

LEARNING HOW.

"I am especially anxious for Harold to come," read Harold's mother. "Dorothy has never had any one to play with except her father and me, and she doesn't know how to play with children of her own age. A more angelic child never breathed and Dick is eager to see what a bit of well directed spicce will do for her. He always has felt that she should have been born a boy, you know. So come soon."

"Well, come on!" shouted Harold. Then, pulling her ruthlessly by the hand, he started up the broad stairway for the stories above.

"The dears!" chimed the mothers in unison. Then the two settled down to discuss the various merits of their offspring, wondering how soon they might be called upon to explain to Dorothy just what it was that Harold meant by his boyish actions.

But there was no sudden summons to the attic. Two hours later they crept upstairs to call the children to luncheon and to note Dorothy's progress.

Harold was directing operations with the air of a general. Dorothy sat near by, her angelic eyes blazing with excitement, shearing wildly her best doll's hair. About her lay several dolls of various sizes, mercilessly barbered, and on the floor were strewn the curls that had once graced the bisque heads.

It was not this sight that made her mother start forward with a cry of terror and catch up her child in a fever of amazement. Dorothy's curls had evidently been the first to fall. They lay intermingled with the tangled floss upon the floor.

"He's been teaching me to play, mother," cried Dorothy as she struggled free. "We're barbers, and he cut off my hair like his and we've cut the dolls' hair, too, when they had any."

During luncheon both children were gravely admonished and though restless to a marked degree they promised solemnly not to use the scissors and not to throw anything—Harold having suggested an imitation of an apartment building fire that he had witnessed where all the furniture had been thrown from the upper floors. Further, they promised not to pound anything, and not to paint anything but their own paint books.

Then with a sigh from Dorothy's mother and a tender smooth to Dorothy's shorn head, the children were allowed to seek their own amusement once more.

"Harold doesn't seem to be destructive," his mother said sadly, but a bit proudly as well. "And he does obey. We can trust them now that they have our restrictions to go by. It is his inventive genius for something new to do. He never played barber before in his life. It must have been because his father had his hair trimmed while I was buying my new hat yesterday—a perfect dream, Marion! A most extravagant willow plume and a few gold rose buds—"

"But such an investment, dear!" answered her sister. "Mme. Renova has used my white plume, dyed green, on a high small toque."

With that the subject of fashions was launched for the afternoon. Some hours later, because of the silence in the attic, they went in search of the cherubs. They were not in the attic, nor in the nursery nor yet in mother's room. But there they found evidences of pilfering that sent terror to the mothers' hearts and set them to calling loudly for their darlings. Dorothy had rifled her mother's hat box. The tissue paper coverings and the box lid were strewn about, but the hat was gone.

From the guest room the cherubs answered eagerly and innocently. "We're playing milliner's shop," called Dorothy's high treble, an eerie gleam in her usually soft eyes. "Harold knows such lots of plays and I'm learning like you said to. And we're going to stuff some dolls' pillows with these."

On the bed lay the two hats, shorn of all that had made them models of the season's most perfect designs. Upright on each stood a single wiry stick from which all the fibers of a once lovely plume had been stripped. On the white counterpane lay a heaped-up mass of green and rose.

"It's some like excellent, only softer," shouted Harold, "and in pillows it will be fine."

Then, seeing the tragedy that lay in his mother's eyes, he scrambled to her side, saying eagerly: "We didn't cut or throw or pound or paint, mother—"

The rest was drowned in the slamming door on the retiring figures of Dorothy and Dorothy's mother.

Simple Enough.

"I don't know how to make conversation when in society." "It's simple enough. When you're with automobile people you talk automobile, and when you're with bridge people you talk bridge."

BEETLE BITS.

**Cook Learned the Secret of Their Utility From an Insect.**

Ransom Cook was little known outside of the village of Saratoga, where he lived, but he gained a small fortune from a carpenter's bit, invented by him, which has been in common use for years. This device has two lips, protruding slightly above the edge and opposite each other.

