

Not Disposed to Quibble.
While the two urchins who had adjourned to the alley in the rear of the barn to fight were stripping for action the larger one said:
"Kid, I'll let ye off if ye're 'traid. I can lick ye in two minutes. I'm ten pounds heavier'n ye be."
"That's all right," responded the other. "If you'd wash the dirt off'n that mug of your'n we'd weigh 'bout the same."
The fight that immediately followed was the fiercest one the neighborhood had seen for many a day, and it is with a melancholy satisfaction the historian records the fact that the smaller boy whipped—Chicago Tribune.

Students of Human Nature.
Two pickpockets saw a gentleman receive a large sum at the bank, and followed him for some time to get a chance at it. Finally the watched turned into a lawyer's office, and one of the watchers said: "That settles it. He's gone. Come along."
"No! no!" said the other. "Wait till the lawyer comes out. We'll tackle him."—Day City Chat.

A Matter of Money.
A couple of Dallas gentlemen met, and one of them remarked:
"You look down in the mouth. What's the matter? Is it love or business that is troubling you?"
"Business. That rich girl to whom I have been engaged for the last six months has 'shook' me."—Dallas (Tex.) Sifter.

Took Time to Make It.
"That was a very fine speech you made the other night," said one Pittsburger to another.
"I didn't make it the other night," replied the latter. "I delivered it the other night, but it took me a month to make it."—Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.

Natural Resentment.
"Little boy," asked the sympathizing lady, "why do you cry so?"
"Is there anything in the manner of my expressing my grief, madam," responded the Boston boy, "that strikes you as being out or inappropriate? Boo-hoo! Boo-hoo!"—Chicago Tribune.

A Remarkable Creature.
May—I must introduce you to Mr. Gayly. He is quite a noted character. Pamela—Is he?
May—Yes. He made love to 12 girls last summer without causing them to become jealous of each other.—Town Topics.

The Difference of a Word.
"There's nothing so bad," the optimist cries,
"But it might be worse;" while the pessimist sighs
And moans and groans, in prose and in verse:
"There's nothing so bad but it will be worse."—Puck.

A Descriptive Allment.
Jiggs—I her old Bragg's the typhoid fever.
Briggs—You mean the typhoid fever, don't you?
Jiggs—No, I mean the typhoon. He centers everything in himself, and he's all wind.—N. Y. World.

Twin Sisters.
Mosquitoes and summer girls, you know, are made of the self-same stuff. They are terribly hard to catch, but, oh! you can mash 'em easy enough.
—L. A. W. Bulletin.



A DELICATE INSINUATION.
Mrs. Pesterd—Well, what is it?
Hungry Hickey—Wotever you say, kind lady. It's leap year.—Judge.

The Changeful Climate.
"Tis a time of insidious terror
When the strongest of men holds his breath;
You are dodging a sunstroke one moment
And the next you are freezing to death."
—Washington Star.

How He Got Even.
Miss Yellowleaf—I would not marry you if you were the last man to ever propose to me!
Mr. Costique—Ah, yes, of course. But how do you feel about it, seeing that I'm the first?—Town Topics.

Its Value.
"Now that you've heard the poem tell me what you think? Oughtn't I to get ten dollars for it?"
"Y-e-e-s. Ten dollars or 30 days."—N. Y. World.

A Fin De Siecle Parent.
"No, papa, I tell you I won't have him! I want a title."
"But you must, Ethel. He's rich, and I can give you nothing at this crisis—wait till next time for the title."—Life.

Why He Prays.
Robby—Popper, what do they have a man to pray for congress for?
Mr. Ferry—They don't. He takes a look at congress and then prays for the country.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

He Got It.
Thuggers—Soy! I want a drink, an' I want it bad! See?
Barkeeper (shoving out the five-cent whisky)—Wari, is dat bad enough for yez?—Truth.

His Occupation.
"Dadger doesn't work any, does he?"
"Oh, yes, his wife keeps boarders, and he does the grumblin'."—Chicago Record.

WHEELS OF RESTAURANT REFORM.
Made to Spin by a Zealous Lover of Truth In Tempting Signs.
A reformer, with cast iron principles of justice, can find plenty of odd jobs to fill in his spare moments. Firmness, together with a judicious display of consequential importance, will often make the laws of corporations totter, and a pat argument bring them to the ground.
There was a sign in the window of a New York ice cream "parlor" reading, "Try our strawberry ice cream with the strawberries frozen in." When those cooling words caught the eye of the reformer on a recent hot day, his wilted spirits revived and he entered the place radiating peace and good will.
"Strawberry," he said confidently, beaming upon the presiding Hebe. Then he sat back and thought how good the frozen strawberries were going to taste. When the dish was brought, he scanned it closely, but failed to see any material signs of the berries.
"Where are the strawberries?" he asked, the genial expression giving way to one of stern inquiry.
"There ain't none in dish cream," said Hebe. "Only our quart bricks has the strawberries frozen in."
"What do you mean, then," said the customer, thumping the floor with his stick, "by putting such a sign in the window? That is a promise that this firm is bound to fulfill. I want some cream with strawberries frozen in. I insist upon having it. If the public in general consents to be bamboozled by that 'fake' sign, I don't; so run right along and get me some frozen strawberries."
"I tell you we don't sell it by the plate," said Hebe, who was beginning to show symptoms of hysteria.
"I'll have a plate of it," said the man, "or the firm must take in that sign and make me an apology."
The girl then left the field to the proprietor, who approached the customer with a conciliatory smile.
"Very sorry, sir," said he, "but we are just out of strawberry ice cream."
"Does the sign come down?"
"It does."
And now the reformer goes three blocks out of his way to pass that store for the sake of experiencing again the satisfaction of an accomplished purpose.
—New York Herald.

