

Father: 'Your mother tells me that you haven't been a good boy to-day, Johnny.'

Johnny: 'Between you and me, father, I think she is a little prejudiced against me. It was only the other day she told Aunt Kate I was just like you.'

'Well doctor,' said a Christchurch man to his medical adviser the other day, 'how do you find me this morning?'

'You're doing nicely. Your legs are still a bit swollen, but that doesn't trouble me.'

'I understand, doctor. If your legs were swollen it wouldn't trouble me either.'

Not long ago there was talk of placing a clock in the tower of a certain village church.

John X—, the old sexton, who lived in a cottage opposite the church, declared himself 'dead agin it,' and expressed the opinion that it would entail 'a sad waste o' brass.'

'We want no clocks,' he said; 'we've done without clocks up to now, an' we shall manage. Why, lyin' in my bed of a morning, I can see the time by the sundial over the porch.'

'Yes,' said one who approved of the scheme, 'that is all right as far as it goes. But the sun doesn't shine every morning. What do you do then?'

'Why,' replied John, as if surprised at the question, 'I knows then as it ain't fit weather to be out o' bed, an' I just stops wheer I is!'

FAMILY FUN

How many peas in a pint? One p.

What pain do we make light of? Window pane.

What mostly resembles a cat's tail? A kitten's tail.

Why is an egg like a colt? Because it isn't fit for use till it's broken.

When is it a good thing to lose your temper? When it's a bad one.

What is an old lady in the middle of a river like? Like to be drowned.

On which side of the pitcher is the handle? Outside.

Why did the coal scuttle? Because the chimney flue.

Which is one of the longest words in the English language? Smiles, because there is a mile between the first and last letters.

What is the difference between a person late for the train and a school-mistress? One misses the train, the other trains the misses.

When you see a man come out on the stage and shoot the ashes off a cigar which is being smoked by an assistant, don't believe all you see. A hat-pin is run through the cigar, the point just reaching the ash. The assistant just pushed the knob at the other end and down falls the ash to great applause. Of course only blank cartridges are used.

Blindfold shooting simply means that the performer glances down his nose to a mirror fixed at an angle behind the back sight and aims straight this way as if the bandage were not there.

Breaking two glass balls with two pistols is almost as simple. One of the pistols only is loaded, and with shot; the other has a blank cartridge. The loaded pistol is aimed between the two balls and the shot scatters, breaking them both—that's the trick.

Extinguishing several numbered candles by number on request of the audience is seldom more than a hollow joke. Behind each candle is a hole in the target. An assistant hidden behind it simply blows out the candle, taking care to blow the right candle at the right time—that is, when the pistol cracks.

Painting a complete picture in a jiffy in presence of the audience is also artifice. What looks to you like an immaculate and untouched canvas is in reality a finished picture covered with white wash. All the 'artist' does is to simulate painting while he merely wipes off the whitewash with his brush. The result is a picture that would require, if it were honestly done, at least a day's work.

Those awfully heavy looking dumbbells of the strong man are sometimes somewhat hollow at the core. You will notice they are always put in the same place, preferably on a special platform, when then, a man from the audience is invited to lift them. Under the floor are powerful magnets holding the weights down. Suddenly roll the bar off the platform and you can probably lift it in one hand, as that operation releases it from magnetic control.

All Sorts

Rakes, hoes, and other agricultural implements are represented in the Egyptian catacombs.

When a snake sheds its skin, which it does three or four times a year, the skin of the eye comes off with the rest.

A Prince of Wales is of age from his birth, and a chair is placed for him on the right of the throne in the House of Lords.

Imperfect teeth are a sure sign of civilisation. Perfect teeth are found, as a rule, only among savages.

Maximin was the only giant among the Roman Emperors. He was eight and one-half feet in height and very heavily built even for that stature.

It was stated recently at the London County Council that 32,000,000 gallons of milk from tuberculous cows were consumed in England every year.

Father Hennepin, the missionary, was the first discoverer of coal in America, the site of the primitive mine being in the vicinity of what is now Ottawa, Ill. It was not until nearly a century and a half, however, that the discovery was made of practical use.

At no Court in Europe are expenses more vigorously watched and kept down than at the Imperial one in Germany. Each day the Palace Controller has to furnish a certain number of dishes for a fixed sum, this sum being that which the Emperor William allows for himself and the members of his family on pension.

The nominal head of the Swiss Government is somewhat of an anomaly. As an official he has no ex-officio rank in the army, cannot exercise a veto or pardon a criminal. He has no offices in his gift, and never chooses his associates in the Federal Council. As an individual he cannot declare war or determine the financial policy of his country.

It is proposed that the Government of the United States should erect in Washington a suitable memorial to Christopher Columbus. The style of the memorial is to be determined by a commission composed of the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy, the chairman of the library committees of the Senate and the House, and the President of the Knights of Columbus.

A correspondent of the Christchurch 'Press' has a distinct grievance against the linotype. In the course of a letter to our Christchurch contemporary the following passage occurred. 'I note that the 150 people who maintain a bar on the Coast comprise "the child at the breast, its mother and grand-dam."' When the linotype had transformed his words into cold metal the latter part of the sentence read like this:—'The child and the beast, its mother, etc.'

As an example of the ability of the juvenile scholar to evolve an unexpected meaning from his text, a correspondent relates that the following question was put to a history class: 'What misfortune then happened to Bishop Odo?' The reply came quite readily: 'He went blind.' An explanation was demanded, and the genius brought up the text-book. 'There, sir,' triumphantly, 'the book says so.' The sentence indicated by an ink-stained digit read: 'Odo was deprived of his Sec.'

Goats are the most surefooted of animals. They can walk upright where the average human being would not crawl. Horses are the daintiest treaders, however, though they cannot climb. No horse will step on a man if it can possibly help it. It is a standing rule in cavalry regiments that if a trooper is dismounted he must remain perfectly still, when the whole column passes over him without injuring him. Camels are careless, on the other hand, and the man who came out unharmed from under the feet of a camel corps was not born to be run over by any beast or vehicle.

Varno, Italy, is just finishing the excavation of its ancient Roman theatre. The digging was begun in 1834. The theatre dates from the time of Augustus Caesar, and was lavishly decorated with marbles from Greece, Africa and Asia. The theatre was formed of huge steps of granite, above which were rows of private boxes, one of which stands in its original position, in excellent preservation, and with the name of the owner carved on it. Above the tiers of private boxes rose the places where the plebeians were seated, and from where they looked down on to the stage or away to the water jousts on the river.