

Greater New York, already the second largest city in the world, bids fair to rival, within the next decade or two, London itself. Its population is 4,014,301. The Germans in New York, by birth and parentage, would make a city equal to Leipsic and Frankfort-on-the-Main combined; the Austrians and Hungarians—Trieste and Fiume; the Irish—Belfast, Dublin, and Cork; the Italians—Florence; the English and Scotch—Aberdeen and Oxford; the Poles—Poltava in Russia.

As a large ocean-going steamer was making her way down the Clyde the officer in charge found his passage blocked by a dirty-looking, empty ballast barge, the only occupant of which was a man sitting smoking a short pipe. Finding that he did not make any effort to get out of the way, the officer shouted to him in true nautical fashion.

Taking the pipe from his mouth, the fellow rose and said:

'An' is it yerself that's the captain of that ship?'

'No,' was the reply, 'but I am the chief officer.'

'Then talk to your aiquals,' said the Irishman; 'I am the captain of this.'

Mr. Andrew Carnegie has given utterance to many wise remarks, but to none more sage than this:—

'Drunkenness is the great risk ahead in the career of every young man. It is far more important that he insure himself against it than against death. A drink policy is worth ten life policies.' Death is inevitable, and comes at the end of life. Intemperance is a costly folly that, even when it does not develop into persistent drunkenness, causes losses and brings on diseases. When it does turn into inebriety, it is a living death. To let liquor alone is the surest way to keep sober.

The children of a London Catholic school had been taken for their annual excursion to a quiet country place, and had been allowed to wander just where they liked. A six-year-old youngster was standing looking through the fence at some sheep when the owner of the sheep passed by. Attracted by the youngster's earnest gaze, he said to him: 'My boy, do you know that from these beautiful creatures you get your clothes?' The youngster thought for a moment, then, looking the gentleman up and down, he said: 'You're wrong there, gov'nor; my clothes are generally farver's cut down.'

### FAMILY FUN

Two talked over me—gossips they were,  
One went through me, yet I didn't stir.  
One went away with me, over the plain,  
Yet, it is a fact, behind I did remain.

Gate, Gait.

Nothing can be more simple than this 'trick.' The performer sits on a chair with the left side to the audience. On his right knee he places a shilling, rubs it, and when he takes away his hand the coin has vanished. As a matter of fact, it has gone no further than into a fold made in the side of the performer's trousers alongside the right knee.

Taking up a sheet of paper or a splinter of wood, you remark quietly that the strongest man present would be exhausted before he had carried all this wood or paper out of the room. Looks of disbelief will pass around, and your assertion will, no doubt, be challenged. To the person declaring himself able to disprove you, give an extremely small piece of the wood or paper, desiring him to take that outside first; on his return give him another, and so on. By the time he realises that he will only have to go two or three little million times on the journey, he will acknowledge the full proportions of the joke.

Here is an improvement on the candle-eating illusion given in our last issue (p. 38). Instead of an apple, take an inch or so of banana, smooth the outside of it nicely so as to make it look as much as possible like a piece of candle, stick into the middle of the top of it a wax vesta that has been lighted and extinguished. (Note: stick the vesta in at the unburnt end, and the burnt end will make it look just like a piece of wick and complete the resemblance to a candle). Having completed these preparations, proceed as indicated last week; bring the supposed 'candle' out among your audience, light the 'wick', leave it lighting for a moment, just to show that there is 'no deception.' Then blow out the 'candle,' and eat it with all the relish you can command. When done by artificial light, this simple illusion is a great success.

## All Sorts

Book printing in colors was begun by Faust in 1455 in an effort to imitate the illumined letters in the manuscripts. The earliest books printed were intended to resemble hand-made writings.

It is said that the cross mark instead of a signature did not originate in ignorance. It was always appended to signatures in mediaeval times as an attestation of good faith.

The phrase 'almighty dollar' was first used, so far as known, by Washington Irving. It has since passed into general employment to indicate the worship of wealth.

Twenty years ago 50 per cent. of cases of amputation terminated fatally, but under the modern system of antiseptic surgery the danger of this operation has been so far reduced that the rate of mortality does not now exceed from 5 to 12 per cent. of the number of cases.

At the reception of Chinese Commissioners at Cambridge University, when honorary degrees were conferred upon them, it was stated that the Cambridge University possessed the finest library of Chinese books in the West.

A Wellington resident (says the 'Post') who recently explored the north on a holiday jaunt, has returned with a story which goes to prove that the Maori as well as the Japanese can improve on European examples. The wily native once went around the country as the henchman of a professional boxer, and when the partnership was broken he returned to his village and set up as a teacher in the art of self-defence. 'No charge money,' he said, and it seemed that he was a prince of philanthropists, purely bent on improving the physique of young manhood merely out of brotherly love. Yet his school kept the plumpness on his cheeks, and set in his eye the light of a well-nourished man. 'I charge no money,' he confessed. 'Young fellow come to my school, want to learn the box. I teach him—charge nothing. By-and-bye that young fellow get big idea, think he lick me one hand, challenges me. I make myself look afraid, but make bet £5. He box me, we make a lot of fuss long time. Then I have something up my sleeve—the Maori put his left hand on his right biceps and made a swinging gesture—and he go out. I take the £5.'

The first lighthouse ever erected for the benefit of mariners is believed to be that built by the famous architect Sostratus, by command of Ptolemy Philadelphus, King of Egypt. It was built near Alexandria, on an island called Pharos, and there was expended upon it about eight hundred talents, or over £200,000. Ptolemy has been much commended by some ancient writers for his liberality in allowing the architect to inscribe his name instead of his own. The inscription reads: 'Sostratus, son of Dexiphanes, to the protecting deities, for the use of seafaring people.' This tower was deemed one of the seven wonders of the world and was thought of sufficient grandeur to immortalise the builder. It appears from Lucian, however, that Ptolemy does not deserve any praise for his disinterestedness on this score, or Sostratus for his honesty, as it is stated that the latter, to engross in after times the glory of the structure, caused the inscription with his own name to be carved in the marble, which he afterward covered with lime and thereon put the king's name. In process of time the lime decayed, and the inscription on the marble alone remained.

The word encyclopaedia, literally meaning a circular or complete education, implied originally the whole group of studies taken up by Greek youth in preparation for active life, or what is now generally termed the liberal curriculum. The first works of the kind were rather comprehensive, all-round text-books than books of reference such as modern encyclopaedias have become. The earliest of such works to be compiled is said to have been that of a disciple of Plato, Spensippus, who died B.C. 339. The first of the Roman Encyclopaedists was Marcus Terentius Varro, who died about 27 B.C. One of the most famous of the encyclopaedias in the first ages of the Christian era was that of Isidore, Bishop of Seville. It was complete in twenty books, but in the ninth century it was re-arranged in twenty-two books by another ecclesiastic, Rabanus Maurus, Archbishop of Mainz. In the thirteenth century, a Dominican friar, Vincent of Beauvais, compiled the most important of all early encyclopaedias, his 'Speculum Majus.' He said he called it a mirror (speculum) because it reflected everything worthy of notice in the visible and invisible worlds—as in fact it did.