Simplicity itself, but the world never had such a bit until Cook made it, and an insect taught him how to do it. Sitting down on a recently felled pine tree one day outside Saratoga, he heard the crunch, crunch of something inside the log. Curious, he investigated and saw that an insect of the beetle family was boring into the wood at one end of the prostrate tree. And the hole was lengthwise. Moreover, it was perfectly smooth. Cook had no bits in his kit that would make such a hole without silvering the interior so that it would be rough. Procuring an ax, he chopped off the end of the log where the insect had been working, split the section and, capturing the beetle, took it home and examined it under a microscope.

Then the secret of the insect's ability to bore smooth horizontal holes in any kind of wood was revealed. The beetle was provided with powerful nippers on either side of its jaws, and they operated in precisely the same manner as do the small blades of the bits which he immediately invented, patented and put on the market.

"Beetle bits" were the foundation of his fortune.—New York Press.

SPEED OF A TRAIN.

**You Can Figure It Out From the Clicks of the Rail Joints.**

If any reader wishes, when on a long railway journey, to test the speed at which the train is traveling he might perhaps do worse than follow the method suggested by "Nothing to Do." "We were coming down from London to Holyhead," he says, "and the wheels flying over the rails beat out to my brain the rhythmic tune 'Nothing to do, nothing to do,' as they went over the joints in the rails. I took out my watch and with the aid of the second hand counted the number of 'nothings to do's' which were beaten out during one-quarter of a minute. I found that twenty-two was the number. Twenty-two by four gave me eighty-eight for one minute. The rails of the L. and N. W. railway are sixty feet long; therefore 88 by 60 gave me 5,280 which was, of course, the number of feet we were traveling to the minute. Thus I was able to tell my traveling companion, with some degree of accuracy, that at that time we were traveling at a mile a minute."

"Any reader can do this. All that is necessary is to find out beforehand the length of the rails and after that to watch your watch."—London Answers

**She Rapped Bismarck.** Bismarck was no favorite with women, least of all with clever women who dared to think for themselves and imagine that they could fathom questions of state. He was never tired of snubbing strong minded ladies, putting them down and stamping on them. One day he paid a visit to the Russian embassy at Berlin, where he behaved as usual, flouting even the mistress of the house, the Countess Schouvaloff herself. He took his leave at length to the relief of everybody, and presently the family mastiff was heard barking at the great man as he passed through the courtyard. Immediately the countess ran to the open window and Bismarck heard her voice, saying to him in a tone of gentle entreaty: "Oh, please, M. le Chancelier, don't bite my dog."

**Course of the Sun.** It is not known whether the sun is moving around another as a center. All probabilities are against the idea. Since the invention of the telescope and micrometer no turning to the right or left has been detected. It, so far as known, seems to be moving along on a straight line. But analogy is against this also. Millions of other suns attract ours, and the path beyond a doubt bends this way and that. It is that of a bee in a swarm, but the curvature cannot be noticed. Draw a circle ten miles in diameter, cut out one inch, and you would say the path is a straight line. The sun's path traced during the last 300 years at twelve miles per second is about in the proportion of this cut out inch.—Edwin Lucien Larkin in New York American.

**Select Trees With Care.** Trees for street and lawn should be studied and selected with the greatest care. They are for life, often for several generations, yet a dollar often decides the kind of tree. Much more thought and time are given to the selection of an easy chair. Many persons will willingly spend \$30 or \$40 for a chair who would not think of putting that amount into a tree.—Kansas Industrialist.

**His Harvest Season.** Teacher—Now, Earlie, tell us when is the harvest season. Earlie—From November to March. Teacher—Why, Earlie, I am surprised that you should name such barren months. Who told you they were the harvest season? Earlie—Pa. He's a plumber.—Brooklyn Eagle.

**Literary Note.** Dentist—Penley, the novelist, was in this morning and had a tooth pulled Friend—Ah! An extract from a popular author, as it were.—Boston Transcript.

**The Fear of Woman.** Mrs. A.—They say that the world is coming to an end. Mrs. B.—I'll bet it catches me with my old clothes on.—Yative.

**A Bad Outlook.** "No, I can't get up enough courage to ask old Patterson for his daughter." "And why not?" "Because I'm a builder of absolute fireproof buildings and he is a fire insurance agent."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

**She Knew.** Miss Gusher—Oh, please tell me! Do you think poets have to be born? The Poet's Wife—Yes, borne with.—Barper's Bazar.

