

'It looks as if some one else is getting in. And that "waiter fellow" is going to have a good chance.'—Exchange.

A QUEEN'S GRACIOUSNESS

The following beautiful story is told of the former Queen Regent of Holland, the mother of Wilhelmina:—The King had bought a fine service of Sevres porcelain for the use of the royal family, and he gave orders that immediate dismissal would be the punishment for any servant who should break one of the costly pieces. A man who had been in the royal household for many years came to the young queen one day, and confessed that he had broken one of the delicate cups. Queen Emma spoke words of comfort to him, and proposed that he should mend the cup with cement. The man sorrowfully answered that the king's sharp eye would detect the cracks. Nevertheless, the queen insisted that he should mend the cup as neatly as he could, and should be sure to give it to her that afternoon at tea-time, when the king would be present. This was done, and the queen, after drinking her tea from the mended cup, rose suddenly, and let the cup fall to the floor, breaking it into fragments. 'Think of me as one of the most awkward of your Majesty's servants,' she said, with humility. 'I have broken one of your precious Sevres cups. You must discharge me at once. I don't deserve to remain in your service.' The arbitrary old king was amused at her demure manner, and considered the accident a good joke. The poor servant, standing behind the tray, cast a grateful look in the direction of the queen. The king never learned the truth about the broken cup.

A CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION

It happened in a crowded street car in Boston. The noted Rabbi Hirsch had arisen to give his seat to a young woman, but before she could take it a burly young fellow slid into it.

The rabbi looked meaningfully at him, and, after an uncomfortable silence, the young fellow blurted out:

'Well, what're you glarin', at me for? Want to eat me, eh?'

'No,' calmly replied the rabbi; 'I am forbidden to eat you—I am a Jew.'

ODDS AND ENDS

Tommy, did you give your little brother the best part of that apple, as I told you to?

Yessum; I gave him the seeds. He can plant 'em and have a whole orchard!

'Then you have never had educational advantages?' said a good woman to a small boy.

'No, marm, not as I know of. I've had airysipilas. If what you said is worse'n that, I don't want to ketch it.'

FAMILY FUN

What do we often catch, but never see?—A passing remark.

Why should every clock be avoided?—Because they all strike one.

What does every artist like to draw best?—His salary.

When is last year's frock like a secret?—When it is let out.

Why may a beggar wear a short coat?—Because it will be long enough before he gets another.

Why is it wise to tell an oyster a secret?—Because it knows how to keep its mouth shut.

What is the difference between a policeman and a threepenny-piece?—A policeman being a 'copper,' the difference is 'twopence.'

How many sticks go to the building of a crow's nest?—None; they are all carried to it.

Which peer wears the largest hat?—The one with the biggest head.

Why is a hansom cab a dangerous carriage to drive in?—Because the cabman drives over your head.

When should you avoid the edge of a river?—When the hedges are shooting, and the bull-rushes out.

Why must a fisherman be very wealthy?—Because his is all net profit.

Why is gooseberry jam like counterfeit money?—Because it is not current.

Why does a duck put its head under water?—For diver's reasons.

All Sorts

In making a thing go as far as possible be careful not to stretch the truth.

A woman's way out of an embarrassing position is hysterics; a man's the door.

It is better to do with less than you can use than to want more than you need.

The only way to keep happiness is to give it. We save it when we scatter it everywhere.

Official figures show that from April, 1906, to April, 1907, the emigration from Italy was 786,977, compared with 726,331 for the preceding twelve months.

Floor Walker—'Gloves, miss? Yes, you will find the kids' counter on the right!' Rising Fifteen (witheringly)—'Really! And where, pray, shall I find the ladies' counter?'

A kind old gentleman, seeing a small boy who was carrying a lot of newspapers under his arm, said: 'Don't all those papers make you tired, my boy?' 'Naw, I don't read 'em,' replied the lad.

Conductors on the German State railways are to be discharged unless they can pass an examination in the English and French languages. Some of them have been twenty years in the service.

The interest paid by New Zealand on its national debt tots up to about £7000 a day for every day in the year, Sundays included. In addition to this are all the debts of the local bodies, harbor boards, etc., probably mounting up to at least another £1000 per day for interest alone.

'Look here,' shouted the irate neighbor over the fence, 'your youngest son has been stoning my cats and pilfering my apple trees. He is a scamp!' 'Don't talk that way about my son,' blurted the fond parent. 'Why, he is considered the cream of my family.' 'The cream, eh? Well, I'd like to see him whipped!'

Twenty-four miles of warships were inspected by King Edward on August 3 in the Solent. The King, who was accompanied by Queen Alexandra and other members of the Royal Family, passed on his yacht down the lines formed by nearly two hundred war craft, comprising battleships, armored cruisers, torpedo boats, gun-boats, destroyers, etc. This immense force was manned by 35,500 men.

A gentleman was introduced at a reception to a charming lady, who, his friend said, was a countess. The next day the two were passing through some city offices, when the young lady in question was discovered with a pile of bills in front of her. 'I thought you said she was a countess,' remarked the gentleman. 'I did, and she is considered one of the quickest countesses in the department.'

Sir Robert Ball has an amusing story of a Chinaman who entered the bridge over the Niagara Falls. He started from the American side with the idea of crossing over to Canada. On arriving, at the Canadian end, however, he was met with the information that there was a toll of £10 on all Chinamen coming into Canada. John had not ten cents in his pocket. So he started off back again. Arriving once more at the American side, he was stopped. No Chinaman, under any circumstances, they told him, was allowed to enter the United States. Now the problem, which Sir Robert Ball professes himself unable to answer, is, where is that Chinaman now? Is he still on the bridge? If not, by what process of circumnavigation were the laws of two great nations circumnavigated?

The first banks* of which we have record were established in Italy so far back as 808 by the Lombard Jews, who had benches or counters erected in the market places for the exchange of money and bills. It is from their banco, or bench, that banks have taken their name. The earliest bankers were also goldsmiths and dealers in precious stones, but with the advance of civilisation banking became a distinct business. Merchants had deposited their cash in the mint in the Tower of London until Charles I. laid hands upon the money in 1640. In 1645 traders agreed to lodge their money with the goldsmiths of Lombard street, who had strong chests for their own valuables, and this was the origin of banking in Britain. The chief banks in Europe were established as follows: Venice, 1171; Genoa, 1345; Hamburg, 1619; Holland, 1635; Bank of England, 1694; Scotland, 1695; Ireland, 1783; France, 1803; United States, 1816.

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