

### INCONTESTABLE

They were trying an Irishman, charged with a petty offence, in a country town, when the magistrate asked:

'Have you anyone in court who will vouch for your good character?'

'Yes, your Honor,' quickly responded the Celt. 'There's the sergeant there.'

Whereupon the sergeant evinced signs of great amazement. 'Why, your Honor,' declared he, 'I don't even know the man!'

'Observe, your Honor,' said the Irishman, triumphantly, 'observe that I've lived in the district for over twelve years, an' the sergeant doesn't know me yet! Isn't that a character for you?'

### HEAD AND SHOES

A certain Chicago merchant died, leaving to his only son the conduct of an extensive business, and great doubt was expressed in some quarters whether the young man possessed the ability to carry out the father's policies.

'Well,' said one kindly disposed friend, 'for my part, I think Henry is very bright and capable. I'm sure he will succeed.'

'Perhaps you're right,' said another friend. 'Henry is undoubtedly a clever fellow; but take it from me, old man, he hasn't got the head to fill his father's shoes.'

### HARD HIT

It was kit inspection, and the sergeant-major was making the examination, when his eagle eye detected the absence of soap in the kit of Private Flynn, and he demanded what excuse the man had to give.

'Please, sir, it's all used,' said Flynn.

'Used!' shouted the sergeant-major; 'why, the first cake of soap I had served me for my kit lasted for three years, and you are not a year in the ranks yet. How do you account for that?'

Flynn's eye had the faintest suspicion of a twinkle as he replied: 'Please, sir, I wash every day.'

And the sergeant-major walked on while the entire company grinned.

### ODDS AND ENDS

He was a wise man who said that the world was filled with fools, and that he who wanted to escape the sight of one had to lock himself up alone and smash his looking-glass.

Brown looked at his watch with concern. 'I can't understand it,' he says to his wife. 'What has happened to my watch? I think it must want cleaning.'

'No, papa,' chimes in little Fanny. 'I am quite sure it is clean, because baby and I have washed it in the basin.'

Doctor, what makes people have the hiccups?

"Hiccup" is the onomatopoeic word popularly used to designate signatus, which is a sudden closure of the glottis, super-induced by a spasmodic contraction of the diaphragm.

'Ye-es; that's what I tell my wife.'

### FAMILY FUN

To Tell a Selected Card.—Take from a pack of cards an odd number which is divisible by three—twenty-one, twenty-seven, thirty-three, etc. Deal out the cards in three piles, one at a time, and ask one of the company to think of one of the cards as they are dealt out, and remember it. You ask him, when the cards are all dealt out, in which pile is the card he selected. Place that pile between the two others, deal them again in three piles, and ask him to tell you in which pile the card appears. Place that pile in the centre, between the other piles, and deal them again, and again ask in which pile the card appears. Place this pile in the middle, and then run through them, counting the cards until you come to the centre card. This will be the card thought of. Do not, however, take it from the pack, but run through the remainder of the cards; then shuffle them, and holding them face down ask another member of the company to draw a card, to add ten to its value, calling a knave eleven, a queen twelve, and a king thirteen. Now tell him to double that number, multiply it by ten again, and divide the product by thirteen and tell you the remainder, if any. As soon as he tells the result of his calculations tell the card which the other person selected. This latter process has nothing to do with the telling of the card, but is only done to mystify the company.

## All Sorts

On the Junfrau, in Switzerland, is the highest restaurant in the world—10,000 feet above sea-level.

Prisoners condemned to death in Greece have to wait two years before the death penalty is carried out.

Owing to the lack of farm hands in Austria, 'good-conduct' convicts are being employed as agricultural laborers.

Lightning, when it strikes a tree, sometimes converts the sap into steam with such energy that it explodes, scattering the wood in every direction.

The most costly tomb in existence is that which was erected to the memory of Mohammed. The diamonds and rubies used in the decorations are worth £2,000,000.

Guernsey, which measures scarcely 21 square miles, exports annually to London and provincial markets over 20,000 tons of tomatoes and fruit, which realise a sum of over £500,000.

A perfect diamond must be free from the faintest tinge of color, though when it has a decided color, such as blue, green, etc., it becomes a fancy stone, and will bring a fancy price.

'See here, Mr. Editor, I thought your paper was friendly to me. See what you have done. I made a speech at the banquet last night, and you haven't printed a word of it.' 'Well, what further proof do you want?'

'Pardon me,' said the Christchurch lady on a marketing expedition, 'but are these eggs fresh laid?' 'Absolutely, madam,' replied the grocer, promptly. 'The farmer I purchased those eggs from won't allow his hens to lay them any other way.'

Jones (to Brown, who has been relating his wonderful adventures in Russia): 'And I suppose you visited the great steppes of Russia?' Brown: 'I should rather think so, and walked up every one of them on my hands and knees.'

'You ought to be ashamed of yourself,' observed the Sunday school teacher severely to the small girl who had but too obviously omitted to wash her face that morning. 'Look at your little brother; see how nice and clean he is.' The small girl sniffed. 'Well,' she replied, 'it's 'is birfday.'

Friend (noticing the confused heaps of goods of every description scattered promiscuously about the shop): 'Hello! What's happened? Been taking an inventory, had a fire, or are you going to move out?' Draper: 'That shows how little you know about the drapery business. We have merely been waiting on a lady who dropped in for a paper of pins.'

There are 37 clerks in the House of Commons, only three of whom sit in the House itself. The remainder are divided between the four main offices situated in various parts of the building—the Public Bill Office, the Journal Office, the Committee Office, and the Private Bill Office. The head of this body is the Clerk of the House, who sits at the table in the seat nearest the Treasury bench.

The New York correspondent of the London *Express* says: 'According to the estimates of the municipal authorities, the present population of New York City is 4,500,000—an increase of half a million in the past four years. The city contains 1,800,000 Germans and children of Germans, almost as many as there are in Berlin; 1,200,000 Irish, or more Irish than there are in Dublin; 750,000 Jews, more than there are in any other city in the world; and 450,000 Italians, ranking New York next to Naples, Milan, and Rome as an Italian metropolis. The rest of the population is divided among representatives of almost every nationality in the world. There are also some Americans. The annual budget of the city is £31,200,000, one-fifth that of the United Kingdom.'

Smithfield (says a writer in the *Daily Mail*) is the largest meat market in the world. The other week there entered it 7900 tons of supplies. Perhaps 'a ton of meat' does not convey a very clear idea to your mind. Think, then, of a pound of meat. Now multiply it by seventeen and a half millions. London last week consumed 17,696,000 pounds of meat—over 1100 tons a day. And that was a small supply. The daily average for last year, omitting Sundays and bank holidays, was 1611 tons. Where does this enormous quantity of meat come from? Clearly it is not all Home-grown, for as one looks out of railway-carriage windows in England one sees ample pasture land, but few cattle or sheep. Our own farmers supply only a small percentage of the 720,000 bullocks, 6,150,000 sheep, and 800,000 pigs which London's appetite calls for in a year.

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