

'Well, that's the Devil's Valley, too, sorr.'

The tourist, meaning to be very witty, remarked: 'The devil seems to have possession of a large part of this country, my man.'

But an Irish jarvey is hard to beat in a wordy contest, and this carman answered with extra suavity: 'Why, then, sorr, so he has, but we don't care a ha'porth for that, for why he's an absentee landlord. 'Tis in England he lives!'

### QUICK WIT

According to the London *Globe*, an ancestor of Tolstoy's, an army officer, was an excellent mimic. One day he was mimicking the Emperor Paul to a group of his friends, when Paul himself entered and for some moments looked on unperceived at the antics of the young man. Tolstoy finally turned, and, beholding the Emperor, he bowed his head and was silent. 'Go on, sir,' said Paul. 'Continue your performance.'

The young man hesitated a moment, and then, folding his arms and reproducing every gesture and intonation of his sovereign, he said: 'Tolstoy, you deserve to be degraded, but I remember the thoughtlessness of youth, and you are pardoned.' The Czar smiled slightly at this speech. 'Well, be it so,' he said.

### 'THE LOAD OF TWO!'

A historian of the Civil War tells of an apt reply made by an Irishman. Jerry was sergeant in a regiment of New York State volunteers. He was so kindly that he was sometimes imposed upon. Strong himself, he was always ready to lighten the load of a tired comrade by carrying his haversack. One warm day during a march an officer, who wished to see how far poor Jerry's good nature would go, asked him to carry his haversack for a while.

Jerry made no objection, and added one more haversack to the pack he was already carrying. Soon another officer came with a similar request, to which the long-suffering sergeant also gave assent.

When the order, 'Halt, rest,' was heard, the men leaned for five minutes against a convenient fence, letting the weight of their knapsacks come on the top rail.

While they were standing in this way another officer strolled along, and seeing the good-natured Jerry bending under his tremendous load, he said indignantly: 'Sergeant, you have the load of a donkey there!'

'Yes, sir,' said Jerry, touching his cap, his face sober, but his eyes twinkling; 'I have the load of two.'

### THE LAST WORD

Two ladies stood from the stream of promenaders a little apart, in Hyde Park recently. They were evidently but slight acquaintances, and there was 'no love lost' between them. 'Well,' said the first grand dame, 'by the bye! I must really be getting on. I have to make a call on the mater before lunch.' The second put up her lorgnette, and drawled: 'Really—ah—you don't mean to say you have a mother still living?' The first lady laughed—a high, thin laugh, with something decidedly acid in it. 'Oh, yes,' she retorted upon the one who had tried to 'take her down.' 'My mater is yet in the land of the living, and she doesn't look a day older than you do, I assure you.'

### IT WAS ALSO SALT

A burly old skipper and his mate went into a restaurant at Southampton (says the *Inglendook*) and ordered a 'table dotty' dinner. The waiter, with considerable flourish, placed a plate of thin, watery-looking liquid before each of them.

'Hi, me lad, wot's this stuff?' shouted the captain, gazing in amazement at the concoction under his nose.

'Soup, sir,' replied the waiter.

'Soup!' shouted the old sea-dog. 'Soup! Bill,' turning to the mate, 'just think of that! 'Ere's you and me been sailin' on soup all our lives and never knowed it till now.'

### FAMILY FUN

A Battle Game.—Shape pieces of chalk into ships, planing the bottoms evenly, and use matches for masts and smokestacks. Mark some of the ships with black ink and leave the others uncolored. Place the rival ships in a pan or plate close to an imaginary line, and pour vinegar in between the forces. You will hear a sharp hissing sound like escaping steam, and the ships will at once move forward, leaving tracks of foam in their wake. Their speed increases as they near the dividing line, and they come together with a crash and a jump, striving to push one another out. Sometimes the battle is very exciting, the victorious side being the one with the most ships left in the centre. The chemistry class may be able to explain why the ships are set in motion.

