

### THE AMATEUR DETECTIVE

The wisest person may sometimes make a serious mistake by judging entirely from appearances. 'Forward' gives a case in point in which the enormity of the mistake contributed largely to the humor.

A careless young woman, in starting to leave a car, dropped her purse. A young man, who evidently intended to leave the car at the same time, saw her drop the purse, picked it up and put it into his pocket.

But his action had not been unnoticed. Just as he had stepped from the car an elderly man gripped him by the arm and whispered: 'If you don't give that purse to the young lady this instant I'll expose you.'

'Yes, certainly,' gasped the astonished young man. Then, with a grin, 'I beg pardon, Elizabeth; you dropped your purse.'

'Oh, thank you, Jim,' she replied, as she took it.

'I hope you are satisfied,' said Jim, turning to the elderly man. 'The lady is my sister.'

### HOW HE PREFERRED TO TRAVEL

Three college boys who lived in Pasadena took a trip to Los Angeles and stayed as long as their money held out. The youngest fellow in the party, having only twenty-five cents in his pocket, got very nervous for fear his companions wouldn't have enough to buy his ticket back home. The two elder fellows, who had secretly purchased three tickets, said to the younger: 'We've only got money enough to take two of us, but rather than leave you behind we'll stow you under a seat, where you can be entirely hidden from the conductor.' The younger thought that anything was better than walking, so he got aboard with his friends and crawled under a seat, according to instructions. When the conductor came along the two men on top of the seat handed him three tickets. 'What's this third ticket for?' asked the conductor. 'Oh, that's for our friend,' they explained. 'He's under the seat here. He always prefers to travel that way.'

### THE MILLIONAIRE AND THE BOATMAN

In his monograph of John Bright, Mr. Birrell tells a tale about Bright and Peabody, philanthropist and millionaire. The Tribune of the People and the millionaire (according to the Chief Secretary) engaged a boat and two boatmen at Killaloe. At the end of a day's fishing, Bright, with characteristic prudence, inquired of a policeman, who chanced to be near, what was the sum usually charged for two anglers. 'Some pay seven-and-sixpence,' replied the constable, 'and others ten shillings.' Bright, turning to his companion, said: 'I have no change, Peabody. Have you three half-crowns?' The millionaire produced the coins, and having handed them to one of the boatmen, the latter critically examined them, and said: 'Is that all ye give me?' 'That's all,' said Peabody. 'Well,' said the boatman, with a withering look at the dismal pair, 'and so they call ye Paybody, do they, Bejabers? I call ye Paynobody.'

### FAMILY FUN

When is a ship like a tailor?—When sheering off.

What is that of which the common sort is best?—Sense.

What animal would you like to be on a cold day?—A little 'otter.

Why are hay and straw like spectacles?—Because they are for-age.

When is the scup likely to run out of the saucepan?—When there is a leak in it.

Why is the printer like a postman?—Because he distributes letters.

What is the difference between a sunbonnet and a Sunday bonnet?—A day's difference.

Why are an artist's colors used in painting like a piece of pork being sent home for dinner?—It is pigment for the palate.

Why is a nail fast in the wall like an old man?—Because it is in-firm.

How are the lawyers related?—They are brothers-in-law.

What is the most popular paper at the summer resorts?—Fly paper.

Why is the fly one of the grocer's best customers?—Because it settles on the spot.

Why does an aeronaut dislike speaking about his trip?—It is a soar point with him.

What is unable to think or speak, yet tells the truth to all the world?—A pair of scales.

What country does a crying baby sigh for?—More-rockoh.

Why is a shabby coat like a man with insomnia?—Because it has not had a nap for a long time.

## All Sorts

A thing never lost but often found—A verdict.

'Honesty is the best policy.'

'Not on your life,' said the insurance agent.

The first savings bank in Great Britain was established in 1799.

The first bicycle was invented and ridden by Father Pianton in 1845.

Cards were first invented in 1390, for the amusement of Charles VI., King of France.

It takes 72,000 tons of paper to make the postal cards used in the United States each year.

A celebrity is described as a person who has the advantage of being known to people who don't know him.

'How did Miss Lala execute the new musical composition?'

'She didn't execute it at all. She murdered it.'

'What's the hardest thing about roller-skating when you're learning?' asked a hesitating young man of the instructor at a rink.

'The floor,' answered the attendant.

'What're ye comin' home with your milk pail empty for?' demanded the Taranaki farmer of his new-chum assistant. 'Didn't the old cow give anything?'

'Yes,' replied the boy, 'nine quarts and one kick!'

The Passion Play of last year was witnessed by approximately 280,000 spectators. Of these 80 per cent. were Americans, 15 per cent. British and Irish, while the other countries supplied the remaining 5 per cent.

A budding orator, having delivered an address, turned proudly to his friend and asked: 'Don't you think that was a finished speech?' 'Yes,' replied the friend slowly, 'but at various points I thought it never would be.'

'That man began life with absolutely nothing,' said one Sydney man to another impressively, as he indicated a passing individual. 'Indeed! How much is he worth at the present time?' 'Fully a thousand times as much.'

'An heirloom,' explained the farmer's wife to her thirteen-year-old boy, 'is something that has been handed down from father to son, and in some instances is greatly prized.'

'I'd prize these heirlooms I'm wearing,' remarked the youngster, 'a good deal more if they wasn't so long in the legs.'

It is often necessary to bore to a depth of over a thousand feet before oil is struck. From many of the wells the oil has to be pumped; from others it gushes upwards through the iron piping with a force that sends it to a height that may be anything up to 600ft or more. The latter form of well goes under the name of spouter. Obviously when a well spouts, much oil would be wasted if the flow were not controlled. Therefore, the operation known as 'capping' comes into play. A workman, clad in an oil and gas proof dress that resembles that of a diver, and is fitted with the usual long air-tube, approaches the well from which the oil is gushing, and fixes a cap with a 'gate valve' to the pipe, thus arresting the flow. Then a branch connection pipe is fitted, for the conveyance of the oil to the reservoirs. The gas given off by spouters causes all silver within a radius of twenty miles to turn black.

No one can deny that, physically speaking, the pike is a fine fish. Ugly he may be, but he is a fine fellow for all that. Barring the salmon, he is the largest of all British fresh-water fishes, although there may be many others that will beat him in personal appearance. In trout waters, of course, the pike is not to be tolerated, for he is an inveterate poacher, and will consume trout of all sizes by the score. And yet they say that he is no worse enemy to salmo fario than a real veteran of the latter species is himself. An old trout will consume his little brothers and sisters in the most cold-blooded fashion, and is never so happy as when he is indulging his unnatural and cannibalistic desires. The pike displays the same tendency on occasion, and in that assists in the good work of destroying his species.

The migratory instinct in birds is combined with another equally mysterious, that of the sense of direction. A gentleman engaged in scientific research work for the Fishery Board, on board the Government steamboat Gold-seeker, records a very interesting observation he made of this characteristic of migratory bird life. An oyster-catcher that was being buffeted by a head-wind in its eastern flight across the North Sea towards the Continental shores alighted on the boat. It took kindly to the attention paid to it so long as the boat kept its easterly course. But when the course of the boat was altered a few points to the northward, the bird immediately showed signs of uneasiness, and after an apparent consideration of its bearings flew into the darkness of the night on its east-bound course. The alteration in the boat's course was revealed to those who were watching the bird only when the compass was examined.