

## SMILES AND FROWNS

Which will you do—smile and make your household happy, or be crabbed, and make all the children gloomy and the older ones miserable? The amount of happiness you can produce is incalculable, if you show a smiling face, a kind heart, and speak pleasant words. Wear a pleasant countenance; let joy beam in your eyes, and love glow on your forehead. There is no joy like that which springs from a kind act or a pleasant deed; and you will feel it at night when you rest, at morning when about your business.

## ODDS AND ENDS

Many wrinkles are smoothed away by the soft fingers of little children. The music of their flute-like voices calms the most turbulent mood and banishes the darkest frown. The power of the little ones consists in their innocence; they bear in their hands that lily the magic might of which gates of brass cannot resist.

Some American visitors were being shown the treasures of the Sir John Soane Museum. The curator said that a certain exhibit was 'made in cork.' One of the ladies of the party replied, 'That is curious, for we are just going to visit some friends there.'

'I mean, madam,' said the curator, 'that this model was made out of cork.'  
'That is still more curious, for our friends live a little way out of Cork.'  
He gave it up.

## FAMILY FUN

In what color should our friendship be kept? In violet (involute).

Why is India ink like a cunning Hottentot? Because it is a deep black.

There is a well known word in the English language, the first two letters of which signify a male, the three first a female, the four first a great man, and the whole a great woman.—He, her, hero, heroine.

How do bees dispose of their honey? They cell it.

What game do the waves play at? Pitch and toss.

What sort of men are always above board? Chess-men.

What letter is it that is never used more than three times in Australia?—Answer—A.

Bend a match in the centre so that it forms an acute angle and place it over the neck of a large bottle; on top of the match place a piece of money—a penny, for instance. The trick is to put the money into the bottle without touching the match or the bottle. Dip your finger in water, holding it over the place where the match is bent, and allow one or two drops of water to fall on that point. The two sides of the angle will open slowly, allowing the money to drop into the bottle.

'We can't always remember which are the short months of the year, or some of us can't, anyway, and then,' said a man who is not very strong in memory, 'we take to repeating the old jingle, "Thirty days hath September, April, June and November," and so on, to bring the short months to us. But I have just learned another way that pleases me.

'If you double up your fist and hold it with the back of the hand upward, you will see the four knuckles of the hand standing up in little prominences, with little depressions between the bases of the fingers.

'Now, if you will start ticking off the months on these prominences and depressions, one for each prominence and one for each depression, in regular order, you will find the long months all come on the high places, and the short months all in the low ones.

'First knuckle, high place, January; first depression, low place, February; next knuckle, March; next depression, April; next knuckle, May; next low place, June; and then the fourth and last knuckle July. Then you come back to the first knuckle and start over again: High place, August, and first depression, September; next knuckle, October; next depression, November, and the next knuckle, December.

'If you should forget even the "thirty days" jingle, count the months off on the back of your doubled-up hand in this way and you can't go astray. You will find the short months all coming in the little valleys between the knuckles. "Mountain and Valley," the young folks call this.'

## All Sorts

Nearly forty per cent. of the population of Siberia are Russian exiles.

Some time ago, a party of friends travelling by a tramcar had occasion to ask the starter on a certain line how often the cars ran, to which question he made the following reply: 'Quarter arter, half arter, quarter to, and at.'

There are a good many things of which even the very poor may get more than is sufficient. A tired and weary man fell from utter and sheer faintness by the roadside. A crowd gathered round immediately, when an officious individual hurried forward, shouting; "Stand back! Give him air!" The fainting man rallied and sat up. "Air!" he gasped. "Give me air. Why, gentlemen, I've had nothing but air for the last fortnight."

When Princess Alexandra left Denmark forty-three years ago to become the bride of the Prince of Wales, the Danish people, determining that their idolized Princess should not go dowryless to her Royal husband, subscribed 100,000 kroner, which they presented to her, as 'the people's dowry.' By the Princess's own wish 3000 thalers were set apart to form the dowers of six Danish maidens of the poorer classes who became brides in the same year as herself.

There is now at Sandy Hook proving grounds the biggest cannon ever turned out in the world. Not even the Krupp gunworks of Germany have ever dreamed of making such a gun. The weapon referred to is 20yds. long, and weighs 13 tons. The projectile discharged by this monster is 16in. in diameter and 5ft. long, and weighs 1½ tons. The charge of smokeless powder is of 1000lb weight, and when the projectile leaves the muzzle it is travelling at the rate of 2300ft. a second. The cost of each shot fired is £300.

The heavy demand for alligator skin has been such that it is estimated that from 1890 to 1900 3,000,000 alligators were killed in the State of Florida alone. The result is that the alligator is rapidly becoming extinct, and with a view to keeping up the supply Mr. H. I. Campbell, the famous sportsman, has established an alligator farm in Arkansas, where hundreds of the saurians, ranging in size from babies just hatched—scarcely longer than lizards—to 15ft. patriarchs, 200 years old, may be seen and purchased.

A curious plan is adopted by the public schools of several Continental cities for the inculcation of economy. In Brussels the children are requested by their teachers to pick up on their way to school such apparently useless articles as empty paint tubes, scraps of metal, tin cans, bits of tin foil, etc. In eight months the following amounts were collected: Tin foil, 1925 pounds; old paint tubes, 220 pounds; bottle capsules, 4415 pounds; scraps of metal, 1221 pounds; total, 7781 pounds. The whole of this apparent rubbish was disposed of, and the proceeds were applied so as to clothe 500 poor children completely and send 90 invalids to hospitals and convalescent homes, and there still remained a considerable balance, which was distributed among the sick poor of the city.

The Manchester and Salford Savings Bank have hit upon a new means for encouraging thrift. They propose to loan to their customers substantially made steel safes, with a slot arrangement which permits of the deposit of all sizes of coin, but prevents its removal except at the bank. The customer, in short, has the safe, but the bank keeps the key. The safe will be loaned, at a rent of 1s per year, to any persons depositing 5s. credit for which will be given in a pass-book. In consideration of loaning the safe the bank expects a deposit of savings about once a month. The idea is that people who hesitate to go to the bank with small amounts will drop their coins into the safe whenever they can spare them.

'Now, sir,' said the cross-examining counsel, 'answer "Yes" or "No." The Court does not want to know what you supposed. I supposed that I had my watch in my pocket this morning, but as a matter of fact I had left it on my dressing-room table. The Court wants facts, sir, not supposition.'

The witness did not quibble any more, and the case went quietly on. But when the lawyer arrived home that evening the wife of his bosom said to him:—

'You must have been anxious about your watch to send four men after it—one after the other.'

'What!' cried the lawyer, as a suspicion crossed his mind. 'Did you give it up to any of them?'

'Of course!' she said. 'I gave it to the first who called. Why, he actually knew where you left it!'