

WISE AND OTHERWISE

A full stomach has prevented many a man from thinking of his duty to himself and to his country. Some people never learn the difference between asking God for what they want and asking Him for what they need.

One-half the flowers brought to the average funeral would have made life much more pleasant if given a few months earlier.

The higher the salary attached to the public office the more patriots there are ready to sacrifice their business interests to accept it.

We met an optimist the other day. He expected that some time he would drop into a home and find the mother playing the piano in the parlor while the daughter was washing the dishes.

As the father is bent the son is usually inclined. When a friend does a good thing, acknowledge it. Men who achieve success by hard work are usually called lucky.

It is better to receive criticism than flattery.

ODDS AND ENDS

The hardest wood in the world is not ebony, but cocus, which is much used for making flutes and other similar instruments.

Mother: 'Tommy, what's your little brother crying about?' Tommy: 'Cause I'm eatin' my cake an' won't give him any.' Mother: 'Is his own cake finished?' Tommy: 'Yes'm; an' he cried while I was eatin' that too.'

FAMILY FUN

Here is another card trick, which, although in the nature of a 'sell,' will cause a great deal of astonishment:—The performer announces that he is about to present a marvellous experiment in 'thought reading,' for which it is necessary that he has the assistance of two persons.

Two lads from the audience come to the conjurer's table or on to the platform, as the case may be. The performer has a little harmless fun with the boys, making them solemnly promise to assist him to the best of their ability; and then he requests that two cards should be chosen from the pack, remarking with some point, 'I am going to do the trick, and these two young gentlemen are going to assist!' The two cards are chosen, by two ladies if possible. Whilst the cards are shown to the remainder of the audience the performer requests that he and his assistants may be allowed to turn their backs to the audience.

The performer returns to the persons who have chosen the cards, and, opening the pack in the centre, requests that the first card should be returned. Secretly, the tip of the little finger is inserted between the two parts. Going to the second person and opening the pack again, he requests that the second card be returned. This is done, the two cards now being together in the middle of the pack at the 'break.' Whilst returning to the table the conjurer places the bottom half of the pack with the two cards on the top, at the same time again remarking, 'I'm doing the trick, and these two young gentlemen are helping.'

It is now quite easy to get a peep at both the chosen cards. Having done so, slip the top card to the bottom, turning it face inwards to the pack. Take the pack in the left hand, and slightly moisten the first finger and thumb of the right hand with the mouth. This can be done without being remarked by pretending to think, and putting the first finger to the lips.

Take the pack into the right hand, squeezing it lightly, by the first finger and thumb, thumb on top, finger underneath. Desire the persons who have chosen cards to touch the pack lightly, and 'think.' The performer then alternately names their cards, remarking again, 'I am doing the trick, and these two young gentlemen are helping.' A laugh will be caused, the assistants up till now having done nothing.

The performer then throws the pack into the air, breaking the fall of the cards upon the back of his hand; and upon opening his finger and thumb the chosen cards which are retained will be found adhering to them as if just caught in the air. Turning them to his assistants the performer remarks, 'I've done the trick; will you kindly pick up the cards?' and general merriment is sure to ensue.

All Sorts

Cassava starch, more popularly known as tapioca, is the chief element of the gum on the back of all postage stamps.

Father (who has helped his son with his homework): 'What did the teacher say when you showed him the suns?'

Johnny: 'He said I was getting more stupid every day.'

The bamboo is not a tropical plant, as commonly supposed. It grows in regions where the snows are so heavy that they often break down the young stems, and where the thermometer drops to 15 degrees F. below the freezing point.

The blue ribbon of the shipbuilding world, which Messrs. Harland and Wolff, Belfast, held for two years, has passed to Messrs. Swan, Hunter, and Co., Newcastle-on-Tyne, whose output was 126,921 tons last year, as compared with 85,111 by the Irish firm.

The searchlight on board the battleship 'Dreadnought' is of quite a new type, being double-ended to throw powerful beams of light in exactly opposite directions to facilitate semaphore signalling. Each light is of nearly 50,000 candle-power, and, being placed on a high manipulating platform on the top of the tripod mast, will be visible twenty miles away.

The longest distance ever compassed by human vision is 183 miles, being the distance between the Uncompahgne Park, in Colorado, and Mount Ellen, in Utah. This feat was accomplished by the surveyors of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, who were engaged, in conjunction with representatives of other nations, in making a new measurement of the earth.

Bowling is one of the games that originated in the middle ages. The exact date of its introduction is obscure, but it has been clearly traced to the thirteenth century. The first bowling greens were made in England. In bad weather these could not be used to advantage, and this led to the construction of covered bowling alleys.

Newfoundland's cod fisheries gave employment to 70,000 persons in 1905, during which year 38,037,328 pounds, valued at £241,386, were shipped from Labrador to Europe. That represented about two-thirds of the catch on the Labrador coast, the remainder being taken to Newfoundland for curing.

A Christchurch lady who complained to her milkman of the quality of milk he sold her received the following explanation:

'You see, mum, they don't get enough grass feed this very dry weather. Why, them cows o' mine are just as sorry about it as I am. I often see 'em crying, regular crying, mum, because they feel as how their milk don't do 'em credit.'

'Oh,' responded his customer, 'but I wish in future you'd see that they don't drop their tears into our can.'

A French writer, searching a Paris directory, has discovered that Napoleon and Boileau keep cafes, Robespierre makes brick fuel, Racine sells hay and corn, Moliere is a tailor, and Hugo a dentist. From the 'London Directory' he learns that Oliver Cromwell lets furnished apartments, Luther keeps a restaurant, and Shakespeare is a coachbuilder, and Milton a cabinet-maker. In Berlin, he says, Goethe is a barber, and Kant keeps a registry office. Had he consulted a New Zealand directory he would have found that Julius Caesar follows the peaceful pursuit of farming in this Colony.

An illuminating report on the condition of the women chainmakers in the Black Country has been issued by Mr. T. Sitch, the secretary of the newly-formed Chain-makers' and Chain-strikers' Association. Mr. Sitch, who lately has been devoting a considerable portion of his time to investigations, states: 'I found such a scandalous state of things as was simply astounding.' As to the earnings of the women, he says some of them made about 4s to 5s per week as an average for a week of hard work and long hours. A few made 6s or 7s, and a still smaller number, who made superior qualities of work, got as much as 10s. 'To my mind,' he adds, 'the most painful part is I found that some of these poor souls were making this work for persons who profess to be Christians, and many of them taking part in religious observances.'