

than the child began to scream. At the end of fifteen minutes, when the mother released her hold upon the child, she was deathly pale, while the dentist, wiped great beads of perspiration from his brow. Tom, however, fairly swaggered across the room.

'That didn't hurt,' he boasted, with a broad smile. 'Then why did you scream so?' cried the exasperated mother.

'Because I was afraid it was going to,' explained Tom.

POLITENESS IN JAPAN

Politeness in Japan is not at all confined to the upper circles, as you imagine. Servants are just as punctiliously polite to each other as their masters. When they meet in the street they will smile correctly at the proper distance from each other. On drawing nearer they smile again, according to the etiquette prescribed, and then after bows of the finest and most minute significance the gardener of one house will address the betto (horse-groom) of another with some such phrase as, 'It is long since I have hung upon your honorable eyelids.' And the other will answer, 'Please excuse my rudeness at the last time we met.' And if by any chance they have occasion to punch one another's heads they won't part until they have expressed, with many bows, their mutual regret that their meeting has not been under more pleasant conditions.

ODDS AND ENDS

'The longer I live,' sighed the sage, 'and the more I learn, the more firmly I am convinced that I know absolutely nothing!' 'I could have told you that twenty-five years ago,' said the wife, 'but I knew it would be of no use.'

'I say, old man,' whispered a young fellow who found that the conversation of his new acquaintance was highly agreeable, 'let's come and smoke a cigar in the garden. That woman's squalling gets on my nerves.' 'Thanks,' was the quiet reply, 'but as it is my wife who is singing, perhaps it would hardly do!'

A glorious thing contentment is,
And yet, 'tis man's sad lot
To allus want what isn't his
Instead o' what he's got.

A teacher in a public school asked the children to define the word 'advice.' 'Advice,' said a little girl, 'is when other people want you to do the way they do.'

FAMILY FUN

What lock requires the attention of a physician?
Lock-jaw.

What have you to expect at a hotel? Inn-attention.

What is the worst seat a man can sit on? Self-conceit.

Who always sits with his hat on before the queen?
Her coachman.

Why is a hive like a spectator at a show? Because it is a bee-holder.

Why are ships called she? Because they always keep a man on the lookout.

What is the finest ship in the world? Friendship.

Why is a proud woman like a music book? Because she is full of airs.

Why cannot a deaf man be legally convicted? Because it is unlawful to convict a man without a hearing.

Why is a clock the most modest piece of furniture? Because it covers its face with its hands and runs down its own works.

What is the sun's trade? A tanner.

What is the difference between a farmer and a dress-maker? One sews what she gathers and the other gathers what he sows.

If a man bumped his head against the top of a room, what article of stationery would he be supplied with? Ceiling whacks (sealing wax).

Why are stout gentlemen prone to melancholy? Because they are men of size (sighs).

Why is a melancholy young lady the pleasantest of all companions? Because she is always a-musing.

Why are parliamentary reports called 'Blue Books'? Because they are never (re)ad.

All Sorts

They say a woman can't keep a secret. Ask one her age.

People always remember where they got a favor—when they want another.

'Laugh, and the world laughs with you,' isn't true, when you're laughing at your own jokes.

'I tell you, sir, there is danger in the higher education of women.' 'Yes—for the uneducated man.'

If a man finds fault with his dinner, and his wife doesn't get angry, it's a sign they're dining away from home.

Wheat seed will germinate in one day, but barley takes seven days, and peach kernels require twelve months.

The successful man not only takes advantage of the opportunities that come his way, but he manufactures a few for himself.

It was stated recently in the House of Commons that the annual cost of a first-class British battleship in full commission was £231,500. A torpedo-boat destroyer cost £17,500, and a first-class torpedo-boat £6000.

'Say!' asked the lad of ten who had

A most inquiring mind,

'Who is it loses all the fault

That other people find?'

'Yes,' said the tramp, who was explaining his method, 'I always tell the lady of the house that I was injured on the field.' 'What field?' asked the inexperienced beginner. 'Well, if a young lady, I say football field, an' if it's an old lady I say battlefield.'

'Your Honor,' said the lawyer, 'I ask the dismissal of my client on the ground that the warrant fails to state that he hit Bill Jones with malicious intent.' 'This court,' replied the country justice, 'ain't a graduate of none of your technical schools. I don't care what he hit him with. The p'int is, did he hit him? Perceed.'

The oldest house in America is in St. Augustine, Fla. In 1564 it was built by the monks of the Order of St. Francis, and the whole of the solid structure is composed of coquina, a combination of sea shells and mortar, which is almost totally indestructible. When Francis Drake sacked and burned the town this was the only house that escaped destruction.

The vulture is a most useful bird to man; feeding on carcasses of dead animals and thereby removing a danger to the health of the people living in tropical countries, remarks the 'Weekly Telegraph.' When an animal falls dead or dying these birds are in attendance in remarkably short time, though none were perceptible on the whole horizon previous to the animal dropping. They possess, however, wonderful powers of vision in soaring to a tremendous height, and have therefore a large field of view. They can also tell by the movements of other vultures in the air. So by such means these birds are attracted to the same spot from an area of many miles.

The natives of India before the advent of the rifle had many ingenious methods of fighting their animal enemies, remarks the 'Weekly Telegraph.' Luckily, most wild beasts are very greedy and obstinate, and taking advantage of these facts the natives were able sometimes successfully to cope with the tigers, bears, and snakes which annoyed them. According to A. S. Ghosh, who writes in the 'Strand,' one of the methods used against the bears was as follows: A tree was selected with a strong horizontal bough some 12 or 15 feet from the ground, and on this was placed some goat flesh or honey. Just above the bait, and about a foot nearer the trunk of the tree, they suspended a heavy stone by means of a stout rope, thus forming a pendulum. The bear, allured by the bait, climbs the tree, and walks along the bough. Noticing the obstacle, however, he pushes it aside with his paw. The weight of course swings back and strikes him heavily. With a growl at this unlooked-for assault, he pushes it away with greater force than before, only to receive a severer blow. And so the contest goes on, till the obstinate bear is knocked off the tree, and is probably so stunned that the natives can finish him off at their ease.

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