

DON'T MEDDLE

One of the most irritating feelings against which the best people need to be on their guard is meddlingness. The chances are that by our meddlingness we mar more than we mend. The probability is that the cook broiled the breakfast bacon better than we could have done it, and the tailor cut the coat better than if he had followed our directions. No one can ever be happy in this world who fancies himself or herself born to 'set it right.' It would do us all good at times to sit with the pupils instead of taking uninvited the seat of the master and the critic. One of the most useful lessons any man can learn is to let things alone. Let the chair stand where the maid placed it. Let the dinner be served without protest as the good wife ordered it. And remember that the world will have to get along without us some day; that if we keep hands off from it a little while it may be learning, as it must learn, to eventually get along without our suggestion or interference.

ODDS AND ENDS

'Now, boys,' said the lady teacher, 'I expect you to lift your caps to me when you meet me on the street.' Next day she called out Tommy Jones, and said: 'Tommy, why didn't you lift your cap to me when you met me on the street last night?' 'Please, miss,' explained Tommy, 'it wasn't my own cap I had on; it was my brother's.'

Simmons: 'Johnson wants to borrow some money off me. Do you know anything about him?' McCoy: 'I know him as well as I know you. I wouldn't let him have a penny.'

'What is the meaning of "alter ego"?' asked the teacher of the beginners' class in Latin. 'The other I,' said the boy with the curly hair. 'Give a sentence containing the phrase.' 'He winked his other I.'

FAMILY FUN

What is that from which you may take away the whole and yet have some left?—Wholesome.

What is it which, if you even name it, you break it?—Silence.

What workman is continually on the strike.—A blacksmith.

Who is paid only when he plays?—the actor.

When is butter like Irish children?—When it is made into little pats.

If you should stumble over a new mat, what science are you shown to have neglected?—Pneumatics.

Why is a crocodile the most deceitful of animals?—Because its countenance is most open when taking us in.

What is the smallest bridge on earth?—The bridge of the nose.

How it is Done.—Not infrequently the thought-reader includes some feats of lightning calculation in his performance, and astonishes his audience by announcing that 'My medium will write on the blackboard the total of a sum which will be written on a piece of paper by three members of the audience, without one word or sign from me, and without seeing the figures.'

This may be described as the thought-reader's most audacious piece of trickery. Prior to the performance he decides on a total which the medium memorises. When the curtain goes up he produces a piece of writing-paper and asks three of the audience, in different parts of the hall, each to write down a line of figures to form a small addition sum. Then he presents the paper to a fourth person, with the request that the latter will draw a line and add the figures up. This is done, and without hesitation the medium on the stage writes the total on the blackboard.

'Is that right, sir?' asks the entertainer. 'Wonderful!' says the one who figured out the total, and the audience duly applaud. They little know that the figures written down by the three members of the audience were not those added up by the fourth person, who was simply presented with the other side of the paper, on which appeared another set of figures which, added together, made the total previously agreed upon by the thought-reader and the medium.

All Sorts

Young lady.—Are you two youngsters twins?
Boy (indignantly).—No! She's a girl.

At the present moment the countries of Europe are spending on their armies and navies as much as £800,000 a day.

The crown worn by the Austrian Emperor, which is regarded as one of the finest works of European goldsmiths, contains over £100,000 worth of gold and jewels.

The two buttons that are invariably on the back of a man's dress-coat are the survival of the buttons that were originally used to hold up the sword-belt of olden days.

Since 1830 Liberal Governments have been in office forty-two years and have created 232 peers. Conservative Ministries have been in power thirty-four years and have created 181 peers.

The longest tram-line in the world is in the Argentine Republic, from Buenos Ayres to San Martín, a distance of 54 miles. It is worked by horses, which are less expensive there than steam or electricity.

Ulman Stromer was undoubtedly the first German paper maker. Five hundred years have passed since then, and the art of paper making can look back on as long a period of earnest effort and profitable work.

National Flower Emblems.—Flêur-de-lis, France; violet, Athens; shamrock, Ireland; sugar maple, Canada; linden, Prussia; magnonette, Saxony; rose, England; sacred lotus of Nile, Egypt; lily, Italy; cornflower, Germany; leek, Wales; thistle, Scotland.

M. Santos Dumont has entered for the steerable balloon race from Paris to London in 1908. He expresses the opinion that in view of the recent development in the science of aeronautics the journey from Paris to London will be accomplished in two hours.

A recent issue of the Gazette contains a list of the qualified medical men and women who have been registered as practitioners in this Colony. The names of 850 practitioners appear on the register, and of these 25 are women. A large number of these physicians, although registered in New Zealand, are not practising in the Colony. On the dentists' register there are 489 names, and of these 10 are women.

A bird which can talk in two languages, and whose repertory consists of seventeen phrases, is the latest addition to the London Zoological Gardens. The bird belongs to a species known as the Larger Hill Mynah, which flourishes in Northern India. Three of its phrases are in an Indian dialect, and the rest in English. The bird's name, as it informs all comers, is 'Tommy, and it asks all visitors, 'who are you?'

A motorist, who was touring in Ireland, one day met a man on the road who was driving a donkey and cart. Thinking he would have a little fun at his expense, the motorist began:—

'What is the difference, Pat, between your turnout and mine?'

The man looked at the questioner a minute or so and then replied:—

'Not a great deal. The donkey's in the shafts in the one and on the seat in the other.'

A writer in 'Blackwood' for February tells 'a story of Wellington and Soult, which the late Baroness Burdett-Coutts used to relate with keen pleasure. On the first occasion the Duke took Soult into Apsley House, the latter was surprised at the absence of pictures he had known in Madrid. 'How is it, Monsieur le Duc,' he said, 'that you have so few of the Spanish masterpieces?' 'Marshal, you forget,' replied the Duke, 'that my army was only in Madrid after the one commanded by yourself.'

A small girl recently entered a grocer's shop in one of the suburbs of a large town in the north of England, and said to the shopkeeper in a shrill voice: 'Please, sir, I want 'arf a pound of butter and a penn'orth of cheese, and mother sez she'll send a shilling in when father comes home.'

'All right,' replied the man, who was used to this sort of request.

'But,' continued the child, 'mother wants the change, cos she's got to put a penny in the gas meter.'