

Forethought is always better and usually happier than after-thought. Cultivate it.

THE FAITHFUL CAMEL

What the horse is to us, and the dog to the Eskimo, such is the camel to the people of the Far East. These faithful beasts are often called 'ships of the desert,' and are most appropriately named. Imagine the vast stretches of desert, without a drop of water for miles, and think how useless a horse would be if it were unable to have a cool drink every once in a while. But the camel is made in a wonderful manner, so that he can drink enough water at the beginning of a journey to last him a long time. His stomach is a series of cells and he can fill all these and then, whenever he feels thirsty, nature has so provided that he can refresh himself with the contents of every one of these cells. A camel has been known to drink as much as twenty gallons of water at one time. In this way he can travel for days without being worn out.

AN UNPROFITABLE PATRON

For four entire hours the lady remained in the shop. She had visited every department and worried the majority of the salesmen without spending a penny. Toward the close of the afternoon one of the salesmen, feeling somewhat exasperated, ventured to make a mild protest.

'Madame,' he asked sweetly, 'are you shopping here?'

The lady looked surprised, but not by any means annoyed. 'Certainly,' she replied. 'But what else should I be doing?'

For a moment the salesman hesitated, then blurted out: 'Well, madam, I thought perhaps you might be taking an inventory.' Then the lady melted away among the shadows by the door.

THE IRISHMAN'S ADVICE

A well-known Irish M.P. recently told the following amusing story of a man who complained to three friends (an Englishman, a Scotchman, and an Irishman) that his servant was constantly breaking china. 'What do you think I ought to do with her?' he asked, plaintively.

The practical Englishman (records the *Tatler*) said: 'Dismiss her; but as she was otherwise an excellent servant her master was unwilling to do that.'

'Then take it out of her wages,' suggested the thrifty Scot.

'That wouldn't do much good,' was the reply, 'for her wages are less than the amount of damage she does.'

'Then raise her wages,' said the Irishman promptly.

THE PALL-BEARER

The following story of a pall-bearer is not new, but re-appearing after some years gives me renewed pleasure (says a writer in the *Sphere*):

A Frenchman arrived in England and began the struggle with the language. One day he came with his conversation book to an English friend:

'Ze polar bear—vat does he do?'

'What's that?' said the puzzled friend.

'Ze polar bear—vat does he do?'

'Oh, he don't do a thing but sit on the ice and eat fish.'

'Non! non! I not accep'.'

'Why's that?'

'I been invite to be polar bear at a funeral.'

When removing, you will do well to employ the New Zealand Express Co. They are so careful, so expert, so reliable. It's a real saving to get them to do the work, your things are handled so nicely. They remove furniture to any address, near or far. Offices all towns....

FAMILY FUN

TRICKS AND ILLUSIONS.

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

Multiplying Eggs.—This is a very good illusion. A pocket handkerchief is shown to be free from preparation. The performer crumples it up in his hand, and produces from its folds an egg. This he places in a top hat. Again he shows the empty handkerchief and again he produces an egg. This is continued until about six eggs are produced. All of these the performer has put into the hat. When the latter is inverted, however, the eggs have again disappeared. The trick is done thus: An egg is beforehand 'blown' in the usual manner in order to remove its contents. A pin or small piece of metal is attached to about six or seven inches of cotton, the color of which will be determined by the color of the handkerchief it is proposed to use. The pin or piece of metal is now dropped into the hole in top of the egg and is effectually secured. The other end of the cotton is attached to the border of the handkerchief. This latter should be fairly large. The handkerchief is now shown to the audience by the performer, he, of course, keeping the side on which is attached the egg towards his body. The handkerchief is shaken to show that it is quite 'empty,' crumpled up, and the egg put into the hat. As soon as the handkerchief is taken up again, however, the egg also rises from the hat, under cover of the cambric, and the performer is ready to produce, apparently, a second egg. If the performer is a good mimic he should try to imitate the clucking of a hen whilst producing the eggs. This will have a very laughable effect.

A Startling Illusion.—The following is one of the most effective illusions possible for a drawing-room entertainment. The performer sits at a table with from ten to twenty slips of paper in front of him. He requests that the names of ten, fifteen, or twenty persons present be given to him, and as each name is called out he writes it down on a slip of paper and folds it. When he has a sufficient number of names all the slips are placed in a hat and some lady in the audience is asked to come forward and take one slip—any one she prefers—from the hat. The performer now requests the lady who has taken the paper to resume her seat, and kindly to take a match and burn the paper she holds. She must be careful to save the ashes, for which purpose a tray is handed to her. A saucer will serve the purpose admirably. The ashes are given to the performer, who in the meantime has rolled up his left sleeve, leaving that arm bare to the elbow. He takes the ashes in his right hand and rubs them up and down on his left arm when gradually the letters forming the name which was written on the destroyed paper take form on his skin. The method is as follows: First of all the performer must know the name of a member of the audience. He sits at the table and writes down, not the names of people called out by the company, but the one name which he knows on all slips. All these slips, bearing the one name, are placed in the hat and one of them is drawn by a spectator. It is burned and the ashes are rubbed on the performer's arm and produce the name simply because, before the commencement of the illusion the performer wrote the name in yellow soap on his arm. The ashes adhered to this and thus was the trick brought to a sensational finish.

BEWARE OF THE SLIGHT COUGH.

Many big, strong men have found an early grave through consumption. This terrible disease began with a slight cough not worth buying medicine for, and before the danger was realised, it was too late.

Nothing can save you once you are fairly in the grip of the 'Great White Plague,' Consumption. Don't let your slight cough develop into something more serious. Cure it with Nature's healing herbs. Baxter's Lung Preserver is composed of herbal essences, healing and harmless. One dose will give good results, and a single bottle will cure the severest cold. It costs only 1/10 a bottle, at your storekeeper or chemist.

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