

REASON ENOUGH

Benevolent Old Gentleman (rescuing one small boy from the pommelling of two others)—What are you hurting this boy for?

'Because he made so many mistakes in his arithmetic this morning.'

'But what business was that of yours?'

'Why, he let us copy our answers from his.'

ON THE WITNESS STAND

Speaking of the tribulations of the cross-examiner, a recent writer cites this experience:—

In the progress of a murder trial near Kansas City he wished to learn from a witness just where the bullet struck the victim.

'Where was this man shot?' was asked.

'Right here in this town,' replied the witness.

'Yes, I know; but where did the bullet hit him?'

'Near Sixth and Wyoming streets.'

'You don't understand me. Where did the bullet enter?'

'It came in the window.'

'But in what part of the body did it lodge?'

'It never hit his body.'

'Well, it certainly hit him somewhere—he is dead.'

'Hit him in the head,' said the witness.

ODDS AND ENDS

'Will you guarantee,' asked Miss Primrose, 'that this parrot will not—er use profane language?'

'Really, madame,' expostulated the urbane dealer, 'you cannot expect me to do that, knowing nothing of the sort of family I am selling it to.'

'These are hard lines,' said the tourist wearily, as he paused to look at the landscape. 'Here I've climbed to the top of this mountain and forgot to bring my glasses with me.'

'That's all right,' said the guide. 'I'd just as soon drink from the bottle.'

Not long ago Lydia had a birthday, and discovered that she is the youngest of her class at school. 'How does it come?' she asked her grandmother that evening, 'that all the other little girls of my age are nine or ten and I'm only eight?'

FAMILY FUN

To Tell Numbers Thought of.—Multiply the number thought of say, 5, by itself, 25. Take 1 from the number thought of, 4. Multiply this by itself 4 x 4, 16. Subtract this product from the former, leaving 9. Add 1 to this, 10. Halve it, 5. Which must be the number thought of, 5.

Attracting Wood.—Lay a piece of wood across the palm of your left hand, which keep wide open, with the thumb and all the fingers far apart, lest you be suspected of supporting the wood with them. Next, take your left wrist in your right hand, and grasp it tightly, for the purpose, as you state, of giving the hand more steadiness. Now, suddenly turn the back of your left hand uppermost, and as your wrist moves in your right hand, stretch out the fore-finger of your right hand, and, as soon as the wood comes undermost, support it with such fore-finger. You may now shake the hand, and, after a moment or two, suffer the wood to drop. It is two to one but the spectators will suppose it be produced by the air, and try to do it themselves; but, of course, they must, unless you have performed the feat so awkwardly as to be discovered, fail in its performance. If you have no objection to reveal the secret, you can do it again, and while they are gravely philosophizing upon it, suddenly lift your right hand, and expose the stick. This will, doubtless, create much amusement. Observe that, in doing this feat, you must keep your fingers so low that no one can see the palm of your left hand; and move your fingers so carefully, that its action may not be detected; and if it be not, you may rest satisfied that its absence from round the wrist of the left hand will not be discovered, some of the fingers being naturally supposed to be under the coat; so that, if the spectators only see two or even one, they will imagine the others are under the cuff. When you have turned your hand over, do not keep the stick too long upheld, lest the spectators should take hold of your hands, and discover the trick; before their surprise is over, remove your fore-finger, and suffer the stick to fall.

All Sorts

The only fish that never sleep are salmon, pike, and goldfish.

The matriculated students in Germany's twenty-one universities numbered last session 44,964. This is an increase of nearly 15,000 in ten years.

In Madagascar silk is the only fabric used in the manufacture of clothing. It is cheaper than linen in Ireland.

Teacher: 'You've been a very good boy for the last day or two, Bobbie. I haven't seen you fighting with the other boys or romping in the schoolroom.' 'Bobbie: 'Yes'm. I got a stiff neck.'

The Bird: 'And did your mother not tell you that the birds eat the early worms?' The Worm: 'Oh, no, sir.' The Bird: 'Well, I'm sorry; but you really can't blame me for omissions on the part of your parents.'

In Alaska is found a kind of fish that makes a capital candle when it is dried. The tail of the fish is stuck into the crack of a wooden table to hold it upright, and its nose is lighted. It gives a good, steady light of three-candlepower and considerable heat, and will burn for about three hours.

Perhaps the most notable native bird of the Sandwich Islands was the manio, which has been extinct comparatively only a few years. It had two little tufts of yellow feathers on its wings, which were used exclusively in the manufacture of cloaks worn by the kings of those islands. The estimated value of one of the cloaks is £200,000, and it took an almost indefinite number of birds to furnish the feathers.

The changing rose is a plant to the cultivation of which the Japanese devote much attention. It produces a tiny, but beautifully formed flower. On being taken suddenly out of a dark place into a sunny room, it slowly assumes a pink hue, which gradually grows in intensity until it becomes of the deepest red shade. The color vanishes again at night, or when the rose is replaced in a dark room.

There are said to be 10,000,000 migratory sheep in Spain, which travel on occasions as much as 200 miles from the plains to the mountains. They are known as transhumantes, and their march, resting places, and behavior are regulated by special regulations dating from the fourteenth century. At certain times no one may travel the same route as the sheep, which have the right to graze on all open and common land on the way.

On a recent Monday morning the pastor of a church in Victoria was the recipient of a basket of strawberries, brought to him by a little girl of the parish.

'Thank you very much, my dear,' said the minister. 'These berries are as fine as any I've ever seen. I hope, however, that you did not gather them yesterday—the Sabbath.'

'No, sir,' replied the child. 'I picked 'em early this mornin', but they was a-growin' all day yesterday.'

The inventor of aniline colors, Dr. William Perkin, has been knighted. He is the man who ruined the madder and cochineal business, and would have quite ruined indigo planting could he have prevented his colors from fading. Their sole merit is their cheapness, and their ugliness is intensely irritating to the sensitive eye, but they have greatly stimulated British manufactures, and hence the knighthood. German and French chemists have made auxiliary discoveries, but Sir William Perkin was the pioneer. His colors have at least one real value, they enable one to distinguish genuine old Oriental rugs, shawls, and silks from European imitations. One thread of aniline color condemns a whole piece. It is just possible that it is the work of some silly Persian or Hindu, or Japanese or Chinese workman, but it is not old. There was no mauve, or magenta, or solferino, or fiery green or blue in the world before 1856.

Victoria's Premier, Mr. Thos. Bent, has just completed his 68th year, and it is just about 34 years since he was first elected to the Victorian Legislative Assembly, when he defeated the late George Higginbotham, one of the greatest Irishmen who ever graced the public life of Australia.