

liance does not preclude doubt of one's infallibility, but it does mean faith to do whatever has been undertaken. A self-reliant woman does not say 'I cannot,' but 'I will,' even at the time she does not know how she will accomplish the task. But her very faith in herself is a help; she trains herself to be alert for anything that may further the end, and her self-reliance begets the confidence of others.

### ON WORDS

'Bob,' said Tom, 'which is the most dangerous word to pronounce in the English language?'

'Well, I don't know; what is it?' said Bob.

'It's stumbled,' said Tom, 'because you are sure to get a tumble between the first and last letters.'

'Good!' said Bob. 'Which is the longest English word?'

'Valetudinarianism,' said Tom promptly.

'No; it's smiles, because there's a whole mile between the first and last letters.'

'Oh, that's nothing,' said Tom, 'I know a word that has over three miles between its beginning and ending.'

'What's that?' asked Bob faintly.

'Beleaguered,' said Tom.

### ODDS AND ENDS

About 750,000 barrels of American apples are exported annually to England.

'You ought to rise with the lark.' 'Well, if I had to perch all night on a cold twig I suppose I'd be glad to.'

Lady—'But, really, as you've only been in service ten months, I don't think you have had sufficient experience.' Applicant—'But I've been in ten situations.'

Charlie: 'There was a splendid trick done last evening. I saw a man actually turn a handkerchief into an egg.' Billy: 'That's nothing. I saw a man only about a week or two ago turn a cow into a field.'

Mrs. Smith, suddenly imbued with a spirit of neighborly interest in a lady who was just recovering from influenza, said to her little son: 'Willie, dear, just run across the street and ask how old Mrs. Brown is this morning.' Willie returned within five minutes looking crestfallen. 'Well, have you seen Mrs. Brown?' the mother asked. 'Yes; and she said I was to tell you that it's none of your business how old she is.'

### FAMILY FUN

The Bean Bag Contest.—Into a bag that will hold four or five quarts pour three quarts of dried beans or peas, and in their midst hide a ring, a thimble, and a brass button. Have ready a new tin cup, and let each player in turn dip into the bag and take out a cupful of beans, which must be emptied into a plate. If either girl or boy finds the ring in her or his beans it is a sign of an early marriage. If a girl gets the thimble she will be an old maid, and when the thimble falls to the lot of a boy he will marry an old maid. The brass button in a girl's cup of beans denotes that she will marry a widower, but in a boy's cup it is a bachelor's button and shows that he will be a bachelor all his life and sew his buttons on himself. Each player can have only one trial, and if only beans falls to her share it signifies that her fate is still undecided.

A Rainy Day Game.—The following game is very popular with little French children, and may help you to pass some pleasant moments. Choose a letter of the alphabet, say 'D,' for instance. Each player, with pencil and paper, is told to write the name of a country, river, mountain, city, soldier, artist, writer, musician, and statesman, all beginning with the letter 'D.' At the end of five minutes the lists are closed. One reads the names from his list, and those having the same names in their lists scratch them off. The winner of the contest is the one having the most names not on the lists of the others. The fact of his names being more uncommon shows him to have enjoyed the greater knowledge and memory. This game is well worth trying, and will be enjoyed by every member of the family.

## All Sorts

It's a poor fisherman that spends all his time digging for bait.

An elephant works from the age of twelve to the age of eighty. He can haul fifteen tons, lift a ton, and carry three tons on his back.

According to this year's English 'Law List,' there are over 10,000 barristers, including 260 K.C.'s, whilst in 1817 the total number was only 883.

A process for making artificial honey, whose flavor is stated to be indistinguishable from the genuine article, has been discovered by an Italian scientist.

The linen industry is the greatest manufacturing industry Ireland possesses. There is invested in it something like £15,000,000, and it gives employment to 70,000 people.

'What,' queried the young man, 'is the difference between white lies and black lies?' 'White lies,' answered the home-grown philosopher, 'are the kind we tell; black are the kind we hear.'

A purchaser of a riverside property asked the estate agent if the river didn't sometimes overflow its banks. 'Well,' replied he, 'it isn't one of those sickly streams that are always confined to their beds.'

Country Cousin—'Are you sure I am in the right train?' Town Relative (who has had about enough of it)—'Well, I have asked seventeen porters and thirty-two passengers, and they all say, "Yes," so I think you'd better risk it.'

'Dad, I'm going in for surgery! All the girls are taking up a fad.'

'Good enough, daughter. Could you amputate a button from the back of my coat and graft it on to this vest?'

A young lady went into a well-known establishment a few days ago and said to the shopwalker:

'Do you keep stationery?'

'No, miss,' replied the shopwalker; 'if I did I should lose my job.'

A proposal is on foot in Sydney to organise a mid-summer pleasure expedition to the Antarctic circle at the end of December next. It is the intention to leave Sydney about Christmas for Hobart, and then steer a direct course for the ice pack, covering a route which has not been traversed by any vessel for seventy years. The excursion would occupy about a month, and would allow five or six days within the Antarctic circle. A guarantee has been given for forty passengers at £25 a head, but eighty to one hundred would be necessary to make the trip remunerative.

The contraction 'viz.' is a curious instance of the universality of arbitrary signs. There are few writers who do not appreciate the fact that the little contraction may be used in 'good form' writing of all kinds, but there are probably even fewer persons who have any idea of its origin. It is a corruption of the word videlicet, the terminal letter of which was formerly made in the shape of a 'z,' but was never intended to represent that letter, being simply used as a mark or sign of abbreviation. It is now always written and expressed as 'z' and will doubtless continue to be so used as long as written language exists. It is, however, as we have said, one of the many arbitrary modes of expression used by the masses, who never give a thought as to their origin.

Elephants live 100 years and upwards; rhinoceros, 20; camel, 100; lion, 25 to 70; tigers, leopards, jaguars, and hyenas (in confinement), about 25; beaver, 50; deer, 20; wolf, 20; fox, four to 16; llamas, 15; chamois, 25; monkeys and baboons, 16 to 18; hare, 8; squirrel, 7; rabbit, 7; swine, 25; stag, under 50; cow, 20; swans, parrots, and ravens, 200; eagle, 100; geese, 20; hens and pigeons, 10 to 16; hawks, 30 to 40; crane, 24; blackbird, 10 to 12; peacock, 20; pelican, 40 to 50; thrush, 8 to 10; wren, 2 to 3; nightingale, 15; blackcap, 15; linnet, 14 to 23; goldfinch, 20 to 24; redbreast, 10 to 12; skylark, 10 to 30; titlark, 5 to 6; chaffinch, 20 to 24; starling, 10 to 12; carp, 70 to 150; pike, 30 to 40; salmon, 17; codfish, 14 to 17; eel, 20; crocodile, 100; tortoise, 100 to 200; whale, estimated 1000; queen bees live 4 years; drones, 4 months; worker bees, 6 months.

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