

time his reason became hopelessly clouded, and the grave soon covered all that was mortal of this gifted and erratic man.

#### UNDER MANY FLAGS.

Six flags have flown over Texas, U.S.A., including the banners of three foreign powers—France, Spain, and Mexico (says *Church Progress*).

First came the French flag, which was carried down the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico by the intrepid La Salle; following this was the Spanish emblem, first thrown to the breeze under the direction of the Franciscan priests; then came in succession the Mexican flag and the Lone Star emblem of the Republic of Texas.

The Stars and Stripes followed the Lone Star, but was supplanted for a time by the Stars and Bars of the Confederacy.

In the struggle for ascendancy among these various groups, it is needless to say that much blood has been spilled and countless tragedies have taken their places on the pages of history.

The history of the Republic of Texas is one of the most unique examples of national sovereignty that the world has ever seen.

A province of 30,000 people won independence from a nation of several millions. But these 30,000 were generally men of sturdy Anglo-American stock.

A few years later these same fearless and independent Texans voluntarily gave up their sovereignty to become one of the galaxy of stars under the banner of the United States.

#### CARRYING OUT ORDERS.

An English nobleman was about to set out for India, and, fearing that in his absence vandals might destroy a picturesque ruin on his estate, he said to his steward:

'I want you to build a wall here'—he drew a tiny furrow with his stick around the ruin—'a stone wall five feet high.'

On his return home the nobleman started for the spot. When he reached it he rubbed his eyes in amazement. There was the new stone wall, but he could see nothing towering up inside of it. He turned excitedly to his steward:

'Look here, where's the ruin, man?'

'The ruin, my lord?' replied the steward. 'Oh, that old thing! Why, I used it to build the wall with.'

#### TO BE ACCURATE.

A school-teacher received the following note:

'Dear Madam, Please excuse my Tommy to-day. He won't come to skule, because he is acting as time-keeper for his father, and it is your fault. U gave him a ixample if a field is six miles around how long will it take a man malking 3½ miles an hour to walk 2¼ times round it. Tommy ain't a man so we had to send his father. They went early this morning and father will walk round the field and Tommy will time him, but pleas don't give my boy such ixamples agin, because my husban must go to work every day to support his family.'

Small Boy (to sportsman who has missed the rabbit six times in succession): 'Here's my knife, sir. Creep up behind him and stab him.'

Frenchman (who wants a pass-out ticket, to attendant at theatre): 'Pardou monsieur. Are you ze ticket-of-leave man?'

The Mayor of a tough border town in America was about to engage a preacher for the new church. 'Parson, you ain't by any chance a Baptist, are you?'

'Why, no, not necessarily. Why?'

'Well, I was just a-goin' to say, we have to haul our water twelve miles.'

The local bigwig's presence in the chair at an entertainment was desired, and two of the organisers waited upon him with a deferential request. The required promise was duly obtained.

'You may rely upon me,' said the big man, 'Friday, the 25th, in the parish room. It's quite an unsectarian affair, I suppose?'

'Bless your 'eart, sir,' came the reply, 'the place was limewashed only last week. You won't find nothing of the kind on the premises.'

Let me be a little kinder,  
Let me be a little blinder  
To the faults of those about me,  
Let me praise a little more;  
Let me be when I am weary  
Just a little bit more cheery---  
Let me serve a little better  
Those that I am striving for.

Let me be a little braver  
When temptation bids me waver.  
Let me strive a little harder  
To be all that I should be;  
Let me be a little meeker  
With the brother who is weaker,  
Let me think more of my neighbor  
And a little less of me.

'Oh, you cruel boy to take those eggs out of the nest! Think of the poor mother bird when she comes ---'

'The mother bird's dead, miss.'

'How do you know that?'

'I see it in your hat!'

After the lecture a timid little man rushed up to the platform and spoke to the lecturer.

'Did you say, sir,' he asked in a trembling voice, and with a pallid face, 'that in nine million years the sun would become cold and we would freeze to death?'

'Oh, no, sir; I said in twenty nine million years.'

'Thank heaven!' gasped the timid man. 'I thought you said nine!'

Irate Business Man: 'You book agents make me so angry with your confounded nerve and impudence that I cannot find words to express my feelings.'

Agent: 'Then I am the very man you want. I am selling dictionaries.'

The newly-elected Mayor of a small town was fond of show, and so he did his best to be inducted into office in weather favorable to gay processions. At his suggestion this notice was put into the local papers three days before his installation:

'On the occasion of the installation of the new Mayor the fire brigade will be reviewed in the afternoon if it rains in the morning, and in the morning if it rains in the afternoon.'

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#### PILES

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