

By this time the dog had grasped the situation, and, with one mighty bound, he dashed at the villain, who, however, managed to elude the avenger and flew to a convenient treetop, where his mocking 'caw, caw,' challenged the dog to catch him if he could.

The crow out of reach, Rover turned his attention to the frightened kitten. He licked it soothingly, and tried his best to comfort the poor, quivering thing, occasionally stopping to bark at the crow, which continued to hover near.

Finally, appearing to conclude that the crow had the field, he carefully picked up the kitten and carried it around the house to an old apple tree, where he deposited his burden, and, stretching himself on the grass, resumed his nap, so unceremoniously interrupted.

### THE RAIN

Once upon a time a merchant was riding home from the fair, and carried a knapsack with a large sum of money behind him. It rained heavily; the good man was wet through and through. He was annoyed at this, and complained very much that God should give him such bad weather for his journey.

His way led him through a thick wood. Here, to his horror, he saw standing a robber, who presented a gun, and actually snapped it at him. He would inevitably have been killed, but the powder had been damaged by the rain, and the gun missed fire. The merchant put spurs to his horse, and happily escaped the danger. 'Oh,' said he to himself, when he was in safety, 'what a fool I was, to have cursed the bad weather, and not rather borne it patiently as a dispensation of God! Had the sky been bright, and the air clear and dry, I should now be lying weltering in my blood, and my children would have waited in vain for my return home. The rain at which I murmured has saved both my property and my life. Never again, for the future, will I forget what the proverb says:

"The ways of God are ways of mercy still;  
Full many a blessing springs from seeming ill."

### KNEW HIS STRONG POINT

Dr. Smith decided to have a day with the birds, and started out early one morning, fully armed, 'game' writ large on his features.

About four in the afternoon he returned, tired out and empty-handed.

'Not a feather, John,' he told his coachman. 'I didn't seem to be in form somehow.'

John scrutinised his master's features for a while before replying. Then he said:

'I alus ses, sir, every man to his trade, I does. Look at me, sur. I couldn't shoot if I tried; but I can groom a hoss, sur, as well as anybody. There's you, sur, one of the best doctors in the town, sur. You ain't much good with the gun, sur—beggin' your pardon for the liberty—but I'll defy any man to beat yer with the med'sin-bottle!'

### SCHOOLBOY HOWLERS

Galileo is the man who made the world go round.

A lawyer is a man who keeps himself without work.

The moon does not shine by day, because the sun dazzles it.

'Hon. Sec.' or 'Hon. Treas.' means they are supposed to be honest.

Kites are light frames of wood sent into the sky by boys with tails on them.

Pearls found in the Mediterranean are formed by the fishes making their nests.

A hypothesis is a machine for raising water; it happens to a man after death.

The peasant is the chief beast of burden in Egypt, India, South Africa, and America.

The seven great powers of Europe are gravity, electricity, steam, gas, horse-power, fly-wheels, and motors.

Single misfortunes never come alone; the greatest possible misfortune is often followed by something a great deal worse.

### THE REFORMERS' IDEAL

The sober-visaged man addressed the meeting of reformers in impassioned tones. 'Well, brothers,' he cried, 'this is my first attendance, but I think I can understand, from what I have heard of you, exactly what you want. In the first place, you want a realm where everybody has to be good by law?' ('We do. We do!') 'Where food and clothing give no trouble and money does not exist?' ('That's it! That's it!') 'Where all worship on Sunday, and where regular hours are kept.' ('Quite so! Quite so!') 'Well, I myself have just come from such a place——' ('Where? What is it called?') 'It is a place,' he answered, taking up his hat, 'called "prison"!'

### A STORY OF A MISPRINT

A printer's error of an extraordinary character is thus referred to in the *Western Daily Mercury* (Plymouth):—

We deeply regret that in a portion of our issue of yesterday there appeared a most unhappy printer's error in a report of a speech by Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch at Fowey. Sir Arthur, speaking of an 'efflux of words' on the part of Sir Reginald Pole-Carew, said that it was sometimes traceable to last Sunday's *Observer*, oftener traceable 'no whither.' This was set up by the compositor as 'to whiskey,' but, unfortunately, the reader's correction of this error was not made until a portion of our issue had been printed. Immediately it was discovered the correction was effected, and the accurate version of the speech appeared in later editions.

'We need hardly say,' goes on the *Western Daily Mercury*, 'that we deplore this fatality most profoundly, and offer at once to Sir Reginald Pole-Carew and to Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch our fullest and sincerest apologies.'

Sir Arthur, in writing to the paper denying that he had used the words attributed to him by the printer, says:—

'I write at once to say that I did not use the words, that I would rather have lost a hand than have used any such words, and that I most deeply regret any pain the misprint may have given to Sir Reginald Pole-Carew or his supporters. The accident has caused me much distress of mind, and I beg you to help in correcting it.'

### FAMILY FUN

#### POSERS AND CATCHES.

Set your friends this little poser:—

A farmer sent his boy to a well, with instructions that he was to bring back four pints of water—no more and no less. He gave the boy a five-pint pitcher and a three-pint one. How did the boy measure exactly four pints?

The answer is simple. The boy first filled the three-pint jug, and then emptied it into the five; then he filled the three-pint jug again and poured as much as he could into the five, thus leaving one pint in the smaller jug. Next he emptied the five and poured the pint out of the three into it. Then he filled the three again, and then had the necessary four pints.

How long will it take to divide a piece of cloth 50 yards in length if one yard be cut each day? Fifty days? Certainly not; only forty-nine, because the last cut makes two one-yard pieces.

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