

her on one point that she had never been able to understand before. "I've always wondered," she said to me, "where the colonial style of architecture came from. Now, of course, I see that it comes from Cologne."

"What did you tell her?" asked some one in the audience.

"I told her," replied the speaker, "that if my lecture had made that clear to her I felt very much gratified."

HER GOOD QUALITIES

Some years ago, in a rural district in England, a farmer had a cow for sale. Now, as there was no weekly paper to advertise in, it was the custom of the vicar to give such notices out on Sundays to his congregation. So the farmer thought he would go to the vicar and get him to advertise the cow in church. "Yes," said the vicar, "but you do not come to my church." And they struck the bargain that the vicar should advertise the cow, and the farmer, in return, should go to church. Unfortunately, the farmer was very deaf, and on the Sunday following, when the vicar gave out the banns of marriage between Joseph So-and-So and Sarah So-and-So—a rather unusual incident, for they seldom had a wedding—the farmer took it for granted that the vicar was giving out particulars of his cow, and shouted out: "You may as well say, as you are about it, that she is a most gentle creature, entirely free from vice, and a great eater."

THE BORN MERCHANT

Among the characteristics which made for the success of Mr. A. T. Stewart, the great New York merchant, says Richard Lathers in his *Reminiscences*, was an extraordinary memory for the details of his vast business.

One day, as Mr. and Mrs. Lathers were leaving the store, Mr. Stewart accosted them at the door.

"I hope, Mrs. Lathers, you have found what you want," he said.

"No, Mr. Stewart," she replied. "I want a very plain Brussels carpet for a small library, a light color with a small blue figure. You have a great variety, but nothing just like that."

"I am quite sure we have that exact description," he said, and turning to a clerk, added, "Go to the third floor and get out from the last invoice of carpets No. 2206. I think the style and pattern will just suit Mrs. Lathers."

To the amazement of the shopper, it proved to be the very thing she was looking for.

ODDS AND ENDS

Mr. Smith—"You should never judge a man by his clothes, my dear."

Mrs. Smith—"I never do. I always judge him by his wife's clothes."

Excited Traveller—"Porter, porter, can I catch the 3.30 for Kaiapoi?"

Porter—"Well, look 'ere, sir. Can ye run? It's only been gone out o' the station about three minutes."

FAMILY FUN

I have a head, a little head,
That you could scarcely see;
But I have a mouth much bigger
Than my head could ever be.

That seems impossible, you say;
You think 'twould be a bother?
Why, no, my head is at the end,
My mouth's way at the other.

I have no feet, yet I can run,
And pretty fast, 'tis said;
The funny thing about me is,
I run when in my bed.

I've not a cent in all the world,
—I seek not Fortune's ranks;
And yet it's true that, though so poor,
I own two splendid banks.

I've lots of 'sand,' yet run away;
I'm weak, yet 'furnish power';
No hands or arms, yet my embrace
Would kill in half an hour.

You think I am some fearful thing;
Ah, you begin to shiver!
Pray don't; for after-all, you know,
I'm only just a river.

All Sorts

On a clear day any moving object can be discerned across the South African veldt at a distance of 25 miles with the naked eye.

"What do you call the man who drives an automobile?"
"Well, judging by the way in which he takes possession of the road, I should say an autocrat."

Thousands of dog and goat farms are scattered over the northern districts of Mongolia and Manchuria. On each farm from ten to several hundred animals are reared annually, all of which are ultimately killed for the sake of their skins.

During an argument, one of the speakers, losing control of himself, bawled out at his rival, "Sir, you are, I think, the biggest ass I have ever had the misfortune to set eyes upon!" "Order, order!" said the gentleman in the chair gravely; "you seem to forget that I am in the room."

A young man went on one occasion to call at a country farmhouse to make inquiries after his sweetheart, who had charge of the dairy. Her master opened the door, and her lover asked him timidly: "How is the milkmaid?"

"How is the milk made?" the farmer angrily asked, as he slammed the door in the stranger's face. "Our milk isn't made, it's got from the cow."

The solemnity of the meeting was somewhat disturbed when the eloquent young lecturer pictured in glowing words the selfishness of men who spent their evenings at the public house, leaving their wives in loneliness at home. "Think, my hearers," said he, "of a poor, neglected wife, all alone in the great dreary house, rocking the cradle of her sleeping babe with one foot and wiping away her tears with the other!"

The Washington correspondent of the *London Daily Express* says: When the fleet of sixteen American battle-ships returns from its round-the-world cruise next spring it will have cost the Government £10,000,000 for its sixteen months' voyage. The coal bill alone will total £5,550,000; maintenance charges of the battleships will aggregate £3,500,000; and it will cost another £1,000,000 for the maintenance of the auxiliary vessels in the fleet.

The *Daily Mail's* Genoa correspondent wires: In aid of the victims of the earthquake a remarkable concert took place in Genoa on January 1. For the first time for fifty years Paganini's favorite violin, which he left to the town, was allowed to be taken from the Municipal Museum. The honor of performing on the famous instrument fell to the Polish violinist, M. Bronislav Hubermann, who was presented by the Town Council with a gold medal struck for the occasion.

"Now, Jamie," said a school teacher, "if there were only one pie for dessert, and there were five of you children and papa and mamma to divide it among, how large a piece would you get?"

"One-sixth," replied Jamie promptly.
"But there would be seven people there, Jamie. Don't you know how many times seven goes into one?"

"Yes'm. And I know my mother. She'd say she wasn't hungry for pie that day. I'd get one-sixth."

Several London industries have been seriously affected by the destructive earthquake. Consumers have been mainly dependent on Messina for the supply of essence of lemon and the raw material from which citric acid is made. The trade in these products, as well as in the other industries of the district, such as sulphur, olives, and sumach (which is largely used for dyeing purposes), has of late been in a very depressed condition. During 1907 Messina exported 984 tons of concentrated lemon juice, 4737 tons of citrate of lime, and 702 tons of essence of lemon and orange. Further, the export of olive oil amounted to over 1000 tons, but of late the citrus industry has been passing through such a period of slackness that the Government has been obliged to intervene in order to allay the distress.

The Singer building, now in course of construction in Broadway, New York, has already exceeded the height of the Washington Monument, which rises 555 feet above the ground. When complete, this building will consist of forty-seven storeys, and will reach a height of 612 feet, thus overtopping every other occupied structure in the world. The foundation is in solid rock, 90 feet below the level of the street. There will be eighteen lifts, which will run from the floor to the highest storey in one minute. The rooms and corridors will be illuminated at night by 15,000 incandescent lights, and fifteen miles of pipe will be laid down for the supply of steam and water. On the pinnacle will be an immense copper lantern with a powerful searchlight, visible sixty miles out to sea.