

and cautioned him about not letting smart Alecks put anything over on him.

A few days later a lady entered the store, and asked for some bird-seed.

"Aw, go on," grinned the clerk, "you can't kid me. Birds is hatched from eggs."

THE BISHOP GOT THE KETTLE.

The late Bishop Selwyn delighted to tell the following racy incident:—While walking one day in the country and observing a group of colliers seated by the roadside in a semicircle, with a brass kettle in front of them, inquired what was going on. "Why, yer honor," replied a grave-looking member, "its a sort of wager. Yon kettle is a prize for the fellow who can tell the biggest lie, and I am the umpire." Amazed and shocked, the Bishop said reprovingly, "Why, my friends, I have never told a lie that I know of since I was born." There was a dead silence, only broken by the voice of the umpire who said in a deliberate tone: "Give the Bishop the kettle."

SMILE RAISERS.

The following story comes from America. Mr. Wilson was walking to the golf course, when a small boy on the road put out his tongue at him. The friend who was with the President affected to be horrified, and suggested correction. "I corrected him all right," said the President. "How was that?" said his friend. "You said nothing." "No," said the President, "but I made a worse face at him."

Squire (to rural lady): Now, my boy, tell me how do you know an old partridge from a young one?"

Boy: "By the teeth, sir."

Squire: "Nonsense, boy. You ought to know better. A partridge hasn't any teeth."

Boy: "No, sir; but I have."

Billy had had a serious misunderstanding with his older cousin, Conrad. That misunderstanding had been very scrupulously concealed from his mother, so when he came into the house after school she said:

"Billy, what would you like to give Conrad for his birthday?"

"I know what I'd like to give him," said Billy vindictively, "but I ain't big enough."

"That fellow was an impudent fraud. How did he manage to wheedle money out of you?"

"Oh, John, he told me such a sad, pitiful tale about his poor wife who was a widow with six little children!"

Ma: "There is one thing about Edith's young man, dear; you don't have to get up every night to send him off."

Pa: "No, thank heaven, one of our girls has picked out a self-starter."

A fellow said to a famous sprinter: "I'll race you and beat you if you'll let me choose the course and give me a yard's start."

"Ten pounds to one that you don't," said the sprinter, confidently. "Name your course."

"Up a ladder," said the challenger.

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SCIENCE SIFTINGS

By "VOLT."

New Wireless Wonder.

The well-known wireless expert, Dr. Lee de Forest, who arrived in England recently to exhibit his latest invention to the British Signal Corps, disclosed some interesting facts concerning the Audion Lamp. By means of this invention long-distance wireless telegraphy and telephony have been made possible. The Audion Lamp magnifies sound waves a million times, but without affecting their tonal qualities.

"All the U.S. airplanes," says Dr. de Forest, "are now fitted with this apparatus, which has made it possible for the pilot to receive a message in the air despite the noise of his engine. Our Signal Corps, too, in the trenches are using the same apparatus, of a more portable kind, and they have an effective range of from four to five miles."

"The Allies' communication at the front between aeroplanes, infantry, and artillery would be impossible in anything like its present state of perfection without the Audion. The French use a thousand a day."

Edison's Camouflaged Ship.

How Edison, the famous American, invented one of the earliest and most successful systems of "camouflaging" merchant vessels, has just been revealed by one who assisted in the experiments. In those days before the convoy system had been so largely developed and when merchant ships had to rely so much for safety upon their own unaided efforts, scientists of all countries were devoting much time to the question of the reduction of visibility at sea. Amongst them was Thomas Alva Edison, the American inventor. To aid him in his work the Cunard Company placed at his disposal, for experimental purposes, the Valeria, a 10,000-ton carrying freight steamer. Edison got quickly to work and, before long, the result was seen in the Mersey, where an incoming vessel—squat, dumpy, barge-like—excited general wonder. It was the "camouflaged" Valeria.

Her funnels had almost disappeared, and her masts were cut right down; portions of her superstructure had been removed or concealed; and finally, immense painted screens of canvas were ranged along the ship and "wrapped" around her top sides. She looked like nothing else on earth—or at sea. She was almost invisible at a short distance and quite unrecognisable.

It was the crew of the Valeria that had the thrill of feeling a shock in the vessel's bottom and the subsequent pleasure of seeing a German submarine emerge with a broken periscope. The distance separating the two vessels was so small that the Valeria's guns had to be depressed to their fullest extent in order to fire. They did not miss.

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