

A GOOD WAY TO LEARN

Learn from the past; improve yourself from past experience; avoid your faults; and with good resolutions and trust in God coupled with your earnest endeavors, you will improve. If you are unmindful of the past, if you forget the lessons taught, if you are as rash, as foolish with time, work, duties, then you have lived in vain, and you are blind and deaf and irrational. You are a deliberate idiot, an obstacle to your own success and happiness.

CHEER HIM

A fireman was scaling a ladder standing against a burning building, to reach an upper storey, where a child was sleeping, which had been forgotten by the inmates in their flight from the building.

He was checked in his progress by the flames and smoke, when a voice in the crowd cried out:

'Cheer him!'

Up went a shout from the multitude, and on went the fireman through smoke and flames, until he reached the room, caught up the child in his arm, returned down the ladder, and triumphantly presented the child to the horror-stricken mother.

There is no laudable undertaking to which the above principle may not be applied.

When a child becomes discouraged at school, cheer him on. His studies will be easier, and his heart lighter.

When a young man becomes discouraged in looking for employment, give him a cheer. Perhaps at the very next door he will find the task he seeks.

When a sick person grows faint and almost hopeless, speak the cheering word. You may thus save a life and prolong usefulness.

No matter what worthy thing people are trying to do, give them a bracing cheer. You will never know how much you can accomplish by a bit of voice and breath.

ODDS AND ENDS

One day four-year-old Fred climbed upon a chair to reach something he wanted.

'You must not get on that chair with your feet, dear,' said his mother.

Fred looked down at his feet, evidently puzzled. 'Why, mamma,' he said, 'I can't take 'em off.'

'Are you chief engineer of this concern?' asked an excited individual of the sub-editor.

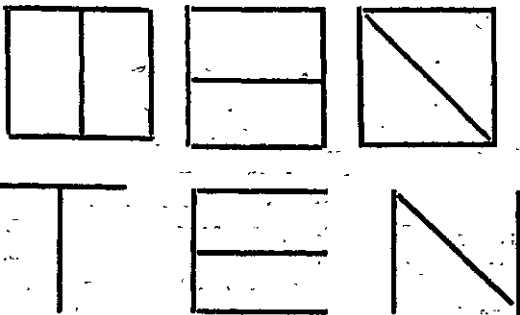
'No, sir, I'm not the engineer; I'm the boiler,' and he proceeded to bolt down six sheets of matter into a note of six lines.

FAMILY FUN

What is the difference between (1) a gardener, (2) a billiard player, (3) a gentleman, and (4) a sexton?

The first minds his peas; the second minds his cues; the third minds his p's and q's; the fourth minds his keys and pews.

A Simple Match Puzzle.—Here is a very simple match trick. The puzzle is to take 6 matches away from 15 and leave 10. This is done by taking 6 matches from 15 and leaving the word 'ten,' thus:—



Strong as Sandow.—If the tips of the two first fingers be placed one against the other in such a manner as to force the elbows out from the body, it is impossible for anyone to pull the arms apart. Of course, the pull must be given sideways, not to the front. Or, again, if the hand is laid on the top of the head, not all the exertion possible of some other individual will suffice to drag the arm from that position in an upward direction.

All Sorts

Mother (laughing) to Tommy, who talks rather much—'Tommy, you must learn to hold your tongue.'

Tommy (after a faithful trial)—'I can't mother, it's too slippery.'

Sir Frank Lockwood was once engaged in a case in which Sir Charles Russell (the late Lord Chief Justice of England) was the opposing counsel. Sir Charles was trying to browbeat a witness into giving a direct answer, 'Yes,' or 'No.'

'You can answer any question yes or no,' declared Sir Charles.

'Oh, can you?' retorted Lockwood. 'May I ask you if you have left off beating your wife?'

Pardon me; your necktie has been sticking out for some time. I refrained from telling you sooner because those young ladies seemed so much amused.

Thanks, an' the oil from that lamp has been droppin' on that light overcoat o' yours for the last ten minutes, but everyone seemed so tickled that I hated to spoil the fun.

In some parts of the Tyrol a beautiful though curious custom prevails. When a girl is going to be married, and just before she leaves for the church, her mother gives her a handkerchief, which is called a tearkerchief. It is made of newly spun and unused linen, and with it the girl dries the unnatural tears she sheds when leaving her home. The tearkerchief is never used after the marriage day but is folded up and placed in the linen closet, where it remains till its owner's death, when it is taken from its place and spread over her dead face.

A curious person of a certain town, who loved to find out everything about the new residents, espied the son of a new neighbor, one morning in the doctor's.

'Good morning,' he said. 'Little boy, what is your name?'

'Same as dad's,' was the quick reply.

'Of course, I know, little boy, but what is your dad's name, dear?'

'Same as mine, sir.'

Still he persisted.

'I mean, what do they say when they call you to breakfast?'

'They don't never call me; I allus gets there first. See?'

The cotton handkerchiefs provided for French soldiers have printed upon them a number of sanitary precepts to be observed on the march and during a campaign, and are further decorated with medallions containing pictures of officers of all grades, the different uniforms being so distinctly portrayed that a French private can tell at once to what grade any officer he may see belongs.

Finger-print identification has been extended to commercial uses by the Postal Savings Bank of the Philippines at Manila. This bank has recently issued a series of stamp deposit cards on which are spaces for stamps of different values to be affixed. When the depositor has stamps to the value of one peso on the card it is exchanged at the bank for a deposit book showing the amount to his credit. Opposite the lines for the owner's signature and address is a square ruled off for the reception of his thumb-print; so that, even if illiterate, depositors may readily be identified.

The Termite, or 'White Ant,' as it is popularly but wrongly called, is the acknowledged head of the building insects. There are other insects that erect habitations that are truly wonderful, but there is not one that can compete with the Termite in the size and solidity of the structure it builds. The Termite is not really an ant at all, but belongs to the same family as the dragon-fly, the May-fly, and beautiful Lacewing-fly. It is very common in all the warmer parts of the earth, and is a social insect living in vast colonies, and making most remarkable nests, which consist of a large and complicated series of passages and rooms, sheltered beneath a strong outer covering of clay. These walls, although made only of clay, are nearly as hard as stone and quite as hard as many of the bricks of which some of our modern houses are built. The form of the nest is essentially conical, a large cone generally occupying the centre, and smaller cones being grouped around. They are often fourteen or fifteen feet high, and sometimes even reach the height of twenty feet. The natives of Africa eat the Termites; and, in fact, they consider them a special luxury. They also use the smaller nests when opened and emptied as ovens.