

children would go with even the silliness of youth and have them received as such, not as things of lasting importance, and to be referred to again and again after they have passed and are sinking into oblivion.

'Oh, I can't tell mother anything, she lays so much stress, so much importance, on every trifle and never forgets it or lets me. I wish I had a mother I could tell things to,' is the cry one hears continually from schoolgirls.

A QUEEN OF TACT

The Dowager-Queen of Italy, who belongs to a house trained to kingcraft for more than a thousand years, is said to be wonderfully skilful in dealing with the difficulties appertaining to her high station. An incident which occurred at one of her Drawing-Rooms illustrates her tact, readiness, and delicacy. The persons who are to be presented at the Roman Court are arranged in a large semicircle in the throne-room. The Queen enters and passes around the line, attended by a chamberlain, who names each person, adding usually a word or two to give the Queen some idea of their claim to notice. She asks a question or makes a remark to each, and passes on. On this occasion there was in the line a young man from South America, whose embarrassment showed itself in pale cheeks and terrified glances as the Queen drew nearer. At last she reached him and stopped. He heard his name, saw her smile. There was a roaring in his ears; his knees shook. When she asked him the name of his native town he gasped in confusion that he did not know. The whole circle smiled; but the Queen's face was as calm as marble. 'You mean that our beautiful Italy already has made you forget your home?' Ah, signor, you are a skilful courtier! You flatter us too much!' and playfully shaking her fan at him she passed on, leaving him wondering how he came to make so brilliant a response, while the crowd looked at him respectfully, bewildered also.

ODDS AND ENDS

Landlady: 'The coffee, I am sorry to say, is exhausted, Mr. Smith.' Mr. Smith: 'Ah, yes, poor thing. I was expecting that. I've noticed that for some time it hasn't been strong.'

Ma: 'I hear that you've been playing with Donald Smith again, Tommy. Now, I told you—' Tommy: 'Playing with him! You see the black eye he's got, and you'll soon guess if there was any playing about it.'

FAMILY FUN

Weak to a proverb my first has been reckoned;
And men have agreed to make game of my second;
Yet, when both were united in beauteous alliance,
Men triumphed in wounds, and set death at defiance.

Answer—Waterloo.

The Mysterious Bottle.—Pierce a few holes with a glazier's diamond in a common black bottle; place it in a vase or jug of water, so that the neck only is above the surface. Then, with a funnel, fill the bottle and cork it well, while it is in the jug or vase. Take it out, notwithstanding the holes in the bottom, it will not leak; wipe it dry, and give it to some person to uncork. The moment the cork is drawn, to the party's astonishment, the water will begin to run out of the bottom of the bottle.

To Put an Egg Into a Bottle.—To accomplish this seemingly incredible act requires the following preparation: You must take an egg and soak it in strong vinegar; and in process of time its shell will become quite soft, so that it may be extended lengthways without breaking; then insert it into the neck of a small bottle, and by pouring cold water upon it, it will re-assume its former figure and hardness. This is really a complete curiosity, and baffles those who are not in the secret to find out how it is accomplished. If the vinegar used to saturate the egg is not sufficiently strong to produce the required softness of shell, add one teaspoonful of strong acetic acid to every two tablespoonfuls of vinegar. This will render the egg perfectly flexible, and of easy insertion into the bottle, which must then be filled with cold water.

All Sorts

'What are you cryin' for?' 'I've been fishin'.
'An' you're cryin' because you didn't catch nothin'?'
'No, I'm cryin' 'cause I'm goin' 'ter catch somethin'!'

The first electric tramway in Ireland was from Portrush to the Giant's Causeway. It was opened in 1883.

'There's a man who has done a lot toward raising up the human race.'

'A great statesman?'

'No; he is a lift attendant.'

Tramways were introduced into Great Britain by George Francis Train, who in 1860 obtained permission to lay a line in Birkenhead with a stop-rail, but it was found to be a great inconvenience to wheeled traffic, and the groove-rail was submitted.

Glass bath-tubs are being made in Germany, and are said to have advantages over the metal and enamel, the principal one being that they are much cheaper. They are made in a solid piece, and one can be turned out complete in about five minutes.

The English Court of Appeal has decided that a watch case, being plate, cannot be exposed for sale until it has been assayed and stamped. The argument is that putting works inside a piece of plate does not make it anything else, and as the law says that plate shall be assayed, before being exposed for sale, foreign watches will not be admitted to the English market.

At a recent exhibition of pictures in Tokio, Japan, the following notice was posted: 'No person who is mad or intoxicated is allowed to enter in, if any person found in shall be claimed to retire. No person is allowed to carry in with himself any parcel, umbrella, stick, and the like kind, except his purse, and is strictly forbidden to take within himself dog or the same kind of beasts. Visitor is requested to take care of himself from thievily.'

Father Himalaya, of Lisbon, Portugal, who exhibited at the St. Louis Exposition a machine to collect heat from the sun's rays and which as was claimed at the time condenses a temperature of 3,500 degrees, has discovered a new explosive more powerful than dynamite, pancastite, cordite or any other known explosive. Experiments in the presence of the King of Portugal proved so satisfactory that the government has adopted the new explosive for the use of the army.

Vienna will shortly possess a museum exclusively devoted to music. In the modern world, at least, no city could be more appropriately chosen for its musical associations. Instruments, MSS., portraits, sculptures, and, in fact, everything associated with great musicians will be represented. The collection will be especially rich in its historical side. It will include original scores by Bach, Handel, Mendelssohn, Spohr, Weber, Mozart, Beethoven, and Brahms. There will also be a complete collection of pianos illustrating the development of the instrument from its earliest beginnings.

Shortly after Mr. Gladstone's death, a local politician delivered an address upon the life of the statesman before a school. When he had finished, he said: 'Now, can any of you tell me what a statesman is?' A little hand went up, and a little girl replied: 'A statesman is a man who makes speeches.' 'Hardly that,' answered the politician, who loved to tell this story. 'For instance, I sometimes make speeches, and yet I am not a statesman.' The little hand again went up: 'I know,' and the answer came triumphantly: 'a statesman is a man who makes good speeches!'

In an article on 'The Decay of Repartee' the New York 'Evening Post' gives the palm to the Irish for the readiness with which the witty retort springs from their tongues. Says the 'Post': 'They seem born to it, and every traveller brings back his stories of cabman's retort or policeman's sly dig. Of the more dignified type of repartee, perhaps the best known in Irish history is the reply of Lady Tyrconnell to James II. upon his arrival in Dublin, hot-foot and almost unattended, after the defeat of the Boyne. "Madam, your countrymen have run away," was the King's gracious accost. "I am rejoiced, at least, to perceive that your Majesty has won the race!" the Viceroy's wife with a courtesy.