

NOT EVIDENCE

Senator Proctor, of Vermont, related the following with reference to an Irishman who was being examined as to his knowledge of a certain shooting affair.

'Did you,' asked the presiding magistrate of the witness; 'did you see the shot fired?'

'I did not sir,' responded the Celt, 'but I heard it fired.'

That evidence is not satisfactory,' replied the magistrate sternly. 'You may step down.'

The witness left the box. No sooner had he turned his back on the judge than he gave vent to a somewhat derisive laugh. Enraged at his contempt of court, the magistrate called the Irishman back to the witness-box.

'How dare you laugh in that manner in court?' demanded the judge angrily.

'Did you see me laugh, your honor?' asked the Irishman.

'No, but I distinctly heard you laugh,' came from the irate judge.

'Such evidence is not satisfactory,' rejoined the Celt quickly, a twinkle coming into his eye.

'Whereupon,' says Senator Proctor, 'everyone in court laughed, including the judge.'

ODDS AND ENDS

A regiment of soldiers were recently drawn up one Sunday for church parade, but the church was being repaired, and could only hold half of them.

'Sergeant-major,' shouted the colonel, 'tell all the men who don't want to go to church to fall out on the reverse flank.'

Of course, a large number quickly and gladly availed themselves of the privilege.

'Now, sergeant-major,' said the colonel, 'dismiss all the men who did not fall out, and march the others to church—they need it most.'

FAMILY FUN

What is the superlative of temper?—Tempest.

What nation does a criminal dread?—Condemnation.

What is the waist of time?—The middle of an hour-glass.

What animals are generally brought to a funeral?—Black kids.

What great transformation can the letter Y perform?—Changing a lad into a lady.

When is a house like a butterfly?—When it has wings.

If you multiply a vowel by a vowel, what implement will you make?—A x e.

Which sea would make a fairly comfortable bedroom?—Adriatic (a dry attic.)

Why shouldn't a boy throw dust in his teacher's eyes?—Because it may occasion harm to the pupil.

What are the most unsociable things in the world?—Milestones, for you never see two of them together.

A few deft manoeuvres with a handful of coins, a hat, and a tumbler will give a great deal of amusement at an evening party. Here is, for instance, a trick that can be done with the aid of the above-mentioned articles. The hat and tumbler are placed upon a table, the hat neatly poised upon the mouth of the tumbler, and the performer then announces, with the customary bravado, that he will throw the coppers into the hat in such a way that one, and only one, will pass into the glass beneath.

How is this managed? The contrivance is simple enough. An extra coin is concealed in one hand before the trick is begun by pressing it between the first joint of the third and fourth fingers and the hand. This done, the performer then puts the hat upon the glass with the hand in which the penny is concealed, and while engaged in this he takes the opportunity to slip the hidden coin down so that it is held firmly in position between the glass and the hat. The fall of the other coins in the hat unsettles the hidden one and the effect is produced. Great care must be taken in performing this trick to adjust the coin between the hat and the glass so that more than half of it is inside the glass; if this is not done the coin will fall outside instead of inside the glass. Another point to be observed is that one of the coppers must be somehow got rid of, so as to have the proper number in the glass and the hat at the end.

All Sorts

The latest quotation for radium is £160,000 an ounce.

The reindeer can endure more than any other draught animal except the camel. A reindeer has been known to pull 200 pounds at ten miles an hour for twelve hours.

'Gentlemen of the jury,' cried counsel for the prisoner who was charged with forgery, and who looked like being convicted, 'remember that my client is hard of hearing, and that, therefore, the voice of conscience appeals to him in vain!'

'When in doubt,' says the weather prophet, 'always predict something disagreeable.'

'What for?'

'If you're wrong, people are so pleased they don't criticise you.'

In the course of an address given in Glasgow by the secretary of the National Thrift Society, it was stated that the paupers of the United Kingdom at the present time numbered 800,000, or very nearly equal to the European population of this Colony. These, placed four abreast would form an army one hundred miles in length. The solution for gradually dissolving such an army was the exercise of thrift, temperance, and industry by the up-growing generation.

The legal profession in New Zealand was increased by 45 during the past year, there being over 800 at the present time who take out certificates. Nearly 500 of these practise in the North Island, and over 300 in the South. There is, therefore, one solicitor to every 1194 of population, or one to every 298 male adults. The practising solicitors of the Colony are distributed as follows:—Auckland, 167; Canterbury, 117; Gisborne, 20; Hawke's Bay, 38; Marlborough, 9; Nelson, 16; Otago, 114; Southland, 28; Taranaki, 50; Wellington, 220; Westland, 22.

There are sufficient people in England and Scotland paying the annual tax imposed by the Inland Revenue upon the use of armorial bearings to produce a sum of over £70,000 each year. The great bulk of this sum is paid by people who care not an atom either about their family or their arms, but pay the tax regularly simply because they have carriages or plate heralically decorated. The really old families of the realm, however, use armorial emblems for decorative purposes to an extent almost incredible in the eyes of those familiar with them only on notepaper, table silver, and carriage panels.

The chief industry of Bethlehem of Judea is that of mother-of-pearl work. The shells are brought from the Red Sea, and in the hands of native artisans are polished and carved, the larger into elaborate designs; the smaller are cut up for rosaries and crosses. The work is all done by hand, and the methods are amazingly primitive to a spectator from the home of steam and electric power. But the results are extraordinary. Under the magnifying-glasses every detail is seen to be perfect in outline and in finish. About a hundred and fifty people make a living by this industry, which is five hundred years old.

There are some curious facts about our calendar (says a writer in an English magazine). No century can begin on Wednesday, Friday, or Sunday. The same calendars can be used every twenty years. October always begins on the same day of the week as January, April as July, September as December. February, March, and November also begin on the same days. May, June and August always begin on different days from each other and from every other month in the year. The first and last days of the year are always the same. These rules do not apply to leap-year, when comparison is made between days before and after February 29th.

The financial strength necessary to obtain admission to the London Stock Exchange is ridiculously disproportionate to that required in the case of the New York Stock Exchange and the Paris Bourse. In Paris an Agent de Change has to be a capitalist with nearly £100,000 within his personal possession. The number of members is limited to seventy, and admission is only possible in the event of the death or resignation of a member. The vacancy is sold to a candidate at a price fixed by the committee—the latest price being about £60,000. In addition to this amount, the candidate must satisfy the committee that he is possessor of a working capital of at least £20,000, and he must also deposit £8000 with the committee and £4000 with the French Treasury.