## On the Land

At the Burnside market last week (says the *Otago Daily Times*) there was the big yarding of 4430 sheep, and prices were easier to the extent of from 1s to 1s 6d per head for wethers and to the extent of fully 2s per head for ewes. Notwithstanding this weakening in the market, freezing buyers displayed no anxiety to operate. The market in respect of lambs was about on a par with the previous week. About 150 head of cattle were yarded, and although the quality was not good prices were firmer than in the previous week. Good quality bullocks were scarce, and realised up to £13 15s per head. The yarding of cattle consisted largely of stock of inferior quality. There was a good demand for pigs, and baconers made up to 4½d per lb.

Breed and condition have an influence on the rate of increase in weight of pigs which are being fattened. A great deal, too, depends on the kind of pigs, for, needless to say, quick-growing and strong-constituted animals increase faster in weight than those slow in maturing and delicate in constitution. The temperature and time of year has its influence, and experiment shows that it takes nearly ½lb more food to produce 1lb of pork in winter than it does in summer, and that pigs eat very little more in winter than they do in summer. A much larger quantity of food is also required to produce a pound of pork as the animal grows older, and thus it has become recognised that the fattening of young and immature pigs is more profitable than fully-grown pigs in fair condition.

The charge has been laid at my door (says the *Practical Dairyman*) that because I admire and appreciate a dairy cow, no matter of what breed, that I have ceased to love the Jersey. Nothing could be further from the truth. I admire and love her. I believe there is no cow so perfect in type, so beautiful in udder, having the same tenacity in milk, who can average so high a percentage of fat, and who will make as economical a yield of a hundred pounds of butter as the Jersey cow. She breeds true to type as no other breed except the Ayrshire does. She responds to good care and requires it. Her globules of fat being large, the grain of her butter cannot be excelled. Her butter remains firmer in heat than that of any other breed, her milk creams readily, and there is a perfect separation between cream and milk. As a butter-maker she is preeminent, and in her symmetry of form and beauty she is the aristocrat of the dairy world.

How to Kill Pigs.—Mr. W. Smith, the pig expert of the Victorian Department of Agriculture, gives the following useful hints on the slaughtering of pigs:—In killing the pig, he says, throw him on his right side by taking hold of the rear or left fore-leg. Still holding the leg with the left hand, take the knife in the right hand, and cut the neck in a direct line with the chin, but not too near the shoulder. When making the cut, always draw the knife after insertion back towards the chin; by doing so there will be less likelihood of shouldering. Two buckets of boiling water to one of cold make a very good scold (140 deg. Fahr.). As soon as the hair will come off the ears clean them well. Then turn the pig over in the tub with back up take all the hair from back and belly, leaving the head and feet until last. Clean the skin well in hot water before putting cold water over the pig. Hang up as soon as possible, shave off all loose hairs, and scrub well with scrubbing-brush. Open the pig down the belly and through the breastbone, clean out the inside well, lift the flares or leaf lard while the carcass is hot, so as to let the latter cool properly. Leave the pig hanging in a cool place until the following morning.

At the Addington market last week there was a large entry of stock and a good attendance. Fat cattle sold at the previous week's rates. Store sheep and fat lambs were much firmer. Fat sheep sold well, notwithstanding an exceptionally large entry. Store cattle and pigs were dull of sale, but dairy cows were in active demand. The yarding of fat lambs totalled 7199, of very mixed quality, ranging from prime down to inferior. The sale was a brisk one, and prices showed an appreciable advance on late rates. The rise was due to cable advice of a rise in wool, and the coming in of the winter freezing rates and freights. There were 6856 taken for freezing at 9s to 16s 7d, and one pen at 18s 1d. The yarding of fat sheep was a very large one, and the quality was on the average better than of late. The bulk of the entry consisted, however, of ewes, wethers again being in short supply. The range of prices was: Prime wethers, 16s 6d to 21s 6d; extra, 23s 9d; prime ewes, 13s 6d to 17s 10d. There were 324 head of fat cattle penned, of generally good quality, and including several lots of very prime heavy bullocks. There was a steady demand throughout, and the late prices were well maintained. Steers made up to £11. There was a fair entry of all classes of pigs. Choppers made up to 70s: heavy baconers, 50s to 55s; and smaller, 35s to 47s 6d—equal to 4d per lb; large parkers, 27s to 32s; and lighter, 22s to 25s—equal to 4½d to 4¼d per lb.

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