

'My mother didn't send me at all,' said the boy, seizing hold of the bill. 'It's my arithmetic lesson, and I had to get it done somehow.'

### HE DESIRED INFORMATION

'Now, children,' said the history teacher in her most impressive manner, 'I wish you to remember that the time to ask questions in my class is whenever anything is said which you wish explained. Do not wait until the time comes for recitation, and then complain that you "did not hear" or "did not understand" when I talked.'

'Yes'm,' chorused the scholars cheerfully.

'Very well,' said the teacher, 'we will begin to-day with James I., who came after Elizabeth.'

The new scholar raised his hand.

'What is it?' asked the teacher graciously.

'What made him come after her?' asked the new scholar, eagerly.

### COULD NOT RISK IT

A land and estate agent tells this story: A middle-aged widow came to his office to try to make arrangements for the purchase of a house and section.

'We can make a small payment down,' she said, 'and would sign a mortgage running for a period of five years to secure the payment of the rest of the money. My daughters have good positions in a large establishment, and can save enough out of their salaries to meet the payments as they become due.'

The land agent man hesitated.

'I should want to be sure of your paying for the property in the stipulated time,' he said. 'I should feel like a criminal if I had to foreclose the mortgage at any time—and yet business is business. I shall have to see your daughters.'

She brought them to his office the next day.

'Madam,' he said, shaking his head, 'you will have to give me some additional security. Your daughters are too handsome. They will marry and lose their positions long before the five years are up.'

### MUSIC AS ADVERTISED

'Trust her not,' for 50 cents.

'I would not live always,' without accompaniment.

'See the conquering hero comes,' with full orchestra.

'The tale of a swordfish,' with many scales.

'Home, sweet home,' in A flat.

### ODDS AND ENDS

Soprano (having finished her trial): 'Do you think my voice will fill the hall?'

Manager: 'I fear it would have just the opposite effect.'

'I diagnose all my cases from the patient's eyes,' said a doctor, emphatically. 'Now, your right eye tells me that your liver is affected.'

'Excuse me, doctor,' the patient remarked, 'but my right eye is a glass one!'

'Do you think the doctor is going to help you, Mr. Jones?'

'He may, if I can only follow his orders. He told me to drink hot water thirty minutes before every meal, but it is hard work to drink hot water for thirty minutes.'

### 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 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.

What is the sun's trade?—A tanner.

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.

## All Sorts

More than 60,000 stamps are found every year loose in the letter boxes of the United Kingdom.

Teacher: 'Johnnie, this is the worst composition in the class, and I'm going to write to your father and tell him.'

Johnnie: 'Don't keer if ye do; he wrote it fer me.'

'Say, pa, does philosophy help us to endure trials?'

'It helps us to endure the trials of other people, my son, but it usually fails when applied to our own.'

The oldest newspaper in the world, the 'King Pao,' or 'News of the Capital,' of Peking, celebrated its 500th anniversary last year.

A pigeon, it is said, can, upon occasion, outstrip the fastest express train, but its average flight is only at the rate of about thirty-four miles an hour.

A gate porter at St. George's Workhouse said at an inquest at Southwark, London, that he had never seen a Jew or a Jewess admitted to the workhouse.

Hindoo children are remarkable for their precocity. Many of them are skilful workmen at an age when European children are learning the alphabet. A boy of seven may be a skilful woodcarver, while some of the handsomest rugs are woven by children not yet in their teens.

'Doesn't your brother Tommy ever give you anything, Johnny?'

'I should say he did. He's the one what gave me the mumps and the measles.'

The Angora cat is peculiar. When its fur is entirely white the animal is invariably blind, but when there is even the slightest tinge of color the vision is as perfect as in any other normal cat. This phenomenon is not accounted for. The only case of a similar kind known is that of the fishes in Mammoth Cave, which have no eyes.

'Did you ever take the wishbone of a chicken and make a wish?'

'Yes.'

'And what did you wish?'

'That the meat on it was more tender.'

Little four-year-old Harry was not feeling well, and his father suggested that he might be taking the chicken-pox, then prevalent. Harry went to bed laughing at the idea, but early next morning he came downstairs, looking very serious, and said, 'You're right, papa, it is the chicken-pox; I found a feather in the bed.'

Irish Viceroy's are stripped of their sovereign attributes as soon as they reach English waters, which gives point to the following story told of Lord Houghton and a lady with whom he was acquainted. They both found themselves on board the Holyhead packet. During the voyage from Ireland the lady treated the Viceroy with ceremonious respect. So soon, however, as the packet entered Holyhead harbor she said to him: 'Now, Bobby, you're no longer a Viceroy, so take my bag and make yourself useful.'

In present usage, the word *alumnus* is specifically used to denote the graduate of a college or university (says an exchange). More commonly its plural form, *alumni*, is employed to designate the collective body of such an institution's graduates. Formerly, however, the term was used of a pupil, still an undergraduate. In ecclesiastical usage, the word meant, and means, a student preparing for the sacred ministry in a seminary. The original meaning of the word was a nursling, or foster-child. This is clear from the Latin *alere*, to nurse or feed. The feminine form of the term, *alumna*, plural *alumnae*, is used to characterise a graduate of academy, ladies' college, or university. A point worth noting about the plural forms is that *alumni* is pronounced with the accent on the second syllable, and with the long sound of the *i*; while *alumnae* has the same syllable accented, with the *æ* sounded like a long *e*.

Citizens of the old Devonshire town of Honiton are immune from arrest until sunset one evening. While the horse fair is in progress the arm of the law is powerless. This is in continuation of a quaint and picturesque ceremonial which has been handed down from the time of Henry III. When the horse fair begins, the town crier, in the gorgeous dress of a beadle of the eighteenth century, appears, carrying a pole, at the end of which is a large gilt glove, decked with flowers. Having rung his hand-bell three times, the crier, in his three-cornered hat, announces, 'Oyez, oyez, oyez! The fair is begun; the glove is up; no man can be arrested till the glove is down. God save the King.' Each sentence is chorused by the children standing round, and at the conclusion they scramble for nuts. The glove is taken down at sunset.