

So, if you ever have a chance to look through a telescope and see the wonders it has to reveal, just remember the little boy who once lived in far-off Holland.

SLIGHTLY MIXED

Mr. Jones, of Taranaki, who was spending a week in Christchurch, had called at the house of an acquaintance.

'I declare,' he said, 'it cures me of my homesickness to drop in here and see a little of your home life—er—ah—not that your home life is anything but the—what I mean—of course, is that it makes me hanker still more for my own home—or, rather, that—on the homoeopathic principle, you know, that a hair of the dog that bit you—which isn't at all what I mean, to be sure, but—when a man is lonesome he can enjoy the society of almost anybody—and yet that isn't exactly what I—what I was trying to—because, you understand, as the poet says, that home, be it ever so—so humble, you know—which yours isn't—there's no place like one's own—notwithstanding which I've had an exceedingly pleasant—well, I must be going. Good evening.'

ODDS AND ENDS

Mistress (to her maid): 'I suppose you girls talk about each other just the same as we ladies do about each person in our set?' Domestic: 'No, mum; we mostly talk about the mistresses.'

Wife: 'I wish we had a nice country place, where we could give a birthday dance.' Husband: 'Just for the pleasure of inviting some of your friends, eh?' Wife: 'Yes; and the pleasure of not inviting some.'

FAMILY FUN

Choose a rich dress of corded stuff,
My first you'll hold then sure enough;
When high winds blow o'er roof and wall
My second has a chance to fall—
My whole's a thing that crawls and creeps,
Or hides away and snugly sleeps.

Answer—Reptile.

Not long ago I saw a man
Who looked to me peculiar;
His left hand held a cobbler's tool,
With which we are all familiar.
And a cutting tool was in his right,
Well known to many nations;
But all at once the scene was changed
To useful publications.

Answer—Almanacs (awl-man-axe).

A little dexterous sleight of hand is always amusing. You ask a friend to lend you a cigarette paper, as you find you have not got one yourself, and having been furnished with one you proceed to tear it up, roll the small pieces into a ball, and then unroll them, showing the cigarette paper made whole once more.

To do this trick you must have prepared yourself with a whole cigarette paper beforehand, and must keep this, rolled up into a ball, in the right pocket of your waistcoat. When you ask for a cigarette paper, you at the same time insert your fingers into your waistcoat pocket as though looking for one there, and take out the prepared ball, holding it between the tips of the first and second fingers, where it will not be seen by the audience if you are careful how you hold your hand. When the other paper has been torn up, and while rolling the pieces into a ball, you change that ball for the one you have ready, holding the ball of torn pieces in the position previously occupied by the ball of whole paper. When you are about to unroll the ball you put your fingers quite naturally up to your lips to moisten them, and in so doing get the ball of torn paper into your mouth. You will then unroll the whole ball of paper and hand it round for inspection. The most effective part of this trick comes when you have rolled the torn paper into a ball, for you can at this point press the ball of whole paper against the ball of torn paper between the first finger and thumb, and hold them up to the audience, who see that your hands are perfectly empty and never suspect that what appears to be one ball of paper is really made up of two balls.

All Sorts

Mr. John Burns says that since the passing of the Poor Law Act in 1834, £554,000,000 have been devoted to the relief of the poor.

Brass reflects heat better than any other metal. Silver comes next, then tin, steel, and lead in the order named.

About 94 per cent. of otherwise normal people use the right hand in preference to the left; 6 per cent. are left-handed; and it is a curious fact that one-third of the 6 per cent. are ambidextrous.

'What do you know of the character of this man?' was asked of a witness at a police-court the other day.

'What do I know of his character? 'I know it to be unbleachable, your honor,' he replied, with much emphasis.

The seal's appetite is phenomenal in captivity, fifty or more pounds of fish being required daily for a single meal. After gorging himself he goes to sleep, floating on his back, with flippers folded, his head bobbing up and down upon the waves, as peacefully as upon a bed of roses.

The White Star Line have issued an interesting little pamphlet describing their magnificent new 25,000 tons leviathan 'Adriatic,' which was launched by Messrs. Harland and Wolff, at Belfast, in September last. The length over all is 725 feet 9 inches, breadth 75 feet 6 inches, and depth about 50 feet, and with accommodation to carry 3000 passengers.

'Does it not throw a shade of bitterness into your heart,' said the poetic young lady, 'to see the trees all leafless, and to hear the wind sighing in mournful monotony? Does it not make you feel that there is too much that is bleak in the world?' 'No,' answered the practical youth, 'it does not.' 'Why?' 'Because my father is in the coal business.'

The editor of a Kansas country paper has found a way of persuading the delinquent subscriber. It was quite accidental. He had borrowed a rifle recently, and he started up the main street of the town to return the weapon to its owner. The delinquent subscribers got it into their heads that he was on the war-path, and every one he met insisted on paying what he owed him. One man wiped out a debt of ten years' standing. On his return to his office he found a load of hay, fifteen bushels of corn, ten bushels of potatoes, a load of wood, and a barrel of turnips that had been brought in. All the country editors are now trying to borrow Winchesters.

There are plenty of ingenious burglars in the world, but he would have to be a very ingenious burglar indeed who should find a way to rob the bank of France. The measures taken for guarding the money are of such a nature that burglary would seem to be impossible. Every day, when the money is put into the vaults in the cellar, and before the officers leave, masons are in attendance, whose duty it is to wall up the doors of the vaults. Water is then turned on, and kept running until the cellar is flooded. A burglar would thus have to work in a diving suit, and break down a cement wall, before he could even begin to break into the vaults. When the officers arrive the next morning the water is drawn off, the masonry torn down, and the vaults opened. It is said that the treasures of the Bank of France are better guarded than any in the world.

At the north end of Hudson Bay is an island about the size of the State of Maine, which is called Southampton Island, on which has been discovered a lost tribe of Esquimaux, which has been without any intercourse with human beings for centuries and until a few years ago had never seen a white man. Apparently these people have dwelt there since before the time of Columbus. They are still in the stone age, knowing no metals. They grow no plants, and their homes are built of the skulls of whales. Their huts are built by putting together the great jaws of a whale and covering them over with skins. In the middle of this dwelling is the familiar elevated place on which stands the lamp. With this they cook, light their dwelling, provide warmth, melt snow and dry their clothes. The whale is their chief means of subsistence. They use the bone in a variety of ways, even making their cups and buckets of it, by bending it in shape and sewing on the bottom.