

because it could not stand erect and have as fine fruit as the pomegranate; and so on throughout the garden.

Coming to the heart's-ease, the king found its bright face uplifted, as full of cheerfulness as ever. Said the king: 'Well, heart's-ease, I am glad to find one brave little flower in this general discouragement and dying. You don't seem one bit disheartened.' 'No, your Majesty. I know I am of small account, but I concluded you wanted a heart's-ease when you planted me. If you had wanted an oak or a pine or a vine or a pomegranate, you would have set one out. So I am bound to be the best heart's-ease that ever I can.'

THE AMOUNT OF HIS BILL

During a recent meeting of hotel men, when there was discussed certain proposed means of protecting hotels against 'beats,' a Western boniface told of the sad case of one proprietor in St. Louis who had been 'done.'

Many months afterward, learning the whereabouts of the gentleman who had decamped without the formality of paying, the owner sent him the following note:—

'Dear Sir,—I would esteem it a favor if you would at once send me amount of your bill.'

Imagine the disgust of the hotel man when, in a few days, he received an answer in these terms:—

'Dear Sir,—Certainly. The amount of my bill is 17.50 dollars.'

IN SAFE HANDS

Hope was three years older than her baby brother, and felt herself equal to assuming the responsibilities of big sisterhood. When, therefore, her mother asked her to 'keep an eye' on the baby and see that he didn't fall out of bed, Hope answered:

'Yes, mamma, I'll mind him, an' if he falls I'll call you the minute he hits the floor.'

PERILS OF PUNCTUATION

Some of the following strange sentences show the value of punctuation marks and of correct sentences:—

Thomas Merrill's property is for sale. It consists of a cottage containing seven rooms and an acre of land.

Edward Jones has opened a shoe shop in Front street. Mr. Jones guarantees that anyone can have a fit in his store.

The firm of Smith and Thorndyke is once more carrying on business at the old stand. The concern now wants a man to sell on commission.

Mrs. Walter Darrell would like to hear of a good nurse for her child about 30 years of age, and with good references.

John Bangs who will sail for South Africa on Saturday would like to find a purchaser for his valuable bulldog. The animal is no trouble as it will eat anything and is very fond of children.

A touching incident was noted at a railway station yesterday when an aged couple bade each other good-bye. The old lady kissed her husband fervently several times on the cheek and he kissed her back.

Dr. Franklin White has returned from a trip to Switzerland. Speaking of the robust health of its peasantry, the doctor says: 'The strength of the Swiss woman is remarkable. It is nothing unusual for her to wash and iron and milk several cows in one day.'

FAMILY FUN

'Mind-reading' Mathematics.—A puzzling exercise in mental arithmetic is this: Ask a friend to think of a number less than 10; add 7 to it; subtract 3; multiply by 3; take away left-hand figure of the product; multiply right-hand figure by 9; subtract the number first thought of.

To illustrate.—Your friend thinks of the number 5; adds 7, making 12; subtracts 3, leaving 9; multiplies by 3, making 27; takes away the left-hand figure, leaving 7; multiplies by 9, making 63; subtracts 5 (number first thought of), leaving 58, which result he announces. You subtract 58 from the next higher multiple of 9, which is 63, and you are able to tell him what number he thought of, which in this instance is 5.

To work this exercise you do not have to follow the formula here given; you can lead your friends through any number of additions, subtractions, and multiplications. The real test comes when you say: 'Multiply the right-hand figure by 9; then subtract the first number you thought of.'

Here is another problem somewhat similar in principle and equally surprising in result. Say to one person:

'Think of a number less than 10; double it; add 16; divide by 2; subtract your first number; your answer is 8.' Say to another:

'Think of a number less than 10; double it; add 9; divide by 2; subtract your first number; your answer is 4.'

You can go on indefinitely, giving these mental exercises, no two alike, to each one in a large audience, and announce the answer as quickly as they get it themselves.

The secret is this: the final answer is always half the number you tell them to add.

All Sorts

In the production of olive oil Asiatic Turkey leads, with Spain second, and Italy third.

