

"Very well, sir," he replied.

When he got on board he examined the various cranks with interest and uncertainty. He turned one of them, and the engine started for the shed at the rate of 70 miles an hour. He was alarmed, and turned two or three other cranks. There was a sudden jerk, and the engine flew in the other direction. Fortunately the lines were clear.

For the succeeding ten minutes the foreman witnessed a series of extraordinary and miraculous manoeuvres. To and from the shed rushed the engine. As it wended its way on to the main line for the fourth time he shouted, "What in the world are you doing, you silly ass?"

And a voice rang out from the distance, "It's you that's the silly ass. Why don't you shut the door of the shed? I've had her in three times."

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VALUE FOR MONEY.

For two hours the village guide had accompanied the tourist, and had explained the principal attractions of the neighborhood.

"I trust," said the tourist, "that what you have told me is absolutely true. You see, I never feel I should pay for untruths. Here is a threepenny-bit for you."

"Well," responded the villager, scanning the coin, "truth or untruth, you've had a good three-pennorth."

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SMILE RAISERS.

"Men," she declared, contemptuously, "are absolutely lacking in self-control, judgment, and good taste."

"Possibly, my dear," he responded; "but just think how many old maids there would be if they were not!"

▼

Monks: "The Crosbys claim to be connected with some of the best families."

Tibbs: "By telephone?"

▼

Bacon: "When a man is in love everything looks different to him."

Egbert: "Yes; it's the same way when he knocks his head against a gas-bracket."

▼

Judge (impatiently): "We must have less noise in court. I've tried three cases already, and I haven't been able to catch a word of the evidence."

▼

Two neighbors fell out.

Said one, paving the way to peace, "I wouldn't have said what I did say, if it hadn't been for the nasty looks you gave me."

Said the other, not quite mollified, "I gave you no nasty looks—you always had them."

Peace has yet to be ratified.

▼

"I tell you what," said Mrs. Bunks, "it won't be long before women are in many of the public offices."

"Well," said Bunks, in reply, "I don't care so much what they do as long as they keep out of the weather department."

"Why should they keep out of the weather department?"

"The weather is changeable enough now."

▼

After all sorts of hints, Johnny succeeded in getting a sixpence from his mother, but he failed to thank her for it. Whereupon the mother, ashamed of her child's rudeness, remonstrated:—

"Johnny, you are awfully forgetful. What should you say when you get something?"

"I can't tell," was Johnny's only reply.

"You can't tell? Why, Johnny, it's awful! What does mamma say when papa gives her money?"

"Is this all?"

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SCIENCE SIFTINGS

By "VOLT"

Wireless Voice for Films.

A new method of producing talking films has been tried successfully in a Chicago studio.

An actor talked into a wireless telephone while watching his movements in a film on the screen. The film was a "master reel," which controlled the projection of a number of identical films at various other places. All the films were running at the same moment under a new system of electrical timing.

At the same time the wireless telephone transmitted the actor's voice, and sounds, such as those of revolver shots, bells, and whistles, as they occurred in the picture.

The inventors predict that the time will come when every picture theatre will be fitted with wireless telephones and electrically-timed films.

Things That Animals Dislike.

Recent experiments (writes T.C.B. in a London paper) prove the truth of the oft-repeated saying that birds do really display fear of the color blue. It has been shown that a scarecrow made of blue paper will keep small birds off peas or fruit far better than any other device. Just why this is so is a difficult problem, but the fact remains.

It is also a fact that the antipathy of birds to blue is shared by certain insects. Put a piece of blue glass over part of an ants' nest and you will notice the little creatures clearing out at once from under it. Birds, sparrows especially, also fear black thread, and a lacing of black thread is an excellent device to keep them off seed beds.

The dislike shown by cattle for any object of a violent red hue is usually explained on the ground that red is the color of blood, but if this is so, why is it that other animals do not exhibit an equal dislike to crimson? So far as I know, the antipathy is confined entirely to cattle, and is not shared by horses, sheep, pigs, or any kindred of the wild.

All horses, I believe, have an instinctive dislike for the camel, and it is extremely difficult to train them to get over it. Whether this is due to scent or sight I do not know.

Many horses, again, have a violent antipathy to donkeys. I once had a Texan pony that would bolt at the most distant sight of a donkey. Yet the pony was quiet enough otherwise, and even a bit of a slug.

To fight like cat and dog is a very old saying. Yet dogs and cats often lead perfectly amicable existences in the same house, and even learn to play together.

There is a much more lasting and genuine antipathy between the badger and the fox. Old huntsmen will tell you that the two never harbor in the same part of a wood, and that if a fox invades a badger's earth the badger abandons it.

The hostility of that fierce little wild pig, the peccary, for the panther is more reasonable, for it is probable that the panther is not above picking up a pigling if chance offers. But the fact remains that a herd of peccaries will go for a panther on sight, and if they can catch him will rip him to pieces with their terrible tusks.

There is a story that a Briton newly arrived in a Central American town enquired of a native if he knew of any place where he could bathe in safety from alligators. The native showed him a part of the river estuary which, he said, was quite free from alligators. The Briton, after a refreshing bathe, enquired of his guide why this particular spot was so free from alligators. "Because there are so many sharks, senior," was the answer.

The story may be *ben trovato*, but at any rate it seems to be a fact that although alligators frequent brackish water they and sharks are never found in company.

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By the Cross man was delivered from spiritual slavery, and Hope has been shed on the nations.—St. Nilus.

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