

## TEACHING THE YOUNG MAN

The smart young man—his school hours thick upon him, and his intention to teach the world in general, and his father in particular, the manner in which up-to-date commerce should be conducted—stood earnestly holding forth in his father's office.

'You may rely upon me, sir,' he was saying, with perverid emphasis. 'I will devote my whole life to the interests of the business. It shall be my aim and ambition to keep the family name free from stain.'

'Good!' said the old man gruffly. 'That's the spirit. Tell the office-boy to give you the whiting and ammonia; then go and polish up the brass name-plate on the door.'

## HAD HIM TREED

He had never fished before, and his rod was new and shining with resplendent varnish. Faultlessly attired, he was whipping a trout-stream when, by some odd chance, he got a bite. A writer in *Forest and Stream*, who happened to come along, tells what occurred. The fisherman had hooked a one-pounder, from the way the line strained.

He was not playing the fish at all. With rod held straight ahead he was slowly and steadily reeling him in. How he managed to hold the fish was beyond me.

Presently the fish was directly below the end of the rod. Did he stop? No, he kept on reeling the fish in, and just as I reached the water's edge the fish's head touched the tip. The man even tried to pull him through the ring.

Just then he saw me standing on shore, waving my arms. He turned to me with a bewildered look and said, 'What shall I do now?'

'The only thing you can do now,' I said, 'is to climb up the pole after him.'

## A CHALLENGE

As one of the White Star steamships came up New York harbor the other day a grimy coal barge floated immediately in front of her. 'Clear out of the way with that old mud scow!' shouted an officer on the bridge.

A round, sun-browned face appeared over the cabin hatchway. 'Are ye the captain of that vessel?'

'No,' answered the officer.

'Then spake to yer equals. I'm the captain o' this!' came from the barge.

## CLEVER DIPLOMACY

The late Lord Salisbury some years ago sent a Foreign Office emissary to make some demands of the — Republic. Before setting out on his mission the emissary, to whom his lordship had explained the exact nature of the demands, desired to be informed as to the course to take if, after he had said everything, there was a refusal.

'Oh,' answered Lord Salisbury, 'this is not a matter in which we have the least thought of fighting. If the President refuses, why, you will simply have to come home again.'

The emissary went and had his say to the President of —, who blakely refused to give in, and the diplomat retired to think things over.

A few hours later he wrote to the President:

'I regret that your Excellency does not see your way to recognise the justness of the claims which I have had the honor to present. I have now to say, on behalf of her Britannic Majesty's Government, that, unless your Excellency yields on all points which I have named, it will be my painful duty to act on the second half of my instructions.'

Under this vague and significant threat the President yielded at once.

## FAMILY FUN

Why is a professional thief very comfortable?—Because he usually takes things so easy.

Why should a fisherman be very wealthy?—Because his is all net profit.

Why is your eye like a man being flogged?—It is under the lash.

How do you account for the water in a water-melon?—By recalling that it was planted in the spring.

How many make a million?—Very few.

What is the difference between an Indian and an Irishman?—One smokes the pipe of peace, and the other smokes a piece of pipe.

Why are cats like unskilled surgeons?—Because they mew-till-late and destroy patients (patience).

Why is a proud girl like a music box?—She is full of airs.

What belongs to yourself, but is used by your friends more than by yourself?—Your name.

What is the difference between an old half-crown and a new florin?—Sixpence.

What day in the year is told to go ahead?—March 4th.

Why are deaf people like Dutch cheeses?—Because you can't make them here (hear).

What letter of the alphabet is used in making a shoe?—The last.

## All Sorts

Sunday School Teacher: 'What lesson do we learn from the busy bee?' Tommy Tuffnut: 'Not to get stung.'

'What is your last name?' asked the principal. 'I don't know,' replied the young lady student; 'I haven't got it yet.'

First Doctor: 'How many died of that new disease of yours?' Second Doctor: 'None. But, then, it isn't generally known yet.'

Teacher (after science lesson): 'Now, what does salt water contain besides the sodium chloride I just mentioned?' Tommy Brown: 'Fish, please, sir.'

'This palpitating age calls for men who have convictions,' declared the orator in the park. 'Where, I ask, shall we find them?' 'In prison,' called out a man in the crowd.

Eleanor, aged six, had been going to school only a few weeks. She had learned to raise her hand if she wanted anything. One day she put this into effect when she was sent to the chicken house to get eggs. Just as she reached the chicken house door her mother heard her say, 'All you chickens that have laid an egg, raise your hands.'

'Pa, what is a tip?'

'A tip, my son, is a small sum of money which you give a man because you're afraid he won't like not being paid for something you didn't ask him to do.'

'See here, young man,' said the stern parent, 'why is it that you are always behind in your studies?'

'Because,' explained the youngster, 'if I wasn't behind I could not pursue them.'

Mr. Blinks (in art museum): 'I didn't know you were such an admirer of curios, Mrs. Blunderby.'

Mrs. Blunderby: 'Oh, yes, indeed; I just delight in iniquities.'

Widow (tearfully): 'Yes, my daughters are now my only resources.' Friend: 'Take my advice, and husband your resources well.'

'More than five thousand elephants a year go to make our piano keys,' remarked the student boarder who had been reading the scientific notes in a patent medicine almanac. 'Bless me!' exclaimed the landlady. 'Ain't it wonderful what some animals can be trained to do?'

This instance of what the mistake of a comma can produce has been noticed:—

'Lord Palmerston then entered upon his head, a white hat upon his feet, large but well polished boots upon his brow, a dark cloud in his hand, his faithful walkingstick in his eye, a dark menacing glare saying nothing.'

When Zeppelin III. made the flight from Duesseldorf to Essen, it was observed that horses and cattle ran wildly about the meadows as it approached, and sheep crowded with loud bleating around their shepherd. From these facts Count Zeppelin concludes that the employment of airships of whatever type will have a disastrous effect on furred and feathered game. All animals show fear at their approach. Partridges, quail, and other game birds cower and hide themselves, and domestic cocks utter warning crows as if they perceived some gigantic bird of prey. Van Houken, the Swedish aeronaut, when at a moderate height, watched elk, foxes, hares, and other animals take to flight, and dogs rushed howling into the houses.

There is a remarkable place in the Gulf of Mexico known as the 'oil-spot.' It extends about two miles along the shore, and perhaps three-quarters of a mile seaward. In a storm its appearance is very wonderful. All round are angry, boiling waters, tossing the foam high in the air, while within this enclosure is a perfect calm. In fine weather there is nothing to distinguish the place, but in a gale the waves become thick and of a reddish hue. Mud taken from the spot has all the cleansing qualities of soap, and is used to scrub the decks of vessels. Scientists are puzzled to know what makes the 'oil-spot.'

For more than half a century it has been understood that the lateral line of scales along each side of a fish is connected to a special nerve. The use of these lateral organs has been a matter of much speculation, but the late experiments of Hofer seem to show that their chief function is the perception of water currents. They supply a new sense in place of the lacking sense of touch; they cause a blind-folded fish to stop and turn aside within an inch of a solid object, lead to streams and spawning brooks, and keep the fish world informed and warned.

Wallie, aged six, found four little kittens in the cellar. A visitor, being told of them, expressed a desire to have a peep at the new baby pussies.

Wallie went to fetch them, and soon pitiful mewing was heard below.

'Don't hurt the kitties, Wallie,' called out his mamma. 'No, mamma,' shouted the boy. 'I'm bringing them up carefully; I'm carrying them by their stems.'

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