

'Pa.'  
'Yes.'  
'What becomes of the light when you blow it out?'  
'Oh, don't bother me any more! This is the third time I've tried to read this article. Now, I don't want to be interrupted again.'

### GETTING THE CORRECT TIME

The following story is told by Captain Lyons, who was in charge of a telescope at Helouan, Egypt. He said he noticed that every day at noon a gun was fired, and he was anxious to know how the system worked. Accordingly, he interviewed the gunner and asked him how he knew when to give the signal.

'Oh, I look at my watch,' said the official.  
'And how do you correct your watch?'  
'I take it to the maker in Cairo, and he tells me the error.'  
Then Captain Lyons interviewed the watchmaker in Cairo, and asked him how he checked the error in the watch.  
'I get the correct time from the gun,' replied the craftsman.

### THEY WERE QUIT

A city fellow while hunting went out into the country one day and lost his way, and as he was standing by a cross-road he saw a farmer a little way off. He walked over to the farmer and said, 'Say, Pat, which road leads me to the station?' 'How do you know my name is Pat?' asked the farmer. 'I guessed it,' said the fellow. 'Well,' replied the farmer, 'then guess the way to the station.'

### THE BOY'S POETRY

The annual school concert took place at Stumptown in the North Island last week, and was attended by settlers for miles around. Johnny Smith recited one stanza of the 'Psalm of Life' to the delight of his proud mother, and amid the plaudits of the audience. Here is a phonetic record of Johnny's effort:—

'Liza Grape men allry mindus  
Weaken maka Liza Blime,  
Andy Parting Lee B. Bindus  
Footbrin Johnny Sands a time!'

### CHICKEN TALK

The poultry editor of a country paper received this letter from a poetical summer cottager:—

'Dear Editor,—What shall I do? Each morn when I enter my hen-house I find two or three fowls lying on their backs, their feet in the air, and their souls in fields Elysian. What is the matter?'  
The prosaic editor sent the following reply by return mail:—

'Dear Friend,—The principal trouble with your hens seems to be that they are dead. The best thing you can do for them is to give them a decent burial.'

### FAMILY FUN

The Pressure of the Air as Shown by a Wine-Glass.—Place a card on a wine-glass filled with water, then invert the glass; the water will not escape, the pressure of the atmosphere on the outside of the card being sufficient to support the water.

Weight of the Air Proved by a Pair of Bellows.—Shut the nozzle and valve-hole of a pair of bellows, and after having squeezed the air out of them, if they are perfectly air-tight, we shall find that a very great force, even some hundreds of pounds, is necessary for separating the boards. They are kept together by the weight of the heavy air which surrounds them in the same manner as if they were surrounded by water.

Elasticity of the Air.—This can be shown by a beautiful philosophical toy which may be easily constructed. Prepare a glass jar; mould three or four little figures in wax, and make them hollow within, and having each a minute opening at the heel, by which water may pass in and out. Place them in the jar, and adjust them by the quantity of water admitted to them, so that in specific gravity they differ a little from each other. The mouth of the jar should now be covered with a piece of skin or Indiarubber, and then if the hand be pressed upon the top of the mouth of the jar, the figures will be seen to rise or descend as the pressure is gentle or heavy, rising and falling, or standing still, according to the pressure made. The reason for this is, that the pressure on the top of the jar condenses the air between the cover and the water surface; this condensation then presses on the water below, and influences it through its whole extent, compressing also the air in the figures, forcing as much more water into them as to render them heavier than water, and therefore heavy enough to sink.

## All Sorts

Opportunity knocks but once. Other knockers please copy.

There are people who believe everything they hear, and a lot they don't.

Old Smoker: 'After all, the best pipe is a clay pipe. When you drop it you never have to pick it up.'

The proprietor of a motor-bus in London has to comply with over sixty conditions before he can get a license.

Only twenty of every hundred candidates for the London police force are successful in passing the entrance examination.

Army officers in Germany get reductions on railway and theatre tickets, and take precedence of all civilians at any social function.

A cablegram has been sent from China to London, and a reply received in seven minutes. The double distance is over 25,000 miles.

Railway passenger travelling is cheaper in Hungary than in any other place in Europe. The fares there are about one-third the fares in the United Kingdom.

Disgusted Angler (emptying his bait into the stream): 'Hanged if I'll wait on you any longer. Here! Help yourselves.'

'Imitation may be the sincerest flattery,' said Uncle Eben, 'but dat doesn't make counterfeit money any mo' acceptable.'

'What is meant by the "rule of three," pa?'  
'When a man, his wife, and her mother try to run things together.'

Mexicans have a nice, delicate way of saying even unpleasant things. A young Mexican lady, talking with a prisoner in the penitentiary, politely asked: 'How long do you expect to be away from home?'

Canada has no Sunday papers. But the American Sunday papers—some of which are already on the streets on Saturday night—are widely circulated in Canada. A Canadian journal declares that the American Sunday paper with its hideous and debasing colored supplement is a veritable yellow plague.

Anxious Passenger (waiting for his boat at the end of the pier): 'I say, my man, is that boat going up or down?' Pier Loafer: 'Well, guv'nor, I really can't say. She's a leaky old tub, so she may be going down. But, then, her b'ilers ain't none too good, so I shouldn't be surprised if she suddenly went up.'

It may not be generally known that the term 'Alma Mater,' which is universally applied to colleges and universities where men receive their scholastic training, is of purely Catholic origin. It has its source at the University of Bonn, and drew its inspiration from the beautifully-chiselled statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary—known as the Alma Mater—placed over the principal portal of that celebrated seat of learning.

A Chinese laundryman in Wellington recently had his troubles with a watch that habitually lost time. So he took the timepiece to the nearest watchmaker.

'Watchee no good to Charlie Lee,' said he briefly, pushing it across the counter. 'You fixee him, eh?'

'Certainly,' said the watchmaker. 'What seems to be the matter with it?'

'Oh, him too muchee by 'n' by,' said Charlie Lee.

'He has such nice manners,' some one said of the boy who had just gone. 'I always like to meet him.' 'They are not just "company manners," either,' said the other with a laugh. 'He is just as nice at home, every day, as you saw him then. I think I can tell the secret of it, too. He is as good as his manners. No one can really have good manners without a solid foundation of kindness and thoughtfulness, and a sincere desire to please and oblige others.'

A peculiar condition relative to the press obtains in Switzerland that is to be found in no other country in Europe, and that is the fact that papers and periodicals are printed in four languages—German, French, Italian, and Romansch. The fact that Switzerland has no national language and that it is influenced in language and customs by the several countries with which it is surrounded, produces the result that many Swiss speak two or more languages. The territory comprising the Confederation being small, the people of all sections of the country are brought into frequent contact with each other, and the further fact that the papers are printed in different languages is almost a necessity.

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