Teacher: 'Now, children, I suppose you all know that Willie Winkle's papa is going to address the school this afternoon?'

Jimmy Jenkins: 'Yes'm. I told my pa about it, too.'

Teacher: 'Indeed; and what did he say?'

Jimmy Jenkins: 'He said, "Why, he can't address an envelope."'

Old gentleman (proposing health of happy pair at the wedding breakfast): 'And for the bridegroom, I can speak with still more confidence of him, for I was present at his christening, I was present at the banquet given in honor of his coming of age, I am present here to-day, and I trust I may be spared to be present at his funeral.'

A school teacher having instructed a pupil to purchase a grammar, the next day received a note thus worded from the child's mother:

'I do not desire for Lulu shall engage in grammar, as I prefer her engage in yuseful studies and can learn her how to speek and rite proper myself. I have went through two grammars and I can't say as they did me no good. I prefer her engage in german and drawing and vocal music on the piano.'

Mrs. Brown: 'So poor old Jones is gone at last; consumption, the doctor said it were.' Mrs. Green: 'That's strange; there never were any consumption in the family as I heard on.' Mrs. Brown: 'Oh! that don't make no difference. My sister's 'usband was carried off by gastric fever, and they never had no gas in the house at all; they always burned paraffin.'

A short time ago the superintendent of a 'model farm' was explaining the working of an incubator to a class of young ladies. At the end of the lesson she told them to ask any questions they liked if they did not fully understand her. Imagine her astonishment when one of the girls, with an earnest look of inquiry on her countenance, put the question, 'And where does the hen sit?'

'The study of the occult sciences interests me very much,' remarked the professor. 'I love to explore the dark depths of the mysterious, to delve into the regions of the unknown, to fathom the unfathomable, as it were, and to—' 'May I help you to some of the hash, professor?' interrupted the landlady. And the good woman never knew why the other boarders smiled audibly.

A newspaper reports an exchange of civilities between two artists. 'Well, old man,' said one, 'how's business?'

'Splendid!' said number two. 'I've just got a commission from a millionaire who wants his children painted very badly.'

'Good! I congratulate you, my boy. You're the very man for a job like that.'

The first foot coverings were sandals. After these came shoes left open at the toes, then the wooden shoes of the ninth and tenth centuries, followed a little later by shoes with long-pointed and turned-up toes, which sometimes reached as high as the knee. Later a shoe was worn with an exceedingly wide toe, so very wide that it impeded the process of walking. Queen Mary restricted the wearing of this by proclamation. The proclamation ran to the effect that shoes should not be worn wider than six inches.

A hotelkeeper near New York City is a Frenchman, and his family know little more about English than he does. His suburban hotel stands in the centre of a square filled with large trees. When the proprietor wanted to call attention to this advantage he put on his cards, 'The most shady hotel around New York.' The reputation of the place is beyond reproach, and the proprietor does not know yet why so many persons smile when they read the line quoted.

Eighty years ago the etiquette of letters was far more rigid than now. Even the twopenny post was not considered good enough for correspondence addressed to persons of any standing. In her *Reminiscences of an Octogenarian*, Miss Louisa Packe tells us that when her father had occasion to write to Londoners in his own class of life the letter was always conveyed by a servant not for any reasons of urgency, but because the post was considered a vulgar medium of communication for persons residing in the same city and only to be used for the conveyance of letters to the country.

The stoat is the commonest and most widely distributed of all the weasel tribe. Like the rest of the family, it is most bloodthirsty, and often appears to kill for mere sport and pleasure. It is the deadly foe of all small animals, from the hare to the smallest field-mice. Cases are on record, however, where a mother rabbit defending its young has driven an attacking stoat away. The stoat is very fond of its young, and in times of danger will carry them to a place of safety, as a cat carries its kittens, by the scruff of their necks. They do great execution among young pheasants and partridges. They can climb well, and are known to ascend trees and kill birds on their nests. They also suck eggs, causing serious loss to rearers of game.