

'Well, then, I'll tell you one. Will patience and perseverance ever enable you to carry water in a sieve?'

'Certainly.'

'I would like to know how.'

'Simply by waiting patiently for the water to freeze.'

IMPROMPTU PUNS

Alexander Pope was one of the first Englishmen to decry the pun. It was, he said, a species of wit so triflingly easy that he would 'engage to make one on any subject proposed off-hand.'

'Well, then, Mr. Pope,' said a lady of the company, 'make one on keel-hauling.'

Quick as a flash he replied: 'That, madam, is indeed putting a man under a hardship.'

Theodore Hook once bragged that he could make a pun on any subject.

'Well, then,' said a friend, 'make one on the King.'

'The King is no subject,' replied the wit.

To a similar boast of Douglas Jerrold a member of the Garrick Club replied:—

'Can you make a pun on the signs of the zodiac?'

'By Gemini, I can, sir!' was the double-barrelled retort.

Dr. John Watson; better known as Ian Maclaren, was another wag who boasted of his facility in punning. At a dinner in London, where many literary men were present, he asserted that he could make as good a pun as anyone in the room. The challenge was accepted. Thereupon Dr. Watson assumed a serious mien and appeared lost in thought.

'Come, now, Watson!' exclaimed Hall Caine. 'We are all waiting.'

'Quite so,' flashed back the other; 'but please don't be in such a hurry, Caine.'

THE REASON

A certain football club had received its first reverse of the season.

This was the more galling when the defeated ones reflected that their conquerors had absolutely no pretensions to 'class,' being, on paper at least, the weakest team in the district.

Returning to headquarters after the match, there was one man who seemed to feel the defeat more keenly than anyone else. He was the trainer of the team.

'How did it all happen, Ben?' asked a supporter who had been unable to attend the match.

'Sudden!' growled the trainer. 'Very sudden!'

'Yes; but how came we to lose?'

'This way,' replied Ben. 'For eighty-nine minutes out of the ninety our fellows had been showing the spectators how to play football. Then one of the other chaps pounced on the ball and showed our fellows how to score! That's all!'

THE MAGISTRATE AND THE PRISONER

'This is the fifteenth time,' said the magistrate, severely, 'that I have seen you in the dock before me.'

The prisoner drew himself up.

'Your worship,' he replied, with pardonable dignity, 'for eight long years I have constantly had occasion to enter this court, and, though I have always found you sitting in that chair, I have never uttered a single solitary word of irritation or complaint.'

NOT TO BE BRIBED

A salesman had taken a large order in the north of Scotland for a consignment of hardware, and endeavoured to press upon the Scottish manager who had given the order a box of Havana cigars.

'No,' he replied. 'Don't try to bribe a man. I couldna tak' them—and I am a member of the kirk.'

'But will you accept them as a present?'

'I couldna,' said the Scot.

'Well, then,' said the traveller, 'suppose I sell you the cigars for a nominal sum—say sixpence?'

'Weel, in that case,' replied the Scot, 'since you press me, and no' liking to refuse an offer weel meant, I think I'll tak' twa boxes.'

ACCORDING TO RECIPE

It seems it was Marion's day to have the cooking club members at her house. The kitchen was on dress parade, and the programme of experimentation selected. The first recipe called for '12 eggs, beaten separately.'

'I might just as well get those eggs beaten before the girls come,' concluded the hostess, pinning on a picturesque kitchen apron that added the final note of coquetry to her appearance, and then she valiantly tackled the eggs.

The visiting girls relate that some minutes later Marion, flushed, but triumphant, welcomed them to her domain. Twelve soup plates trailed over most of the available table and dresser space. In each plate reposed a single egg 'beaten separately' in relation to the other 11 eggs, but alas! the white and yoke of each individual egg beaten hopelessly together.

'I am nearly dead of that job, girls,' exclaimed the unconscious hostess, 'but at least the eggs are out of the way and we can go right on with the rest of the recipe.'

THEY FORGOT THE JUDGE

Two lawyers before an American judge recently got into a wrangle. At last one of the disputants, losing control of his emotions, exclaimed to his opponent:

'Sir, you are, I think, the biggest fool that I ever had the misfortune to set eyes upon!'

'Order! Order!' said the judge, gravely. 'You seem to forget that I am in the room.'

A GOOD REASON

Mrs. Staylong was at times very much of a bore. On one occasion she paid a visit to a family of her acquaintance living out in the suburbs of the city. After an exceedingly prolonged stay she said to one of the children:

'I am going away directly, Tommy, and I want you to go a part of the way with me.'

'Can't do it,' replied Tommy, 'we are going to have dinner as soon as you leave.'

FAMILY FUN

A PUZZLER.

A very curious number is 142,857, which, multiplied by 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6, gives the same figures in the same order, beginning at a different point, but if multiplied by 7 gives all nines.

142,857 multiplied by 1 equals 142,857.

142,857 multiplied by 2 equals 285,714.

142,857 multiplied by 3 equals 428,571.

142,857 multiplied by 4 equals 571,428.

142,857 multiplied by 5 equals 714,285.

142,857 multiplied by 6 equals 857,142.

142,857 multiplied by 7 equals 999,999.

Multiply 142,857 by 8 and you have 1,142,856.

Then add the first figure to the last and you have 142,857, the original number, with figures exactly the same as the start.

BAXTER'S LUNG PRESERVER

is a cough mixture prepared from the most soothing, healing, and strengthening medicines known.

Against it a cough or cold has no chance. It goes straight to the seat of the trouble and fights the cold out of the system.

Sold everywhere—in large and small bottles.

Large size, 1/10.