

LISTENING TO MUSIC

People who go to concerts and engage in conversation during the performance, to the annoyance of others, richly deserve to be called to account publicly for their offence, because, whether or not one enjoys the music, one has no right to spoil it for others.

At a certain concert, an exchange relates, a young man persisted in whispering loudly to the lady who accompanied him, telling her what the music 'meant,' what sort of a passage was coming next, and so on.

Presently he closed his eyes and said to his companion: 'Did you ever try listening to music with your eyes shut? You've no idea how much better it sounds.'

Hereupon a gentleman who sat in the seat in front of the young man twisted himself about and said gravely:

'Young man, did you ever try listening to music with your mouth shut?'

Thenceforth the silence in that part of the hall is said to have been almost painful.

FUNNY LITTLE ONES

Little Bertram had always longed for a live pet, but as he lived in an apartment building, he had to be satisfied with toy animals.

Later his parents moved to the country, and Bertram became the happy possessor of a kitten. He hugged it close and remarked, 'At last I am the parents of a living creature!'

Marjorie, aged nine, had not been having very satisfactory reports from school. Her father finally said, 'Marjorie, for the first hundred you get I'll give you a dollar.' Time went on and the reward could not be claimed. One day the child was taken violently ill. Her mother sent for the doctor. When he had gone Marjorie said, 'Mamma, am I very ill?'

'No, dear; your temperature is a little over a hundred, but the doctor thinks you will be all right in a day or so.'

Smiles broke through Marjorie's tears.

'Now, mamma, I can have my dollar. Papa said he would give it to me if I could get a hundred in anything.'

ODDS AND ENDS

'Young man,' said the pompous individual, 'I did not always have this carriage. When I first started in life I had to walk.'

'You were lucky,' said the youth. 'When I first started in life I had to be carried.'

The star pupil arose at the school entertainment to declaim his piece.

'Lend me your ears!' he bawled.

'Ha!' sneered the mother of the opposition, but defeated pupil, 'that's Sarah Jane Doran's boy. He wouldn't be his mother's son if he didn't want to borrow something.'

A fashionable Miss was 'coming out,' and her proud mamma was so excited over the fact that she proclaimed it, metaphorically speaking, from the housetops. Even the charwoman had it. 'You will be pleased to hear, Mrs. Moore,' said proud mamma, 'that Miss Flora "comes out" next week.' 'Well, mum,' replied the worthy washer, 'I am pleased. An' so does my husband! How long did Miss Flora get? William got six months!'

FAMILY FUN

A Funnel Pump.—Take a funnel and put it, large end downward, in a pan of water. By moving it up and down rapidly, the water will rise in the small end, and by practice may be made to spout a considerable distance. This experiment is better tried in the open air than in the house.

A Magic Ring.—This is a German idea. It is made as follows:—Cut a strip of paper two by fifteen inches. Draw a line on both sides along the exact middle. In order to distinguish between the two sides, indicate one line by dots, the other by dashes. Paste the ends of the paper together so that the centre line will be continuous, but join the dotted line to the line of the dashes. This will give a twist to the ring. With a pair of scissors carefully cut through the middle line all the way round the ring. How many rings there will then be you will see for yourself.

All Sorts

A peer cannot resign his peerage.

About one-third of the houses in Great Britain are lighted by gas.

Extreme heat is more fatal to human life than extreme cold.

The occupants of a balloon a mile high command a radius of ninety-six miles.

Fully one-third of the land in Great Britain is owned by members of the House of Lords.

There is said to be no record of the existence of the camel in a wild state.

The rafflesia of Sumatra is the largest flower in the world. It has five petals, each one a foot wide.

Only 6 per cent. of amputation cases result fatally at present, owing to the improvement in antiseptic surgery.

Some of the screws made for the use of watchmakers are so tiny that 100,000 could be placed in an ordinary thimble.

Among elephants both sexes of the African species have ivory tusks, while in Asia these are generally restricted to the male.

The two deepest water wells in the world are those at Buda-Pesth and at St. Louis, U.S.A. The former is 3180 feet, the latter 3840 feet deep.

In Italy there are cultivated every year 1,250,000oz of silkworm eggs, and there are produced 110,000,000lb of cocoons. Lombardy produces fully half of this total.

It has been computed that there are eight hundred millions in gold and jewels at the bottom of the sea on the route between England and India.

A Dunedin man whose bicycle was stolen from a stand in a right-of-way now politely asks the stealer to send for the pump and lamp, as he has no further use for them.

During the last year Canada drew upon the United States for 58,312 immigrants. Over 120,000 came from the Mother Country, and 84,000 from the Continent of Europe.

In some of the Austrian schools elocution is taught to a certain extent by the use of the phonograph, through which the pupils are made familiar with the famous speeches of history.

During a lecture at one of the leading colleges on the subject of 'Ventilation and Architecture,' the temperature of the room rose to a very high pitch.

'And now we will turn to Greece,' said the lecturer.

'So we will,' said one of the audience, wiping his brow, 'unless you open some of the windows.'

Rome a city of the Italian Kingdom (says the *Daily Chronicle*) was one thing, and Rome the capital of that kingdom was another matter. It implied the gradual loss of everything for which the educated world held Rome in unique honor. Unfortunately the modernising process is done in the last and lowest taste of architectural vulgarity. Rome is becoming not only a parody, but a very dreary and silly parody of Paris.

A nervous man took the chair, or rather was forced into it, at a political meeting in the North Island the other day. When the candidate for parliamentary honors had struggled manfully through a speech, which lasted nearly two hours, the chairman stood up and asked someone to propose 'a vote of thanks for the instructive speech to which we have so ably listened.' An able listener is not to be despised, but a patient one would be more at home on such an occasion.

The customs of old times are brought to mind when one visits Breadsall Parish Church, near Derby (says the *London Standard*). In this church is a set of chained books which are kept in an old oak desk at the eastern end of the north aisle. The desk is a double one, with hinged lids which can be locked. One recess contains Burnett's 'History of the Reformation,' published in 1679 and 1681, and the 'Works of Josephus,' printed in 1702. On the other side of the desk are 'Works of John Jewell, Bishop of Salisbury,' 1605; 'Discourses of Some London Divines,' 1694; 'History of the Early Martyrs,' 1687, by William Cave, D.D.; 'History of the Fathers to the Fourth Century,' 1683, by Dr. Cave, and 'History of the Apostles,' 1684, by Dr. Cave. Each book is attached to the desk by a light chain two feet long so as to prevent any unauthorised person from removing it.