

door, on which was written 'P' and 'Q' (pints or quarts) against the name of each customer according to the quantity which he drank, and which was not expected to be paid for till Saturday evening, when he received his wages.

While in the opinion of one authority the phrase 'Before I could say Jack Robinson' originated from a very volatile gentleman of that appellation, who would call on his neighbors and be gone before his name could be announced, it is generally considered that Brinsley Sheridan, the famous dramatist and orator, gave rise to the saying. On one occasion Sheridan was attacking a politician named Jack Robinson, who was a great favorite of George III. When denouncing bribery and its instigators, Sheridan, in reply to the cries of 'Name!' pointed to Robinson on the Treasury Bench, exclaiming at the same time, 'Yes, I could name him as soon as I could say "Jack Robinson."' "

WHY THEY WENT TO WAR

A certain king sent to another king, saying: 'Send me a white pig with a blue tail, or else—'

The other, in great rage, replied: 'I have not got one; and if I had—'

On this weighty cause they went to war. After they had exhausted their armies and resources and laid waste their kingdoms, they began to desire peace; but, before this could be secured, it was necessary that the insulting language that led to the trouble should be explained.

'What could you mean,' asked the second king of the first, 'by saying, "Send me a white pig with a blue tail, or else—"?' "

'Why,' said the other, 'I meant a white pig with a blue tail, or else some other color. But what could you mean by saying, "I have not got one, and if I had—"?' "

'Why, of course, if I had it I should have sent it to you.'

The explanation was satisfactory, and peace was accordingly concluded.

Most quarrels (remarks the *Ave Maria*) are quite as foolish and needless as the war about the white pig with the blue tail.

GLAD HE HAD THE DOG

'I was standing in front one night,' said a theatrical manager, 'when a ragged little urchin came along with a dog under his arm. The dog was a yellow cur of the mangiest variety I had ever seen.'

'Are you the manager of the show?' asked the boy.

'I told him I was.'

'Well,' remarked the lad, 'I want to see the show, but I hain't got no money. I'll tell you what I'll do; I'll give you this dog if you'll let me in.'

'I looked at the boy, and then at the dog, and my heart melted. "You can go in," I said, "but never mind giving me the dog. Take the dog along with you."

'The lad went in with the yellow cur under his arm. After the performance I was standing out in front, and happened to see the urchin come out.'

'Well, sonny,' I remarked, 'how did you like the show?'

'Oh, pretty well,' he said, 'but I'm awful glad I didn't give you the dog.'

ODDS AND ENDS

'Hurry up, Tommy' called mother from downstairs. 'We're late now. Have you got your shoes on?'

'Yes, mamma—all but one.'

Boy: 'Pa, what is a hero?'

Father: 'A hero is a man who tries to read a newspaper in the same room with a boy about your size.'

Mistress: 'Have you made the chicken broth, Jane?'

Jane: 'Yes, mum; and fed the chickens with it, ages ago!'

FAMILY FUN

Harder Than it Looks.—Ask some one to catch hold of his nose with his right hand and of his right ear with his left hand. After he has done this tell him to place each hand as quickly as possible in a reverse position—that is, he must catch hold of his nose with his left hand and at the same time grasp his left ear with his right hand. Tell him to repeat this operation several times as quickly as possible, and the more often he does it the more amusement he will furnish for the company, since he will find it more and more difficult to grasp his nose and ear, and will spend considerable time searching for them.

All Sorts

The cost of becoming a naturalised Englishman is about £6.

The British Post Office Savings Bank has over 10,000,000 depositors.

Coal for fuel was sold for the first time in the United States about 1830.

One must walk up every stair ere one can slide down the balustrade.

It is estimated that there are about 865 tons of gold in circulation in England.

Two million pounds' worth of German toys are said to be sold in London annually.

You have learnt something. That always feels at first as if you had lost something.

About 500,000 tons of silver is produced annually by Mexico, Peru, Chili, and British colonies.

German engine-drivers receive a gold medal and £100 for every ten years of service without accident.

According to population, nearly twice as much coal is used in Great Britain as in any other country.

If a bear were to visit a linen draper's shop, what would he want?—Muzzlin'.

When a small boy refuses a second piece of pie, it's a sign there is something wrong with him—or the pie.

Patient—'Doctor, I can't sleep at night. What shall I do for it?' Doctor—'Get a job as night watchman.'

There are in Great Britain 1,440,481 private dwelling-houses over £20 in value, with a total value of £65,681,722.

At birth, a male baby is about one-fifteenth heavier than a female, while the former's brain weighs one-sixth more.

Without the express consent of his wife, no married Austrian subject can procure a passport for journeying beyond the frontier.

The number of sovereigns issued from the London Mint last year was 6,254,000 fewer than in 1907, and the number of half-sovereigns issued 174,000 fewer.

'Sir Henry Irving served his time as a publisher's clerk on these premises, leaving in 1856,' runs the inscription on a tablet which has been placed outside a restaurant at 87, Newgate street, Dublin.

It is stated authoritatively that railway extension in Canada during 1909 will involve the creation of 150 new towns along the lines built west of the Great Lakes during the year.

A bright little boy who had been engaged in combat with another boy was reproved by his aunt, who told him he ought always to wait until the other boy 'pitched into him.'

'Well,' exclaimed the little hero, 'but if I wait for the other boy to begin I'm afraid there won't be any fight.'

'I'm sorry we haven't much of a dinner,' said Smith to Brown, whom he had urged to stay for that meal. 'You ought to have dropped in last evening. We had a fine dinner then.'

'Why, papa,' chirped Smith's young hopeful, 'that's just what you told Mr. Jones at dinner yesterday.'

To the moisture of the air we are indebted for the maintenance of an even degree of temperature. But for it night would be colder than Greenland, even at the Tropics. It is the water in the air that holds the sun's heat, and keeps the earth warm where direct sunlight fails to fall upon bodies.

An Irishman, having enlisted in a cavalry regiment, was undergoing all the horrors of learning to ride, when his horse threw him over its head. According to custom, the sergeant who was superintending the riding lesson called out, 'Pat Murphy, did you receive orders to dismount?' 'I did, sir,' said Pat. 'Where from?' bawled the sergeant. 'From hind-quarters, sir!' was Pat's grinning reply.

The dull-looking and lumbering old grizzly bear appears awkward and slow of pace, but look out for them when they get to running. At that time Mr. Grizzly seems to be about three-fourths hind legs and one-fourth head. And how he does run along! He seems to simply roll over the ground like a giant snowball bounding down a steep hill. Bruin can outrun the fastest horse over a good course, and when hard pressed he will bounce from fifteen to twenty feet at a jump, and his tracks will be marked by claw holes that resemble the work of a big farm harrow.