

**A DUSTER**

A man had been invited unexpectedly to make an automobile trip, and was not fully prepared for it. The roads were very dusty, and after travelling several miles the party came to a village, where the man thought he might be able to purchase something to protect his clothing. The automobile halted before the general store of the village. The man alighted and accosted the single clerk. 'I want to get a linen duster,' he said. 'I am sorry,' returned the clerk, easily, 'we are out of linen dusters. But I can let you have a nice feather duster.'

**FAMILY FLORICULTURE**

There is a well-known resident of Christchurch who is a lover of nature and a hater of overcoats and umbrellas. Recently during a violent rain storm he called on his mother, entering her presence wringing wet. 'George,' said she, firmly, 'you ought not to expose yourself in such weather. You will get pneumonia.' 'But, mother,' exclaimed George, with a theatrical waive of his head, 'Why should I fear the rain? Does it not nurture the grass? Is it not life to the flowers?' 'Yes, George,' said the good woman, closing a window, 'but it is a long time since you were a flower.'

**THE OBJECT OF HER SCRUTINY**

An old gentleman who owned a fine estate not far from the country seat of the Duke of Devonshire (which is open to the public when the Duke is not there) one day drove with a party of friends to this famous residence, taking with him his housekeeper, Martha, a good old soul who had been with him a great many years. Arriving at the castle, they passed slowly through room after room of almost priceless pictures. But Martha spake never a word, although it was evident that she was not missing anything. Each and every picture that her eye lit on underwent a most rigid scrutiny, much to the amusement of the rest of the party. At last her master turned to her and said: 'Well, Martha, what do you think of it all?' 'Why,' exploded Martha, rapturously, 'I canna see a speck o' dust anywhere!'

**NOT TO BE CAUGHT**

An amusing incident occurred on a certain railway not long back. Professor D—, a well known ventriloquist, was bidding adieu to some friends, when one of them presented him with a little fox-terrier to which he had taken a great fancy. When the cry 'All tickets!' was heard at a few stations farther on, Professor D— popped the dog into a small hamper which was labelled 'Prof. D—, Ventriloquist,' in bold letters. When the conductor opened the door the dog began barking, which drew his attention to the hamper. The conductor looked at the hamper, and then read the label. Turning round to Professor D—, with a knowing wink and a broad grin, he said:— 'All right, mister, I ain't biting just now; I've been caught like that before.'

**FAMILY FUN**

Fun With Numbers.—Write the nine digits in order, and beneath them write them in reverse order, thus:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Any two in succession will add with the two directly below them to 10, and so on, so that the total sum will be 1,111,111,110. If any two digits and the two directly below are added diagonally, as—

34  
76

one pair will always add to 9 and the other to 11. If this is done when three digits are taken in each line and the addition is done after the same fashion—

234  
876

combining the left hand upper with the right hand lower, the sums will always be 8, 10, and 12. When four are used in the same manner, the sums are 7, 9, 11, and 13. Similar results may be obtained with any combination up to the entire nine on each row where the sums are all the even numbers from 2 to 18.

If the digits in direct order from 1 to 9 as in the first line are multiplied by 2, 4, 5, 7, or 8, the product in every case will contain only the nine digits, each appearing once, but with a different order. The products are 246,913,578; 493,827,156; 617,283,945; 864,197,523; and 987,654,312. When multiplied by 9, the product is 1,111,111,101, or nine 1's and a 0.

**All Sorts**

The London Stock Exchange has 5400 members. Conscripts in France have to serve for two years. Nearly all of the world's supply of asbestos comes from Canada.

Mr. W. P. Frith painted his famous picture, 'Derby Day,' after only one visit to the race. It is estimated that in Egypt there are 10,000,000 people who can neither read nor write.

In London alone there are some 2000 societies and institutions for the relief of misery and suffering.

Germany has built a motor-car, armed with a quick-firing gun, specially adapted for use against airships.

The largest flower in the world is found in Sumatra. Its size is fully 3ft in diameter—about the size of a carriage wheel.

Russia has a larger proportion of blind people than any other European country. Two out of every 1000 of her people are sightless.

Office Boy: 'Here's a lady what insists on seein' you. She's awful excited!'

Editor: 'Then escort her to the composing-room!'

Every rule has an exception. For instance, we are told that the road to success is to begin at the bottom and work up, but this would scarcely be successful if we started to dig a well.

'I have written a book that everybody ought to read,' said the author. 'I'm afraid it won't do,' answered the publisher. 'What the public seems to want now is a book that nobody ought to read.'

'What do you think of the tariff revision?'

'It strikes me that the tariff is a good deal like the weather. No matter what kind you get, it's pretty sure to be bad for somebody's business.'

Magistrate: 'You say he admitted stealing the wheelbarrow. Now, I want to know what were the exact words he made use of. Did he say, "I stole the wlieelbarrow?"'

Witness: 'Oh, no, sir. Your name was never mentioned.'

'My grandfather,' said the new neighbor, who was making a duty-call, 'was a great portrait-painter. With one stroke he could change a smiling face into a sad one.'

'Huh!' exclaimed small Johnny, who happened to be in the parlor, 'our teacher can do that.'

It was at a theatre in Dublin. The king, aged and infirm, was blessed with two sons. He was pacing up and down the stage, with a wearied, troubled look, exclaiming aloud: 'On which of these sons shall I bestow the crown?' The house was nearly brought down with laughter when a little man in the gallery stood up and shouted: 'Treat 'em fair, guv'nor; can't ye give 'em half-a-crown apiece?'

A certain member of the British Government, who was admittedly a great failure, was being discussed by two of his colleagues.

'And now,' concluded one, 'they want to make him a peer!'

'No,' said the other, with great acumen, 'they want to make him disappear.'

Dooley's summing up of the playhouse reform controversy is interesting: 'S'trange to say, both sides admit that th' theaytre is an idjacational institution. I never thought iv it that way. I always supposed that people went to th' theaytre because they had no comfortable homes to go to, or to fr'git th' dishes weren't washed, or to laugh or cry or have a good spell iv coughing where it wud attract attintion. But it seems I was wrong. Th' theaytre is intinded to be more like a night school thin a circus. It's a good thing fr' th' theaytres that th' people that go to thim don't know this. If they felt they were bein' idjacated whin they thought they were neglectin' their minds they'd mob th' box office to get their money back. Anny recollection they have iv idjacation is clouded with sorrow.'

The largest plants that grow in the world—exceeding in size even the giant sequoias of California—are found in the waters of the Pacific Ocean, at the extremities of the western hemisphere, and belong to the order of brown seaweeds. Off the Alaskan coast and among the Aleutian Islands, is the sea otter's cabbage. On the surface of the water floats a barrel-shaped air vessel, six or seven feet long, from which grows a mass of foliage consisting of forty or fifty great fronds, each one of which may be from thirty to fifty feet in length. Upon the air vessel the sea otter lurks while it pursues its vocation of fishing for a living. The whole floating mass is anchored in place by a slender, cord-like stalk that is attached to the rocks far below. This anchor line often exceeds three hundred feet in length, and is so strong and slender that sections of it are cured and used by the Aleutian Islanders for fishing lines. At the other extremity of the hemisphere is a related plant said by botanists sometimes to exceed 1500 feet in length, being in this respect the greatest thing in the world. Instead of one large air vessel, this has many small ones, supporting a floating mass of vegetation hundreds of square yards in area.