Actually Stealing Wind.
"Say, officer, I wish you'd drive those hoboes away or run them in," requested the manager of a Market street cycler. "They're hanging around the door trying to steal our air all day long."
"Trying to steal what?"
"Our air—what we use to blow up pneumatic tires with."
"Do you fellows own the air here? Did you rent it with the premises? You'll be accusing somebody of running off with your sunbeams next. I suppose those hoboes grab a handful of air when you ain't looking, jam it in their pockets and run, eh?"
"Well, if you don't believe it, just come back here and watch."
The clerk led the way to the back part of the establishment, where he and the officer concealed themselves behind a curtain. In a moment a big tramp peered in at the door, mopped the perspiration from his face, slipped up to the little rubber hose attached to the air compressor in the basement, thrust the nozzle into his steaming collar and turned the stop cock. The wind whistled through his clothes, and for a moment he was the picture of contentment. Before he could get cooled off two more were anxiously waiting their turn at the nozzle.

The Enormous Sun, Arcturus.
If the earth were situated midway between the sun and Arcturus, it would receive 5,198 times as much light from that star as it would from the sun. It is quite probable, moreover, that the heat of Arcturus exceeds the solar heat in the same ratio, for the spectroscopic shows that, although Arcturus is surrounded with a cloak of metallic vapors proportionately far more extensive than the sun's, yet, smothered as the great star seems in some respects to be, it rivals Sirius itself in the intensity of its radiant energy.
If we suppose the radiation of Arcturus to be the same per unit of surface as the sun's, it follows that Arcturus exceeds the sun about 375,000 times in volume, and that its diameter is no less than 62,350,000 miles. Imagine the earth and the other planets constituting the solar system removed to Arcturus and set revolving around it in orbits of the same forms and sizes as those in which they circle about the sun. Poor Mercury! For that little planet it would indeed be a jump from the frying pan into the fire, because, as it rushed to perihelion, Mercury would plunge more than 2,500,000 miles beneath the surface of the giant star. Venus and the earth would perhaps melt like snowflakes at the mouth of a furnace. Even far away Neptune, the remotest member of the system, would be bathed in torrid heat.—Popular Science Monthly.

The North Pole Moving South.
For the past 40 or 50 years the geographers and astronomers have suspected that, on account of a "tilting" in the earth's axis, the latitude of all places on the earth's surface is gradually changing. A few years ago (1892) the astronomers decided to make a "test case" of the matter, and now report that the theory is correct. For example, they have proved that Berlin was 51 feet nearer the pole in September, 1893, than it was in March of the same year. If Peary and Wellman will only be patient, the pole will come to them!—St. Louis Republic.

Pugnacious Blackie.
Professor Blackie had a large share of pugnacity in his composition, and a curious instance of it is given in this same account by himself. "As a boy," he said, "I was always antagonistic to school fights; pugilism had no fascination for me. I well remember a lad, over some small squabble, saying to me, 'Will you fight me?' 'No,' I replied, 'but I will knock you down,' and immediately did it, amid great applause."

Getting the Money.
Father—He says he loves you, but can he support you in the style you have been accustomed to?
Daughter—Even better, father, dear, if you will just furnish the money. That is all that discourages him.—Kansas City Catholic.

THE COLOR AND POSITION OF LIGHTS AT SEA.
The Color and Position of Lights at Night Tell of a Vessel's Course.
Ensign John M. Ellicott, in St. Nicholas, has a paper entitled "What the Lights Tell." This is a description of the system of signaling at night. Ensign Ellicott writes as follows of the "Rules of the Road:"
Presently there flashes out of the gloom ahead a small bright speck; then it is gone, then it shows again, and one of the lookouts who has craned his neck forward in the intensity of his gaze cries out:
"Light, ho!"
In an instant the officer of the deck is by his side, glasses in hand, inquiring: "Where away?"
Then he, too, sees it, and by it is informed of another vessel's presence near him on the dark ocean. Then comes an anxious time when with strong glasses he strives to tell the color of that faint light, for he is as yet informed only of the other vessel's whereabouts at the moment and knows not which way she is going nor what manner of vessel she may be. This last is what the light next reveals, for if it be white it is the masthead light of a steamer, but if it be red or green the absence of a white light reveals a sailing vessel. It is for the red and green lights, commonly known as the side lights, that the officer of the deck most intently watches, for by them he can tell which way the vessel is going. If her red light shows, he knows that her port side is toward him and she is crossing to his left. If it is her green light, she is crossing to his right, but if both the red and green are showing she is heading straight in his direction. Thus he learns by these running lights where the other vessel is, what she is, and in what direction she is going, and he knows in plenty of time whether she is on his track or whether she is crossing it in one direction or the other. All this is not enough, however, to avoid collision, for both he and the officer on the other vessel must know exactly what to do and what the other is going to do. He must know, so to speak, on just what track to switch and on just what track the other vessel will switch to avoid him. This is settled by fixed rules, which are the same the world over, and are known to all men who follow the sea. They are called the "rules of the road."

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