,' said the teacher. 'Who can tell me what it is?' 'Safety-pins,' promptly answered a little girl.

'You are not opaque, are you?' said the sarcastic man to another who was standing in front of him at a recent show. 'Faith, and I'm not,' was the imperturbable reply. 'My name is O'Brien.'

'I suppose your late uncle didn't fail to remember you in his will?' said the sympathetic friend. 'You can hardly call it a remembrance,' replied the poor relation. 'It was more like a faint recollection!'

'Ah, Jackson!' exclaimed a miserly individual, thoughtlessly, meeting an acquaintance at a railway refreshment bar. 'It isn't often we meet—er—what will you have?'

'Thanks,' replied his friend, considerably astonished, 'I'm not particular.'

'Good,' said the close-fisted one; 'then we'll have a walk.'

FAMILY FUN

The 'Spelling bee' trick is an interesting little performance with cards, and can also be made most amusing, especially in a small circle. Secretly arrange the first 13 cards of a pack in the following order: 3, 8, 7, 1, King, 6, 4, 2, Queen, Knave, 10, 9, 5, the 3 being the first or top card, and the 5 being the thirteenth from the top. In presenting the trick, carelessly shuffle the bottom part of the pack, being, however, careful not to disturb the order of the pre-arranged cards. Ask someone to cut the pack. The performer in picking up the cards, crosses his hands and picks up the two parts simultaneously, replacing them in their original position. This ruse is never detected if done without hesitating.

The performer now says—'I want thirteen cards,' and he counts from the top, keeping them in the same order, and being careful not to put No. 2 on No. 1 and so on. Each card must go under its immediate top one.

Take the thirteen cards off the pack and spread them face upwards, without remark, but ostensibly to show that they are a mixed lot taken without any regard to order; but noticing that the thirteenth card is a five. This ensures the correct number and order of the cards. The cards are now picked up again and cut whist fashion by the company several times. The performer stops the cutting when he sees the 5 appear at the bottom again. They are then in the original order, and if spelled out, placing a card at the bottom of the pack for each letter, at the completion of each word, the next card will be the one the name of which has been spelled, i.e., O N E one, the fourth card will be found to be the ace, and it is thrown on the table; T W O two, the eighth card is shown, a two, and is thrown on the table, and so on until the names of all the cards have been spelled.

The cards may be cut at any time, if the card which is at the bottom when the cards are cut is cut to the bottom again, before proceeding with the spelling. In spelling 'Queen,' E E must be used, placing a card at the bottom for each letter.

Occasionally a feint may be made which will considerably heighten the effect. For instance: having spelled out the name of a card, say a seven, before showing it to the audience, the performer glances at the card and, pretending to have made a mistake, says, 'Ah! that's a Queen! Kindly blow upon it.' Give the card a smart click underneath with the thumb, and lo! it has apparently changed to the proper card, namely, a 7, which is shown to the audience, thrown on the table, and the spelling proceeded with.

The disastrous hurricane that struck Cooktown on January 19 was one of the most violent experienced in the north for some years. The whole town was damaged, and many narrowly with their lives. St. Mary's Church was completely demolished, and the convent and school were unroofed.

All Sorts

The title of marquis was first given by Richard II. to Robert de Vere, Earl of Oxford, who was made Marquis of Dublin in 1386.

The gizzard is an everlasting grinding mill. Called into action, it always reduces the grain as it is swallowed, so that the crop is rarely distended.

The mandolin was an old instrument a couple of centuries ago, having then, after a long series of evolutions, reached its present shape at Naples, which city has always claimed the honor of its origin.

Little Jeanie—My mamma is always saying, 'Why did you do that?' and 'Why didn't you do this?' and 'Why in the world did you forget so-and-so?'

Tommy—How awfully strict she must be! What an awfully bad time you must have!

Little Jeanie—Oh, it isn't to me she says all that; it's to pa.

The British Consular Report on Immigration to America says:—The Irish in particular differ in one respect from all other races, in that their female immigrants outnumber the males. Most of the women, like the Scandinavians, are domestic servants, of whom Ireland provided no less than 23,000 last year, one-fifth of the total number of servants who arrived. Of the men, about 16,000 are unskilled laborers; but in this the Irishman is being ousted by cheaper races, and the Irish navy is no longer the feature in American labor that he used to be.

Strange as it may seem, many people imagine that rattan and willow furniture are the same. Rattan is the Chinese importation, brought direct from Singapore, and is reed, susceptible of bending double without even cracking. It possesses, besides this, great firmness and strength, and a chair of rattan could be thrown from an express train and picked up intact. Rattan is therefore used for such articles as baskets and lighter ornamental furniture. Each has its use, the rattan, however, being better adapted for working up into intricate designs.

The man of this story is a very light sleeper, one who is easily wakened and who is a long time getting to sleep. In a Christchurch hotel he had at last got sound asleep, when a loud rap, repeated, awoke him.

'What's wanted?'

'Package downstairs for you.'

'Well, it can wait till morning, I suppose?'

The boy departed, and after a long time the man was sound asleep again, when there came another resounding knock at the door.

'Well, what is it now?' he inquired.

'Taint for you, that package!'

The manufacturing house of Kynoch, Limited, which has nine different works in various parts of the United Kingdom, has announced that it will very soon adopt the metric system of calculation. Mr. Arthur Chamberlain says that the English system of weights and measures is seriously retarding British commerce, as foreigners will not bother themselves with figures based on a system of reckoning having no intelligible principle. All the weights and measures of the firm are to be adapted to the new standard, and the piece workers' earnings will be calculated on the decimal system. The chief inspector of weights and measures at Birmingham thinks that the step is wise, but that on account of its expense it will not be generally imitated for the present at least.

'Have you any idea of the intrinsic value of your life?' says a writer with a taste for figures. Supposing (he says) you could be bought as a mere human machine, what sum do you suppose you would fetch? It has been estimated that a laborer aged twenty-five is worth £1100, and that a lawyer aged forty is worth £5870. The life of an average laborer is worth most at the age of twenty-five, while the professional man is worth most at forty. A thirty-year-old clerk earning 45s a week would be valued at about £1900; a factory worker of the same age would be considered to be worth about £1600; an average commercial traveller aged thirty would represent a capitalised value of £2450. A man whose earning capacity is £1000 a year, and who has reasonable expectations of twenty years of working life, would be valued at about £15,000, allowance being made for cost of his maintenance, and for the possible diminution of his earning powers during the following twenty years.