

formed, and decidedly pleasing to the eye, while the chirography of Scott, Hunt, Moore, and Gray was smooth and easy to read, but did not express distinct individuality.

Byron's handwriting was nothing more than a scrawl. His additions to his proofs frequently exceeded in volume the original copy, and in one of his poems, which contained in the original only four hundred lines, one thousand were added in the proofs.

The writing of Dickens was minute, and he had a habit of writing with blue ink on blue paper. Frequent erasures and inter-lineations made his copy a burden to his publishers.

GIFTS OF SILENCE

For the shy girls who have not the gift of ready speech, there is the gift of silence to cultivate. There is a beautiful art of silence and there are as many ways of being silent as there are of being talkative. There is the heavy silence of the simply stupid; there is the silence of the bored, depressing in its scornful irresponsiveness. There is the silence of abstraction when you feel that your companion's mind has withdrawn itself, and is following the course of its own preoccupations. The lips drop mechanical syllables, which mean nothing, but may seem to fit the occasion from an acquired habit of speech. There is the sensitive silence of sympathy. The lips are still, but the eyes are alight with a harkening spirit. The subdued gestures are expressive, the rare words spoken are pregnant with understanding. Such silence is often more inspiring, more stimulating, than is the response of the spoken word.

ORIGIN OF ATTORNEY

In former times in England the freemen of every shire met twice a year under the presidency of the shire reeve or sheriff, and this meeting was called the sheriff's torn.

By degrees the freemen declined giving their personal attendance, and a freeman who did attend carried with him the proxies of such of his friends as could not appear.

He who actually went to the sheriff's torn was said, according to the old Saxon, to go 'at the torn,' and hence came the word attorney, which signified one who went to the torn for others, carrying with him a power to act or vote for those who employed him.

WHAT HE CAME FOR

Here is a North Island story:—A man was walking along a river pier a few days ago, when he saw a boy fall into the water. Naturally the man performed the hero act and helped the boy out. As the lad sat on the bank letting the water drip from him, his rescuer asked:

'How did you come to fall into the water, boy?'

'I didn't come to fall in; I came to fish,' declared the boy.

FAMILY FUN

Conductors of Sound.—If one takes a strong piece of thread about as long as one's two arms, loops the centre around the handle of a silver spoon, and then swings the spoon so that it will strike the sharp edge of a table or shelf, there will be a pleasant singing sound, that is softer or louder as the spoon is brought nearer to or held away from the ear. If the ends of the thread are twisted around the index finger several times, and the finger thrust into the ears while the spoon is struck, the result will be altogether astonishing. Not only can the sound be heard with much greater distinctness, but the waves of air caused by the sound and the swinging of the spoon can be felt in the ear. In this instance it is clear that the thread carries sound better than the air, though air is the medium through which sound usually reaches our ears. A little telephone can be made on this plan, with a silk thread and a tin roll or cylinder, perhaps a tin can of the size of a lamp chimney as a receiver. One can easily talk with a person twenty to twenty-five yards distant in this way. Water, too, is a good conductor of sound. On moist days, or across a body of water, for instance, church bells can be heard much further and more plainly than in dry weather. If two stones are struck together under water, the sound can be heard very plainly, and fish will swim away at the faintest surface sound. Solid bodies carry sounds with particular directness. If one lays a watch on a wooden board or an iron bar or pipe, and the ear is then held to the board or the pipe, the ticking can be heard much further than through the air. But if the watch is put upon a porous body, or wrapped in cotton, the sound will be weakened. It is this property of solid bodies to carry sound that led to the invention of the stethoscope, the instrument which physicians use to listen to the sounds of the heart and lungs.

The thunder of cannons, the hoof-beat of horses, the march of soldiers, the rush of a train can all be heard at longer distances by placing the ear upon the earth. All these things show that solid and liquid bodies carry sound better than do the air and porous bodies.

All Sorts

One way to expand the chest is to have a large heart in it. It saves the cost of gymnastics.

