

'Did you tell him I'd gone to Europe, as I told you to, Edward?' asked Mr. Stuart.

'Yes, sir,' answered the boy. 'I told him you started this morning.'

'That's a good boy,' said Stuart. 'And what did he say?'

'He wanted to know when you'd be back,' replied Edward, 'and I told him "After lunch," sir.'

THE TIPPING EVIL.

Indeed, the tipping now common in the United States is exasperating. It makes one think of the American from the West who was taking his first trip to Europe. He had had to pay tips everywhere, and had seen hungry eyes and greedy hands on every side. At last, one day, he entered a washroom where the bowl was hung on a pivot. Above the water was the sign, 'Please tip the basin.' As he looked he flushed and then turned and went out saying:

'I'll be hanged if I will. I'll go dirty first.'

FONDNESS FOR TITLES.

William Jennings Bryan once joked about the American fondness for titles.

'You all know of the colonel,' he said, 'who got his title by inheritance, having married Colonel Brown's widow. But I once met a general who got his title neither by inheritance, nor by service, nor by anything you could mention.'

'General,' I said to him, 'how do you come by this title of yours, anyway?'

'Why, sir,' he said, 'I passed my youth in the flour trade, and for twenty-seven years was a general miller.'

'I know another titled man—Judge Green.'

'Are you, sir,' I once asked him, 'a United States judge or a circuit court judge?'

'I ain't neither,' he replied; 'I'm a judge of hoss racin'.'

LORD ERSKINE AS A WIT.

Lord Erskine is a judge about whom many stories abound. He could be contemptuous as well as witty.

A poor old barrister named Lamb, who always began his pleadings with an apology, one day confided to him that he grew more timid as he grew older.

'No wonder,' was Erskine's brusque retort, 'the older the lamb the more sheepish he grows.'

Erskine, as Lord Chancellor, was invited to attend a Ministerial fish dinner at Greenwich. He wrote in reply:

'To be sure I will attend. What would your fish dinner be without the Great Seal?'

IN A NEWSPAPER OFFICE.

There must be some amusing conversations in a newspaper composing-room, according to a young man who works in a printing office, and who declares that dialogues, like the following are of frequent occurrence:

Foreman of the office: 'Brown, what are you doing now?'

Compositor: 'I'm finishing "Setting a House on Fire"; most done.'

Foreman: 'What's Jones about?'

Compositor: 'He's finishing that "Horrid Murder."'

Foreman: 'Tell him to hurry it up, and take hold of this "Runaway Horse." Morse, what have you on hand?'

Morse: 'Solid Men of Boston.'

Foreman: 'Well, be sure and put them in small caps, and then get busy with "A Warm Winter."'

FAMILY FUN

TRICKS, ILLUSIONS, AND INDOOR AMUSEMENTS.

(Special to the N.Z. TABLET by MAHATMA.)

Miraculous Cotton.—This is a very good trick, but it requires great care on the part of the performer. Get two pieces of cotton of equal length. Roll one up, unobserved by the company, in a little ball, and place it between your finger and thumb. It may be easily kept in this position. Next exhibit the duplicate piece of thread, and ask someone to cut it into small pieces. Then roll it up with the disengaged hand, and then with both hands, so that you may have both balls together. Breathe upon them, and while so doing contrive to get hold of one end of the entire piece of thread, which you now draw gradually out, to the astonishment of the company.

An Interesting Feat.—The possibility of putting so large a bulk as twenty shillings, weighing four ounces, into a wine glass already full of water may be doubted. Yet, with a steady hand it may thus be accomplished. Wipe a wine-glass quite dry inside and out, especially near the rim. Pour water into it gently from a spouted jug until the glass is full to the brim. Do not wet the edge of the glass. Having done this take the shillings and drop them edgewise in. As soon as the coins touch the water let them drop. They must be put in singly. Having done this you will observe how far above the rim the water now stands without flowing over. The explanation of this is that the 'cohesive attraction' of the water is greater than the 'attraction of gravity.'

A Tumbler Trick.—Introduce this feat by recounting the story of the military officer, who, at the regimental mess, on the eve of battle, dashed a tumbler to the floor, exclaiming, 'Thus will we shatter the armies of the enemy.' Strange to say, however, the glass was not only not broken, but was not even cracked. This seems an impossible feat, but if you carry out the following instructions you will see that it may be easily accomplished. Place a tumbler, which has a heavy base, near the edge of the table. Move it gradually until the merest touch will cause it to fall to the ground. When you have told the story apply this touch, and the tumbler will land mouth upwards, or will fall gently on its side, but will be quite undamaged.

The Magic Twelve.—Let any one take a pack of cards, and having shuffled it take off the top one. Let him notice this, and lay it face downwards on the table. Now he is to put so many cards upon it as will make up twelve with the number of spots on the noted card. For instance: Suppose the card noted was a king, queen, or ten, bid him lay that card with its face downwards, calling it ten; upon that card let him lay another, calling it eleven, and upon that another, calling it twelve. Then ask him to take the next card from the pack. Suppose it be a nine. Ask him to lay it down on another part of the table calling it nine. Lay another card upon it, calling it ten; upon the latter lay another card calling it eleven, another upon this card, calling it twelve. Take another card and place it on another part of the table, and go through the same procedure. Continue until all the cards of the pack are exhausted. If there be any cards left over—that is, if there are not enough cards left at the last to make up twelve, bid the assistant to give them to you. Then in order to tell him the number of all the spots contained in all the bottom cards of the heaps proceed as follows. From the number of heaps subtract four, multiply the remainder by fifteen, and to the product add the number of remaining cards which you hold, but if there were but four heaps, then those remaining cards alone will show the number of spots on the four bottom cards. You need not see the cards laid out, nor know the number of cards in each heap, it being sufficient to know the number of heaps, and the number of remaining cards, if there be any. Therefore you may perform this feat as well standing in a distant room, as if you were present in the room where the cards are laid out.

R. V. C. Harris

SURGEON DENTIST
Moderate Charges.

Painless Extractions.
HASTINGS STREET, NAPIER.

'Phone 486.