

When it was finished, its maker, still weak and suffering, kissed it and sent it to his mother. And when it reached its destination a proud mother took it to the village church, where, at her request, the priest blessed and indulgenced it.

And daily now she prays for a blessing for her son and on her country—praying upon the balls of lead which had so nearly caused the death of her son. What wonder if now and again her fingers stiffen on the lead, even whilst her lips are moving in prayer.—Exchange.

#### HOW IT ENDED.

While his mother was away on a visit, young William neglected to say his prayers. Upon Mrs. Jones' return there was a reckoning.

"Why didn't you say your prayers, you naughty boy?" "Well, you see, it was this way, Ma: I forgot 'em the first night and nothin' happened. 'N' then I didn't say 'em the next night, an' still nothin' happened. 'N' so I decided I wouldn't never say 'em again if nothin' never happened."

And then something happened.

#### WHERE HE'D WON THEM.

The small boy with the ginger hair and freckled face was walking aimlessly down the street, when he caught sight of a purple-faced veteran with gorgeous uniform and medal-spotted vest posing in the doorway of a business establishment.

"Get them medals for pigeon-flying?" he asked.

"Pigeon-flyin'! No! Run off, Johnnie."

"For sweet peas at a garden show, p'raps?"

"Run off, d'ye hear!"

"Cricket medals, eh? Who did her play for?"

"If you don't want a clip on the ear you'd better run home quick!"

"Must 'a' been fairly good at runnin' to get that lot," persisted the boy.

"—! —! —!! —!!!" came from the veteran.

"Any'ow," gasped the small boy as he sidled off with some alacrity—"any'ow, I don't reckon you ever won 'em at a Sunday school!"

#### A FRIENDLY FLASH.

Down in the docks they were talking about a schooner which had been struck by lightning, when the reporter singled out an old mariner and said:—

"Captain Haggles, it seems to me I've read or heard of your brig being struck?"

"Yes, she was," answered the old yarn-spinner.

"Where was it?"

"Off Point aux Barques, about fifteen years ago. Very strange case, that. Probably the only one of the kind ever heard of. We were jogging along down when a thunderstorm overtook us, and the very first flash of lightning struck the deck amidships, and bored a hole as big as my leg right down through the bottom of the vessel."

"And she foundered, of course?"

"No, sir. The water began rushing in, and she would have foundered, but there came a second flash, and a bolt struck my fore-to-gallant-mast. It was cut off near the top, turned bottom end up, and as it came down it entered the hole and plugged it up as tight as a drum. When we got down to dry dock we simply sawed off either end and left the plug in the planks."

#### SMILE RAISERS.

"I want something original for this recess," gushed Mrs. Moneybags. "What would you suggest, a landscape or a seascape?"

"If you really are striving after originality, madam," replied Mr. Helpful, "why not have a tame fire-escape?"

The cost of living is high, but the only tears worth shedding are profiteers.

Wife (reading): "Big checks for dresses will not be in demand this season."

Husband: "Thank heaven!"

Bones: "Do you know that lady across the road?"

Jones: "Let me see. There's my wife's hat, my daughter's dress, and my mother-in-law's parasol. Yes! It's our cook!"

#### PILES

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## SCIENCE SIFTINGS

(By "VOLT.")

### The Hottest Region on Earth.

The hottest region on the earth is said to be on the south-western coast of Persia, where Persia borders on the gulf of that name. For 40 consecutive days the thermometer did not fall lower than 100deg day or night, and often mounted as high as 128deg.

### The Value of Rest.

Your physician will tell you that whenever possible you should lie down for a little rest each day. To do so will take some of the load off that faithful heart of yours which keeps pumping away without cessation day and night. Your physician will explain that when sitting down, as compared with standing, you save your heart nine beats a minute, and that when you lie down you take off an additional six beats. So merely lying down means less pumping to be done, and less wear and tear on the body's most vital organ. It is thrift of time to take a few moments each day from the activities of one's work and stretch out full length. Housewives and others whose work keeps them on their feet a great deal should sit as much as possible. Increased vitality and longer lives will result from following these simple suggestions.

### World's Giant Wireless Station.

Details have just been published in Paris of a wireless station which is being constructed near Bordeaux, and which will be the most powerful station in the world. The project is directly due to the development of wireless telegraphy during the war, and is the result of co-operation between the United States and the French Government. On General Pershing's arrival in France he required the establishment of a station that should be available night and day without the possibility of interruption. To achieve this, enormously powerful plant was necessary. It was designed by General Ferrie, and the carrying-out of General Ferrie's scheme was entrusted to American labor. The work was begun in May, 1918. The station will consist of eight steel pillars 250 metres high. The antennae will be 1200 metres in length, and the power of the current used in connection with them 500 kilowatts, being five times greater than that of the Eiffel Tower installation and three and a-half times greater than that of the Lyons station. A range of 12,500 miles will be attained, thus bringing any point of the globe within reach. Transmission will be at the rate of 50 words a minute. The station will be invaluable to France as a means of linking the Mother Country with all parts of its colonial empire.

### Typing by Electricity.

An invention has lately been completed by a Bristol man which it is believed will be of inestimable value in the business world. It is an electric typewriter, which, besides enabling the operator to work at a much greater speed, is said to be absolutely noiseless. It will be of an entirely new design and consist mainly of a keyboard and carriage, the mechanism of the ordinary typewriter being done away with. The machine will have visible writing and take paper of any width without bending, while a novel feature will be variable type, by means of which different languages may be written on the same machine. No special electric installation is necessary, as all the current required can be obtained from an ordinary electric lamp fitting. The inventor claims that a much greater speed will be possible than on existing machines, while the energy required to operate the electrical typewriter will be considerably less than one-half the amount necessary for a "hand-driven" model. For instance, while the finger pressure used in striking an ordinary typewriter key ranges from 2½oz to 5oz, according to the machine, the electrical typewriter will only need 1oz of pressure, even for stencil-cutting, or where several carbon copies are required. The new invention, it is stated, will not cost more, if as much, as the ordinary typewriter, and will certainly not get out of repair so easily.

Prudence is said to be the eye of the soul. Without the light of the eye we cannot find our way, nor without prudence can we discern the path to heaven.

### THE MOST OBSTINATE

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