Any work, no matter how humble, that a man honors by efficient labor will be found important enough to secure respect for himself and credit for his name.

Some people are apt to look at the faults of their neighbors through a telescope; at their own through the instrument reversed, or not at all.

Teacher (in a kindergarten physiology class): 'Harry, can you tell me the function of the pores of our bodies?' Harry: 'They are things we use to catch cold with.'

Guineas were first struck by Charles II., in 1660, from gold brought from Guinea. They were fixed at 21s in 1717. The first sovereign was coined in 1817, in which year the guineas were finally withdrawn from circulation.

Teacher: 'Now, Willie, what is the meaning of the word transparent?' Willie: 'Something you can see through.' 'Right. Now give me an example.' 'A ladder.'

Mrs. Howard: 'Do come to see me soon! I live around the corner from your house.'

Mrs. Coward: 'Thanks awfully, but since we have our new motor I never call on anyone who lives less than twenty miles away.'

Little Willie came in whimpering. His uncle asked him why he was crying. 'What is the matter?'

'A b-boy hit me, uncle.'

'Well, why didn't you hit him back?'

'I d-did, uncle; I hit him first!'

The lady of the house was a handsome woman of a mature order of beauty, and when she had completed her toilet she gazed fondly at herself in the glass, and remarked to her new maid: 'You'd give a good deal to be as good-looking as I am, wouldn't you, now?' 'Yes'm; almost as much as you would give to be as young as I am.' It is not believed that this epigrammatic young woman will be chosen again at the expiration of her present term.

The recent rose show given in Paris recalled the fact that the oldest rose tree in the world is believed to be one which grows on a wall of the Cathedral of Hildesheim, Germany. Eleventh century records make mention of expenses incurred by caretakers of the Cathedral in maintaining this tree, which covers the wall to a height of twenty-five feet, and is twenty inches thick at the root.

Kittens are not taught to kill mice, but do it instinctively, according to the conclusions of two observers. The instinct is aroused suddenly by the movement of the mouse, first appearing during the kitten's second month of life, while still feeble and scarcely able to eat a young mouse. If not first aroused until two or three months later, the instinct becomes less and less quickly responsive, and the practical inference is drawn that if a kitten is to make a good mouser it should be allowed to exercise its killing instinct while very young.

It is a common experience amongst mountain climbers to find butterflies lying frozen in the snow, and so brittle that they break unless they are very carefully handled. Such frozen butterflies on being taken to a warmer climate recover themselves and fly away. Some insects which habitually hibernate, as larvae or pupae, do not suffer from being frozen even for a lengthened period; but what is known as an open winter, with its alternations of wet, warmth, and cold, is far more fatal to them.

A certain sportsman went out for a day's rough shooting. Not being a particularly good shot, the bag was nil, and, as he did not like to return empty-handed, he bought a hare in the town on the way home. He presented it to his wife, who, after expressing her thanks, thoughtfully remarked: 'It was a good thing you shot that hare when you did, John; it wouldn't have kept another day.'

The beautiful but little known Straits of Magellan, which are situated at the southernmost point of South America, were discovered in 1520 by Magalhaens, a Portuguese navigator, who made the first passage in 37 days. They are 320 miles in length, and the passage, which is now accomplished in fewer hours than it took Magalhaens days, is an event never to be forgotten, it being almost impossible to describe the majestic grandeur of the scenery which greets the eye on every side. The huge snow-covered mountains, which rise precipitously from the sea level to altitudes of 6800 feet, contain many glaciers, whilst the waterfalls, formed by the melting snows, leap in sparkling cascades down their sides. The natives who inhabit their shores are probably the lowest type of savage in existence, possessing but little intelligence, dirty and ignorant, and, despite the intense cold, wearing scarcely any clothing. The Chilean settlement of Punta Arenas is situated towards the eastern entrance, and enjoys the distinction of being the globe's southernmost town.