

'A gentleman was yesterday brought up on a charge of having eaten a hackney coachman for demanding more than his fare, and another was accused of having stolen a small ox out of the Bath mail, and the stolen property was found in his pocket.'

'The Russian General Kachkinoffkowsky was found dead, with a long word sticking in his throat.'

### THE THREE SIEVES

'Oh, mamma!' cried little Blanche Philpott, 'I heard such a tale about Edith Howard! I did not think she could be so very naughty. One—'

'My dear,' interrupted Mrs. Philpott, 'before you continue, we will see if your story will pass the three sieves.'

'What does that mean, mamma?' inquired Blanche. 'I will explain it. In the first place, is it true?'

'I suppose so; I got it from Miss White, and she is a great friend of Edith.'

'And does she show her friendship by telling tales of her? In the next place, though you can prove it to be true, is it kind?'

'I did not mean to be unkind, mamma, but I am afraid it was. I should not like Edith to speak of me as I have spoken of her.'

'And—is it necessary?'

'No, of course, mamma; there was no need for me to mention it at all.'

'Then put a bridle on your tongue, dear Blanche, and don't speak of it. If we cannot speak well of our friends, let us not speak of them at all.'

### ODDS AND ENDS

Fair Buyer—Our club is going to give a lecture on socialism. Have you any literature on the subject?

Clerk—Did you ever read 'Looking Backward'?

Fair Buyer—Read looking backward? How absurd! How could I?

Two ladies were being shown through one of our mental hospitals recently. As they entered a ward one said to the other: 'I wonder if that clock is right?' An inmate standing near overheard her, and instantly replied: 'Good gracious, no! It wouldn't be here if it was.'

Pompous Old Gentleman (to tram conductor)—'Young man, I laid the first foundation of my fortune by saving tram-car fares. I—'

Conductor—'Ah, sir, that may be so, but you must remember that a conductor couldn't do that sort of thing nowadays with these bell-punches and the check system.'

### FAMILY FUN

Five hundred begins it, five hundred ends it,  
Five in the middle is seen;  
The first of all figures, the first of all letters,  
Take up their stations between;  
Join all together, and then you will bring  
Before you the name of an eminent King.  
Answer—David.

My first she was a serving maid—  
She went to fetch some tea;  
How much she brought my second tells  
As plainly as can be.  
Now when the answer you have found,  
Name it to others too;  
My whole is just the very thing,  
In telling them, you'll do.  
Answer—Announce.

A Curious Fact About the Multiplication Table.—Professor Paul Carus invented this little device to help one of his children over the difficult point of remembering the table of multiplication by nine. Put the two hands together on the table, palms down, and give each finger and thumb a number from one to ten, beginning at the left. Now, if you wish to find the product of, say, nine times six, raise the finger that is numbered six, count fingers and thumb on the left for the tens place of the product; count the fingers on the right of the raised finger for the units. In this case you have 54. The rule will hold true for all the numbers. Most children will not need this device in learning to multiply, but it is a curious fact.

## All Sorts

A chimney 115ft high will sway 10in. in a high wind without danger.

'What are you crying for, Johnny?'

'Because my brothers have got a holiday and I haven't.'

'That's hard lines; but why haven't you a holiday too?'

'Because I'm not old enough to go to school yet.'

A kind of football was first played about the time of Edward III in England. Shortly after its advent, however, it was prohibited. Later it was again revived, but in the reign of James I. it was suppressed, as being rough and brutal.

'Explain,' said the teacher to the class, 'the difference between the quick and the dead.'

'The quick,' answered the boy in the corner, 'is them that gets out of the way of the motor cars, and the dead is them as doesn't.'

The ex-Empress Eugenie uses a penholder that is set with diamonds. This was employed by the fourteen representatives in signing the Treaty of Peace of Paris in 1856, and was presented to the ex-Empress as a memento.

Diplomatic Bachelor (who has forgotten whether the baby is a boy or girl)—Well, well, but he's a fine little fellow, isn't she? How old is it now? Do her teeth bother him much? I hope he gets through its second summer without getting sick. She looks like you, doesn't he? Every one says it does.

Bowling is one of the games that originated in the Middle Ages. The exact date of its introduction is obscure; but it has been clearly traced to the thirteenth century. The first bowling greens were made in England. In bad weather these could not be used to advantage, and this led to the construction of covered bowling alleys.

Here is the latest Wilberforce story:—When rector of Brightstone, in the Isle of Wight, he was waited on by an old farmer, whose one desire in life was to rent the glebe land. 'Why?' asked Wilberforce. 'Well,' said the old fellow, with a look of business shrewdness, 'when t'other parson was here he used to farm it himself, and there being so little of it, he always got in his hay before anybody else. Then he clapped on the prayer for rain.'

Mr. Michael MacDonagh, in 'Chambers's Journal,' tells of some interesting perquisites that fall to fortunate British State officials. Formerly a new Chair was supplied to the House of Commons on the meeting of each new Parliament, and the Speaker carried off the old Chair as a perquisite. The Speaker does not now get Chairs, but he still receives a plump doe in December and a fat buck in July from the Royal deer parks, and 'four and a half yards of the finest cloth that the country can produce' from the Clothworkers' Company every Christmas.

King Edward's announcement at Cardiff that he proposes very shortly to establish a decoration bearing his own name, to be awarded to the courageous men who, in mines and quarries, voluntarily endanger their lives in order to save those of others, has been received with great enthusiasm by English workers. The Victoria Cross is all very well in its way, but surely there should be a still better cross for the man who goes down into the mine to take his fellow, at the risk of his own life, out of a tomb. King Edward has once again shown his tact and judgment in this matter. There is no hero, as a matter of fact, to be compared to some of the heroes of the mines.

'There is a peculiar thing about lions,' said a hunter who has trapped big game in Africa for menageries. 'They will not eat the flesh of a fowl. You might tempt them with canvas-back duck or the daintiest squab, but they would refuse it. I remember once having a swan which had broken its wing. We killed it, dressed it carefully, and threw it into the cage of the lions, but they would not touch it, and it finally had to be taken out and thrown away. I have repeatedly put pigeons alive into the cage just to see what they would do. I have thrown grain down among the lions and the pigeons have actually got down and hopped around the big brutes, even hopping on their backs, the lions making no attempt to disturb them, even seeming to enjoy their companionship. There is something rather strange about this, which it is difficult to explain.'

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