

with great interest a bas-relief of a young Greek shepherd, beneath which were inscribed the words, 'Executed in terra cotta.'

'I wonder where Terra Cotta is?' ventured the elder of the two, turning to her companion.

'Well, now, I ought to know,' hesitated the other, 'but I can't seem to place it just now.'

'Ah, well,' rejoined the first speaker, as they passed on, 'it must be a dreadful place if they execute harmless young boys like that there.'

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MARRIAGE

In an address to a women's club in Washington, wherein he touched upon the responsibilities assumed with marriage, Andrew Carnegie illustrated his point by the following story:

'A country laird in Scotland at his death left his property in equal shares to his two sons, who continued to live most contentedly together for some years. At last, however, one of them said to the other: "Tam, we're getting to be auld men; you take a wife, and when I die you'll get my share o' the land." "Na, na Jeems," said the other. "You're the youngest and the maist lively; you take a wife, and when I die you'll get my share, mon." "That's always the way wi' you, Tam," said the first brother, "when there's any difficulty or trouble, I must take it all; you'll do naething."'

ODDS AND ENDS

A pompous manufacturer of machinery was showing a stranger over his factory.

'Fine piece of work, isn't it?' he said, when they were looking at a very ingenious machine.

'Yes,' said the visitor, 'but you cannot hold a candle to the goods we are turning out.'

'Indeed!' said the chagrined manufacturer, 'and what is your line?'

'Gunpowder,' was the reply.

Agent—How are you getting on with your incubator?

Farmer—Why, the thing hain't laid an egg since I got it.

I hear that you called me a land-shark,' said the land agent hotly. 'Yes,' said the customer, 'and I desire to apologise for it. The lots you sold me are under water at high tide. You're really a marine shark.' However, even this concession did not seem to restore the entente cordiale.

'You get right out of here!' snapped the vinegary-faced female. 'I don't need no book!'

'Yes, you do, madam,' said the book agent, as he went out and closed the gate; 'you need two—a grammar and a book of etiquette. Good day,' and he got out of hearing distance long before she had said all she wanted to.

FAMILY FUN

To Explain the Transmission of Shock.—When a shunting engine charges a long line of goods-trucks, the shock of the impact passes on from truck to truck until the last one in its turn receives it, and jumps forward. It amuses children to illustrate this on a small scale by placing a number of coins on a table in a straight line touching each other, and striking the last coin by pushing another sharply against it, when the coin at the opposite extremity will slip out of its place, from the effect of the transmitted shock.

Clench Your Fists.—Clench your fists as though pug-naciously inclined. Then place one fist on the top of the other. Now we shall prove whether or no you are a strong man. With this object, we shall endeavor to knock your fists apart with two fingers only; and it is ten chances to one that we succeed by the simple process of giving a smart tap with the index finger of either hand in opposite directions against your knuckles.

Where is Your Nose?—It is surprising how few people seem to know where their nose is in relation to their ears when they attempt to carry out the following instructions: Hold your nose lightly with your right hand, and your right ear with your left. Reverse your hands, so that your left hand holds your nose, and your right hand your left ear. Repeat the action several times.

All Sorts

An average of 800 persons are killed in the United States each year by lightning. This means one in every 100,000.

No Arctic explorers have ever had colds until they returned to civilisation. Then, one and all, they are prostrated by severe influenza.

Statistics show that, though fair-haired people are, as a rule, less strong than those who have dark hair, yet the former live longer than the latter.

In the Baltic Sea more wrecks occur than in any other part of the world, the average being one wreck a day all the year round.

The Norwegian Government is considering the advisability of putting advertisements on the back of postage stamps, the proceeds to go to some national charity.

A bottle which was thrown into the sea from Roker Beach, Sunderland, on April 18, 1881, by a man named Palm, has just been picked up by an Englishman at Callao, Peru.

'Can I get off early this afternoon?' asked the clerk, 'as my wife wants me to help her with the spring cleaning.' 'You can't possibly go this afternoon,' said the employer; 'we're too busy.' 'Thank you, sir.'

From coal refuse are obtained 400 colors, many perfumes, several explosives, a great number of acids and medicines of incalculable value, saccharine, asphalt, numerous insecticides, salts, fruit flavors, lubricating oils, and varnish.

Contrary to general belief, the Sahara is not a barren and worthless waste. Some time ago there were nine million sheep in the Algerian Sahara alone, besides 2,000,000 goats and 260,000 camels. On the oases there are 1,500,000 date palms.

Next to New Zealand, which has one post-office for every 780 of its population, the country best supplied with post offices is Switzerland, with one for every 916 inhabitants. Sweden and Norway have one for every 1524; England, one for every 1858; France, one for every 3611; Holland, one for every 3976; and Italy, one for every 3889.

Saint-Saens, the French composer, during his visit to Chicago made a brief address on America at a dinner party. 'The American business spirit,' he said, in the course of this address, 'is an excellent thing. To it, undoubtedly, America's unexampled prosperity is due. But I think that this spirit is sometimes carried too far. For instance, in a hotel barber-shop yesterday I asked the barber if he had ever heard a certain celebrated pianist. "No, sir," he replied emphatically. "These pianists never patronise me, and so I never patronise them."'

Despite his rheumatism and lumbago, the old farmer was in hot pursuit of the lads who had been pilfering his cherry trees.

'Keep on running, Billy!' panted the boy with the hateful red cherries. 'He's coming, and coming fast. I can hear him puffing, and he sounds like a steam engine.'

'Whew!' gasped the lad who was stumbling through the long grass. 'An' that isn't the worst of it. When he gets us he is liable to turn from a steam engine to a thrashing machine.'

And soon the lusty yells that emanated from the old orchard told that the transformation had taken place.

Coins of most of the nations bear upon them the faces of their rulers. In the United States each coin has an emblem of Liberty. The first coins struck after the formation of the Federal Union bore the face of George Washington. General Washington disapproved of the custom, and it was dropped. It has never been revived. Portraits of prominent Americans appear upon postage stamps, internal revenue stamps, and paper money, but never on coins. And it has been the custom to use no portraits of living men even on the currency and the stamps. But there is an exception to the rule of no portraits on American coins. The emblem of Liberty on the one-cent coin is the goddess in an American Indian head-dress, but the face shows no characteristics of the North American aborigine. It is the face of a little girl, Sarah Longacre Keen, upon whose head was placed the feathered ornament of a Sioux Indian. Her father was an engraver and he placed his daughter's head on the coin. Sarah Longacre Keen died in Philadelphia not long ago.