Men of most renowned virtue have sometimes by transgressing most truly kept the law.—John Milton.

USED PLAIN LANGUAGE.

**The Expression That Won the Judge an Artistic Thashing.**

Ex-Judge Shirley was one of the most interesting characters that ever practiced law in Indiana. He had been brought up in the south, and, although a resident in the north for many years, still had a trace of the so-called southern dialect which made his characteristic and expressive utterances all the more striking. Having succeeded fairly well in his practice, he was the owner of a valuable farm or two. One day he had a misunderstanding with one of his tenants, in the course of which the tenant gave him a sound thrashing. The same afternoon the lawyer rode into M., bruised, bleeding and dirty.

"Hello!" said a friend, meeting him. "There must have been a runaway!" "No, sub," replied the judge grimly. "There was no runaway, sub, but there would have been if I could have got loose, sub!" His tenant was arrested and tried for assault and battery. Of course Judge Shirley was the principal witness.

"What did you say to this man, Judge Shirley?" demanded the attorney who appeared for the tenant. "Well, s'-' returned the judge evasively, he falsified, and I called his attention to it, sub!" "But what did you say?" insisted the lawyer.

At last, cornered and forced to answer directly, the old judge replied: "Well, your honah," turning from his questioner and addressing the court, "your honah, I may as well admit that I used the common American tumb."—Youth's Companion.

KEEPING AN ENGAGEMENT.

**Garrett Made a Mighty Effort to Be on Time Just Once.**

The late Edmund Garrett, a brilliant journalist and one time assistant editor of the Pall Mall Gazette, was a man whom other men loved. But along with his virtues he had an extensive list of peculiarities, some of which are humorously exploited in a biography by E. T. Cook. Garrett had no idea of time, and he used to get into some trouble at the office of the Gazette for that reason. "This must stop," he said to me, "and matters must be mended." A day or two afterward an invitation came from the proprietor to dinner. Edmund said that at any rate there must be no doubt about this entertainment and his punctual attendance thereat, and a good deal of fuss was made about getting ready for it.

Shirts were looked out, white ties and dress clothes were overhauled and all the resources of our establishment brought into requisition, so that the appearance of the guest should do justice to the host. Dinner was at 8, and long before that time Edmund was arrayed in spotless raiment, starting out in good time to get to dinner.

I stayed, reading, in the flat. After about half an hour I heard somebody coming up the stairs and I heard to my amazement the latchkey put into the lock. The door opened, and in came Edmund, with a face ashy pale. He took off his hat and threw it on the floor and said: "Hang it, old man, I've muddled it again! It was last Wednesday!"

**Sun or Heat as Maker of Baldness.** The fact that savages almost always possess fine crops of hair, taken with the fact that they do not wear hats, has led some people to believe that going bareheaded might be a preventive of baldness. But Dr. Gotthell in an article quoted by the Medical Record points out that the action of the sun's rays upon the head is injurious not only to the hair, but to the whole system, overindulgence in sun baths causing irritability and nervous cardiac and circulatory disturbances and lesions of the skin that are often serious. But it is pointed out that the tight hatband constricts circulation in the arteries and veins of the head, and, as the Medical Record says, it is a moot point whether this be not as harmful to the hair as are the active rays of the sun.

**Many Manias.** At a recent congress of neurology a paper was read in which the movement by which the growing tad crosses the first shoots on his upper lip was labeled moustachlostreptomania; the habit of twirling the cane seen in old drum majors, strepsorabdomania; that of putting the little finger into the ear, otodactylomania. Then we have "stomatodactylomania," who put the finger into the mouth; "onychophago mania," who bite their nails; "har monomania," who drum with their fingers on windowpanes or tables, and "trepodomania," who nervously move their legs.—British Medical Journal.

Mrs. R. P. Monfort, of Lebanon, Warren Co., Ohio, writes: "I have received the Medical Adviser, and very much pleased I am with it. I think it quite a prize to get such a book for so small a sum. I do not think a crisp five dollar bill could tempt me to part with it. My husband said to me yesterday, 'That book is worth five dollars to you.'" Dr. Pierce's Medical Adviser is sent free on receipt of stamps to pay expense of mailing only. Send 21 one-cent stamps for the paper-covered book, or 31 stamps for the cloth binding to Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

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