

THE FORCE OF LOGIC

The old couple were eating their first meal with their son after his return from college. 'Tell us, John,' said his father, 'what have you learned at college?'

'Oh, lots of things,' said the son, as he recited his course of studies. 'Then,' he concluded, 'I've also studied logic.'

'Logic?' said the old man. 'What is that, my boy?'

'Well,' replied the son, 'let me give you a demonstration. How many chickens are on that dish, father?'

'Two,' said the old man.

'Well,' said John, 'I can prove that there are three.' Then he stuck his fork in one, and said, 'That is one, isn't it?'

'Yes,' replied the father.

'And this is two,' sticking the fork into the second.

'Yes,' replied the father again.

'Well, don't one and two make three?' replied John, triumphantly.

'Well, I declare,' said his father, 'you have learned things at college. Well, mother,' continued the old man, to his wife, 'I will give you one of the chickens to eat, and I will take the other, and John can have the third. How is that, John?'

HID HIS FEATURES

'Yes, I have a pretty big mouth, for a fact,' admitted the candid man, 'but I have learned to keep it shut, and that counts for something when you take your levels. I received a lesson when I was a small boy, that I have never forgotten. I was born and brought up on a farm and I had the country boy habit of going around with my mouth wide open, especially if there was anything unusual going on. One day an uncle, whom I had not seen for years, paid us a visit.

'Hullo, uncle,' said I, looking at him with my mouth opened like a barn door.

'He looked at me for a moment without answering, and then said:

'Close your mouth, sonny, so I can see who you are.'

'I took the lesson to heart,' said the candid man, 'and resolved that from that day I would not allow my mouth to conceal my identity.'

ODDS AND ENDS

'You haven't caught Mrs. Blank's expression at all!' 'No,' replied the painter, 'but I flatter myself I've caught her notion of her expression.'

Gentleman (getting into the carriage)—'That tooth must come out to-day under any circumstances. Drive me to the nearest dentist—but go slow!'

'It is simply impossible for me to find bread for my family,' said the loafer. 'Same way here,' remarked the grocer; 'I have to work for it.'

FAMILY FUN

Incombustible Wood.—Alum and glue in equal parts are dissolved in water strongly saturated with salt. Dip splinters of wood into the fluid until every part is saturated; let them dry and repeat the process. Wood prepared in such a way will not burn. To make the trick more interesting and to avoid the suspicion that the splinters are prepared, mix them among other unprepared splinters after marking them in a certain way. After burning a few splinters pick out one of the prepared ones and declare that by your magic influence the splinter you hold in your hand will become incombustible. Hand it over to the audience, and it is easily understood that nobody will be able to set it afire.

Why are fowls the most economical things a farmer can keep?—Because for every grain they give a peck.

What would you call a boy who eats green apples?—A pains-taking youngster.

What is the difference between a doctor who is timing a pulse and a champion walker?—One records the beat and the other beats the record.

All Sorts

A wren in the hand is better than a crane out of it.

The end of a feast is better than the beginning of a quarrel.

An official return states that over 180,000 children are being taught Irish in the primary schools of Ireland.

'Mamma, why do so many ladies cry at a wedding?' 'Because most of them are married themselves.'

It is a revelation to the visitor on his first crossing to Ireland (says the London *Tattler*) to find there a system of tourist traffic organised by native enterprise creditable to any country.

Indian 'snake statistics' for 1907 show that the total of deaths from snakebite fell in that year to 21,418, the lowest figure since 1897.

Mr. McInnes, the freight traffic manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway, estimates the value of the wheat, oats, and barley crops in the Dominion at £27,000,000.

Timid passenger—'Do you ever lose people in the river?' Boatman—'Bless yer 'art, no, num. We always finds them in a week or so!'

Bagwig—'What was the greatest trial you ever presided over, my lord?' His Lordship—'Bringing up ten daughters, sir.'

The total immigration into Canada for the first eight months of this year was 117,533, as compared with 216,772 in the same period of 1907. Immigration from the United States totalled 40,964.

Nellie, aged five, had her photograph taken recently, and when the proof was sent home her mother said she looked too solemn, and asked why she didn't smile. 'I did smile, mamma,' said Nellie, 'but I guess the man forgot to put it down.'

A parent was examining his first-grade hopeful in geography. 'What is land with water all around it called?' 'An island.' 'Then what is water with land all around it?' After a pause: 'A puddle.'

The only time that a man feels ashamed of a kind action is when he is chasing another man's hat that is blowing along in the wind at thirty miles an hour with an interested crowd of observers on either side of the way offering him facetious advice.

The Dentist—Now, open wide your mouth and I won't hurt you a bit.

The Patient (after the extraction)—Doctor, I know what Ananias did for a living now.

A circular of information given to purchasers of infants' patent feeding bottles contains this advice: 'When the baby is done drinking it must be unscrewed and put in a cold place under a tap. If the baby does not thrive on fresh milk it must be boiled.'

Tailor—'There, now. That suit certainly fits you perfectly.' Customer—'Yes, indeed; you may safely feel proud of that. It's a credit to you.' Tailor—'Well—er—yes; and I hope you won't forget that it's a debit to you.'

An Irishman walking in one of the streets of Dublin saw a man leading a dog on the opposite side of the street.

He got rather interested in the dog, and, crossing the street, he touched the man on the shoulder and said: 'Would ye mind telling me the breed of that dog?'

The man, who happened to be in a bad temper, turned round, and, looking at the Irishman, said: 'Yes, it's between a monkey and an Irishman.'

'Sure,' said Pat, 'it's related to both of us.'

An interesting tabular statement has been published by the London County Council dealing with the debts of towns with a population of over 250,000. It is worth noting that the rateable value of London per head of population is £38.89, and this is only approached by Edinburgh with £8.25 per head, the lowest being Dublin with £2.06 per head. London's debt is given as £109,928,546; Manchester has a debt of £22,521,000, Glasgow £17,584,000, Birmingham £16,986,000, Liverpool, £14,870,000, and Leeds £12,277,000. The total debt per head of population in London is £23 9s 3d, but this high figure is exceeded by Manchester with £35 13s 6d, Birmingham with £31 5s 8d, Bradford with £28 15s 10d, and Leeds with £26 17s 8d.