

pleasant one. Every time something nice is done for you, do something nicer for someone else.'

For a few moments she was crosser than ever. Then common sense saved the day. She tried the cure—honestly, sincerely, prayerfully; and to her own lifelong joy—to say nothing of everybody else—there was soon no happier, more attractive, more lovable girl in the place than she.

READY FOR ALL EMERGENCIES

Teased into it, Jones had gone with his wife on an excursion to the realm of bargains and in the great building, with its many departments, he had become separated from his better half. For an hour at least he remained lounging impatiently at the junction of many ways where lifts, stairs, and passengers met, and then, tired and angry, he approached the shopwalker.

'Sir,' he said to the frock-coated and suave attendant in tones of righteous indignation, 'I've lost my wife.'

'Third floor and over the bridge for the mourning department!' came the reply, with stunning force.

ANSWERED THE PURPOSE

As it was his birthday, Jones took a friend home to dinner, but his wife gave strict orders that he must not offer his guest sherry, as they had none in the house. Jones forgot what had been told him, and said:

'Have a drop of sherry, old chap?'

The guest turned red, and said he never drank it.

'Rubbish!' said Jones. 'I know that is not true. Do try it.'

'No, no, I would much rather not,' he said imploringly, and turned redder than ever.

After dinner Mrs. Jones said to her husband:

'Why on earth did you press the sherry when I kept kicking you under the table, too, to remind you that there wasn't any?'

Jones looked at her and said:

'It wasn't me you kicked my dear.'

SHE HAD FORGOTTEN SOMETHING

She had returned from a shopping tour, tired and radiant.

He had just returned from the office, tired, but—well, tired.

Quivering with delight at the array of samples snipped from rolls of dress goods she emptied the contents of her purse into her lap. There was a metallic sound. A look of dismay crossed her face.

'There!' she exclaimed. 'I just knew there was something I had forgotten to buy!'

'What was it, dear?' he asked, with an assumption of interest.

'I'm sure I don't know,' she replied, petulantly, 'but I find I have a half crown left!'

A NEW MEANING

Teacher: 'John, can you tell me what is meant by a steward?'

John: 'A steward is a man who doesn't mind his own business.'

Teacher: 'Why, where did you get that idea?'

John: 'Well, I looked it up in the dictionary, and it said, "A man who attends to the affairs of others."'

WHAT HE WANTED

The diminutive office boy had worked hard for a 'salary' of 10s a week. He was a subdued little chap, faithful and quiet. Finally, however, he plucked up courage enough to ask for an increase.

'How much more would you like?' inquired his employer.

'Well,' answered the lad, 'I don't think that 5s more a week would be too much.'

'You are rather a small boy to be earning 15s a week.'

'I suppose I am,' he replied. 'I know I'm small for my age, but, to tell the truth, since I've worked here I've been so busy I haven't had time to grow.'

He got the rise.

NOT REQUIRED

Architect: 'Now, where would you prefer the drawing-room, sir?'

Mr. Parvenu: 'Look here, young man, I've let you put up a smokin'-room, when I don't smoke; a music-room, when I couldn't play a mouth-organ; a nursery, when I ain't got no nurse; and a pantry, when I don't pant. But I'm goin' to draw the line at a drawing-room, when I couldn't even draw a straight line.'

THE ONLY THING HE COULD DO

On one occasion there was observed a man who had never fished before. His rod was new and shiny. He was whipping a trout stream, when, by some chance, he got a bite. He did not play the fish at all. With rod straight ahead, he slowly and steadily reeled in his catch. How he managed to hold the fish was a mystery. Pretty soon the fish was directly below the end of the rod, but the amateur did not stop. He continued to reel and reel, and, just as the observer reached the water's edge, the fish's head touched the tip. Then the fisherman actually tried to pull his catch through the ring. He did not, of course, succeed.

'What shall I do now?' he asked of the amused observer on the bank.

'About the only thing you can do now,' said the latter, 'is to climb up the pole after the fish.'

FAMILY FUN

TRICKS AND ILLUSIONS.

(Special to the *N.Z. Tablet* by MAHATMA.)

Bending a Borrowed Watch.—To bend a watch, the property of a lady or gentleman friend, is a feat which will cause no little surprise, yet this trick, which is frequently employed by professional magicians to open a performance in which a watch plays the leading role, is only an optical illusion. Take the borrowed watch between the thumbs and first fingers of both hands—the metal back facing the audience—then bring the two pairs of fingers together, allowing them immediately afterwards to resume their former position. After you have made this movement four or five times the impression on the minds of the spectators will be that the watch is being really bent backwards and forwards.

To Tell the Court Cards by Touch.—To tell whether a card is court or not by simply weighing it in the hand appears to the uninitiated a marvellous feat. To perform such a trick proceed as follows. Take out all the court cards from the pack. Take a pocket knife and, holding the blade at an angle of 45 degrees, draw it along the edges in a manner which, while being quite imperceptible to sight, may be readily discovered by touch. Mix the marked cards with the others. Hand the pack to anyone to shuffle, who then hands them back to you face downwards. You then draw the cards one by one from the bottom and turn the court cards up as they come. Throwing the others aside. The effect is very mystifying, and will set the company guessing at all kinds of explanations. A second way of performing the trick, is to have a confederate who treads upon or kicks the performer's foot every time a picture card is produced. The confederate must in this case sit directly opposite the performer and each card must be held up, facing the audience, whilst the conjuror pretends to be in deep thought.

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