

All Sorts

According to recently compiled figures, a locomotive engine earns annually on an average in England £4452, in Scotland £4654, and in Ireland £4448.

On the premises of a brick-making firm situated on the Surrey Canal, North Camberwell, the kiln fire has never been permitted to go out since it was first set alight, a hundred years ago.

Judge—Have you anything to offer the court before sentence is passed upon you?

Prisoner—No, sir. My lawyer has took everything I had.

Magistrate: 'Have I not seen you twice before under the influence of liquor?' Prisoner: 'If you were in that condition, your honor, you probably did see me twice.'

'Oh, my friends, there are some spectacles that one never forgets!' exclaimed the lecturer, after describing graphically a volcano in eruption. 'I'd like to know where they sell them,' said an old lady in the audience, who is constantly mislaying her glasses.

Mendelssohn began to compose in his twelfth year, and so methodical were his habits even then that the manuscript volumes containing his own scores of his works are in an unbroken series until his death. There are forty-four of these great volumes.

Little Harold's mother looked very severe as she said:

'I shall have to tell your father what a naughty boy you've been to-day.'

'Oh, mother,' said Harold, 'can't you keep a secret better than that?'

Carrier pigeons are put to novel use in a thinly settled district in the north of Scotland. On long rounds a doctor takes several pigeons with him, and when a prescription is to be filled at once he sends a message to his surgery, where an attendant prepares and forwards the medicine. If a patient is liable to need an extra call a pigeon is left to send for the doctor.

Experienced doctor to young medico—I'll give you a tip, my boy: always be careful to ask your patient what he has for dinner.

Young medico—I see, so that I may be able to tell him what to eat, and what to avoid, and so on.

Experienced doctor—Not at all; so that you may be able to know what to charge him when you send in your bill.

Details of the new railroad, which will cut through the Bernese Alps and form a connection with the Simplon at Brigue, show that the length of the line will be thirty-five miles, which will include a tunnel through Lotschberg nearly eight and a half miles long. The cost of the scheme is estimated at over £8,000,000. The line will take five and a half years to construct, and will make the journey from Calais to northern Italy fifty-two miles less than that through the Simplon.

A record time for converting grain into bread has been established by a Canadian farmer. Wheat, which was in the sheaf at three o'clock in the afternoon was made into scones before six. When operations began a wagon stood in the barn with about half a load of grain in the sheaf. Beside it was a thresher; connected with this was a gasoline engine. The engine was started, the sheaves were fed into the thresher, and the grain was deposited in a bin. The power was then transferred to the cleaner, and the work of changing the newly-threshed wheat into flour was quickly carried through. The rest of the task was easy.

Some interesting particulars on the routes taken by birds are supplied by a naturalist contributor to the 'Scotsman.' The routes by which birds pass to and from one country to another in spring and autumn are regularly followed. One great thoroughfare, of course, is in the spring from south to north, and conversely in the autumn from north to south; another is south-east to north-west; a third south-west to north-east, with the return to the same starting-points. The great southern wintering region is south of the north of Africa. All migratory birds have not the same range; some fly longer, some shorter, distances. The best known of all the birds of passage, the swallow, has one of the longest ranges—from 7000 to 10,000 miles. In this extended range are also included such birds as the grey plover, the knot, the pectoral, and curlew sand-pipers, and the Asiatic golden plover.

The day passed pleasantly. The dinner had been prepared with a view to Laura's favorite dishes; and when it was over her mother, her two brothers, and her older sister presented her with some beautiful souvenirs. Laura thought it a little odd that her father remained seated in his chair, quietly smiling, but with empty hands. When she had finished admiring her presents he rose, went into the hall, and returned, carrying in his hand a basket of strawberries. Laura's face flushed a vivid crimson—she recognised the basket.

'Here, my dear,' said her father, mischievously. 'I have some berries for you—the first of the season. As they are still quite expensive, I thought a taste for each one of us would be sufficient. Pass them around, Laura. I am sure they are very good. I got them from a dear little girl, whose kindness to another child of her own age I witnessed yesterday unperceived.'

Unable to speak, and very much embarrassed, Laura took the basket from her father's hand.

'Pass them around, my dear,' said her father. 'There will be a few left in the bottom of the basket for yourself.'

The basket was soon emptied. 'When it came to Laura's turn, there were only three left; but underneath them lay a box wrapped in white paper, addressed to her. When she opened it, a beautiful locket and chain lay within. Laura lifted it from its nest of pale blue cotton.

'O papa!' she exclaimed in delight. 'How lovely!'

'Open the locket, dear,' said her father.

She touched the spring, the lid flew back, and on the smooth, shining surface were traced these words: 'To a generous little girl.' And then the rest of the story was told.—'Ave Maria.'

LADYLIKE GEOMETRY

Figures of the same shape don't always have the same style.

Figures of the same size never consider themselves equivalent.

A straight line is the shortest distance between two millinery openings.

A plain figure is one all points of which have been neglected by the dressmaker.

A broken line is a series of successive straight lines described by a woman alighting from a tramcar.

A straight line determined by two bargain tables is considered as prolonged both ways until the shop closes.

Women equal to the same thing are not always equal to each other.

ODDS AND ENDS

'What,' asked the sweet girl, 'was the happiest moment of your life?' 'The happiest moment of my life,' answered the old bachelor, 'was when the jeweller took back an engagement ring and gave me sleeve links in exchange.'

'But you are not always bothered with poor light, are you?' inquired the clerk at the gas office. 'Oh, no, not always,' replied the householder who had complained. 'Ah, I thought so; it's only at certain times that you notice it, eh?' 'Yes; only after dark.'

FAMILY FUN

Place some fellow who is proud of his strength in the middle of the room and give him a chair to hold, so that his body is between the legs of the chair while the back stretches out horizontally in front of him. Tell him to hold the chair as tight as possible. In this position the back of the chair which is to be touched becomes a lever by means of which he can be turned around by one finger, no matter how heavy or how strong the subject may be.

Here is a little example in arithmetic that is not very difficult. See if you can work it out: A cabman was asked by a 'fare' to give him number. 'You want my number, do you? Well, work it out for yourself. If you divide my number by two, three, four, five, or six, you will find there is always one over, but if you divide it by eleven there ain't any remainder, and, what's more, there's no cabby with a lower number that can say the same.' What was the man's number?

Answer—121.