

At last, in fear and trembling, he wrote to the publisher to know the worst—which he himself had calculated at about eighty pounds.

'Let me know how many have gone off,' he wrote in all modesty, 'and what is the balance I owe you.'

The publisher wrote back:

'Dear Sir: Your whole edition has gone off, leaving a balance of twenty pounds in your favor; cheque enclosed.'

The poet was in the seventh heaven, and yet not satisfied. He rushed to the publisher's to inquire who had bought the book—friends, enemies, Mudie, or who?

'My dear sir,' said the publisher, 'I think you had better not ask.'

'Not ask? Why not? You wrote to say that the edition was all sold. It must have been sold to somebody.'

'Pardon me. I wrote that it had "gone off." So it had, the whole of it. There was a fire in the warehouse, and the contents were insured.'

THE NEW YEAR IN RUSSIA

In the country villages of Russia New Year's Day, celebrated on January 13, is pre-eminently a children's day, when the little folks are allowed the greatest liberties. Early in the morning the boys arm themselves with peas and wheat. Their enemies they subject to a fusillade of peas and their friends to a shower of wheat. After going from house to house with this performance they accompany a gaily caparisoned horse or ass to the home of the nobleman who is their landlord and master. Both the beast and the visitors are admitted to the best room in the nobleman's house, and the latter are given presents. Following this reception the old women bring a drove of decorated fowls to the lord. The interchange of gifts is an expression of good will between lord and peasants.

ALL THE DIFFERENCE

'How old is your baby brother?' asked little Tommy of a playmate.

'One year old,' replied Johnny.

'Ah!' exclaimed Tommy, 'I've got a dog a year old, and he can walk twice as well as your brother.'

'Well, so he ought to,' replied Johnny; 'he's got twice as many legs.'

THE PROPER MEASURE

A teacher was endeavoring to instil into the mind of a thick-headed youth the difference between linear, square, and cubic measures. After a lengthy explanation he asked him the following question:

'Now, Johnny, suppose your mother wished to take the measurements for a new carpet, what measure would she use?'

After a great deal of anxious deliberation the lad answered:

'If you please, sir, a tape-measure.'

MERELY AN ACQUAINTANCE

A Scot who served an Englishman as guide and friend on a fishing trip had what the London *Daily Mail* calls 'the national weakness' for claiming relationship with all the influential families in that part of Scotland. One day the Englishman met him on the road driving a pig and saw a little fun.

'Well, Donald,' said he, 'is that one of your grand relations?'

'O, no,' said Donald, quietly. 'This is just an acquaintance—like yersel!'

GOOD FOR THE CAUSE

Two young fellows recently attended a tea for which they had bought tickets at sixpence each. The profits were to go towards a treat to the aged poor. One of them, after consuming four cups of tea, six

ham sandwiches, a plate of bread and butter, two tea-cakes, five jam tarts, and four large buns, was passing his cup for the fifth time when he turned to his friend and said, in a serious tone:

'I think everyone should encourage a thing of this sort. It's for a good cause, you know.'

TAKING NO CHANCES

Little Ethel had been very naughty. Her mother sent her from the dining-room; but, when the pudding came on, she determined to give Ethel another chance.

'Tell Ethel if she will be very, very good for the rest of the afternoon she may have some pudding,' she said to the servant.

The servant delivered the message, and returned with the reply,

'Please, ma'am, Miss Ethel wants to know what kind of pudding it is before she makes any promises.'

THE WRONG NAME

In some of the country districts in Ireland it is not an uncommon thing to see carts with the owner's names chalked on to save the expense of painting. Practical jokers delight in rubbing out these signs to annoy the owners.

A constabulary sergeant one day accosted a countryman whose name had been wiped out unknown to him.

'Is this your cart, my good man?'

'Of course it is!' was the reply. 'Do you see anything the matter wid it?'

'I observe,' said the pompous policeman, 'that your name is obliterated.'

'Then ye're wrong,' quoth the countryman, who had never come across the long word before, 'for me name's O'Flaherty, and I don't care who knows it.'

NOT A BITE TO EAT

'You must have had a terrible experience, with no food, and mosquitoes swarming around you,' said a friend to the ship-wrecked mariner who had been cast away upon a tropical island.

'You just bet I had a terrible experience,' he acknowledged. 'My experience was worse than that of the man who wrote, "Water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink." With me it was bites, bites everywhere, but not a bite to eat.'

FAMILY FUN

TREE PUZZLES.

- What is the double tree?—Pear.
 What tree is nearest the sea?—Beech.
 Name the languishing tree?—Pine.
 What is the chronologist's tree?—Date.
 What tree is adapted to hold wearing apparel?—Box.
 What tree will keep you warm?—Fir.
 What is the Egyptian plague tree?—Locust.
 What is the tree we offer friends at meeting and parting?—Palm.
 The tree used in wet weather?—Rubber.
 The level tree?—Plane.
 The tree used in a bottle?—Cork.
 The tree that belongs to the sea?—Bay.
 An immortal tree?—Arbor Vitae.
 A tree worn in Oriental countries?—Sandal.
 A tree used in drawing an accurate line?—Plum.
 An emblem of grief?—Weeping Willow.

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