

THE PATRIOT
Published Weekly By
THE PATRIOT PUB. COMPANY
Office: No. 15 Carpenter Avenue.
Marshall Building, INDIANA, PA.
F. BIAMONTE, Editor & Manager
V. ACETI, Italian Editor.

Entered as second-class matter
September 26, 1914, at the postoffice
at Indiana, Pennsylvania, under the
Act of March 3, 1879.

Local Phone 250Z - Bell Phone 49-W

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CHILDREN BRUSH TEETH FOR PRIZES.



Photos by American Press Association.
Children of the public schools of New York brushing their teeth in a recent public competitive drill for pennants.

Smokeless Powder.
Some smokeless powders decompose after awhile, and as a result of such deterioration they are likely to explode spontaneously. The destruction of the French warship *Liberte*, which blew up in 1911, is thought to have been caused by such an accident. As a precaution against such tragic happenings all the powder of that kind used by our own navy is put through a process of remanufacture every five years, and there is a regular fortnightly inspection of the stuff on hand on every battleship and cruiser. When it decomposes it gives out reddish, acid fumes, which should give ample warning of the threatened danger.—*Youth's Companion*.

KINDNESS.
Do not be afraid of spoiling any one with kindness. It can't be done. Instead of spoiling it beautifies the character, cheers the heart and helps to raise the burden from shoulders which, though brave, sometimes grow very tired. Let not a little coldness frighten you away, for under a frigid exterior there is always to be found a tender chord which is to be touched by kindness.

Lords and Commons.
An ancient English custom forbids the participation of a peer in the election of a commoner, so that when a general election is actually in progress the lords are oratorically muzzled by a fiction that supposes them to be quite indifferent to the composition of the lower house, but until the candidates have been actually nominated the peers may use all the eloquence with which nature has endowed them for or against the issue involved in the approaching election.

Puzzled.
An old settler down Nola Chucky way when the Paint Rock line first began to run through his district undertook to explain the workings of the steam engine to a little crowd of friends. As he talked a train ran past the station and then backed up. This procedure of backing quite flabbergasted the old settler.
"By gosh, boys!" he confessed. "I kin understand how the engine pulls the cars, but I'll be busted if I see how them cars pull the engine."—*Exchange*.

Poisonous Gas Geyser.
In the midst of the great faunal wilderness near Nairobi, Africa, is a big blowhole in the earth issuing poisonous gases. Surrounding this hole for many yards are piled bones of dead animals, poisoned by this gas geyser. Dogs dragged by ropes over the hole were killed in less than a minute. The gas has been found to be hydrochloric, coming from some volcanic depth. The death trap has been fenced and billed all around with warnings.—*New York Press*.

Aye, There's the Rub.
If we had to turn our own grind stones we wouldn't have so many axes to grind.—*Cincinnati Enquirer*.
His Gift.
"They say he gets \$25 for his speeches!" "Yep. He's peculiarly gifted."—*Cleveland Plain Dealer*.
Life Insurance.
The earliest record of any life insurance policy bears the date of June 15, 1853.

Popular Poverty.
Katie, aged seven, was the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Jones. One day, when the new minister called, Katie, upon her own invitation, went into the parlor to entertain him until her mother came down stairs. As she approached the parlor door, Mrs. Jones heard the minister ask Katie how many children her mother had, and was very much surprised to hear her little daughter reply "six."

Her mother wisely made no comment upon the startling reply of the child but sent her out to play, and when the minister's visit was over she asked Katie why she had told him that her mother had six children, and was more dumfounded than ever when Katie said, "Because, I did not want the strange gentleman to know that you were so poor that you didn't have but one child."—*National Monthly*.

An Efficiency Recipe.
Be earnest, but be calm. No matter what happens. A man may learn to treble his day's work by systematically shutting out all feeling during office hours. What fatigues and annoys us is not our work, but the mental friction, nervous strain, muscular tension, emotional wear and tear which we allow to accompany our work. A real man is always a machine while on the job, never a machine at any other time.
Recipe for efficiency: Be a plodder by day and a poet by night. Do your planning, your dreaming, your resolving, when silence and solitude open the mind for great thoughts and purposes; then appear to the world just as an ordinary business man, with nothing unique about you to rouse the neighbors' suspicions.—*New York Independent*.

Cynical.
He—Men are what they eat.
She—I've noticed you're fond of calves' brains.—*Baltimore American*.
Africa and North America.
Africa has sixteen inhabitants to the square mile, and North America has only one more per mile.
Wanted, a Carver.
"You say your son belongs to a corn club?"
"Yes; raised a fine crop last year."
"That ain't the kind of corn expert I want to consult. I want to know what to do for the pesky things."—*Pittsburgh Post*.
Willing to Do That.
"So your grocer refuses to give you credit for another thing."
"Not exactly; he says he'll give me credit for any cash I pay on account."—*Boston Transcript*.

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FLAG FOR VICE PRESIDENT.

American Eagle on a White Square.
Exposition Trip the Cause.
The vice president of the United States is to have an official flag. Whenever he visits an American warship his flag will flutter from the masthead. The flag will be a snow white square of bunting, on the field of which will be a blue bird representing the eagle in the coat of arms of the United States. The president's flag consists of the coat of arms of the nation on a blue field.
This is the first time that there has been prescribed for the vice president a distinctive flag to be displayed on naval vessels while he is on board. The president, the secretaries and the assistant secretaries of the departments of war and the navy all have distinctive flags. The admirals, vice admirals and rear admirals have distinctive flags.
It remained for Secretary Daniels to provide the vice president with a flag. His action grows out of the fact that Mr. Marshall is going to San Francisco to represent President Wilson at the exposition. He is to be received on board the cruiser *Colorado*, the flagship of Admiral Howard, commander in chief of the Atlantic fleet; hence the new flag, which will be a permanent institution of honor to the vice president.



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Venite a visitarci

How to Tell if it is Silver.
To distinguish silver from white metal the Jeweler and Metalworker gives the following directions: Rub on a piece of slate, wet the streak with dilute nitric acid, by which it is dissolved, and then a drop or two of hydrochloric acid from the end of a glass rod, when a curdy white precipitate is formed which does not disappear on the addition of a small or large quantity of water, being, in fact, indissoluble in this, while most other metals will not be thus affected.

JUST A FEW THINGS THAT ONE SMALL GIRL CAN DO.
Accomplishments of twelve-year-old Winifred Sackville Stoner of Pittsburgh, who has interested scientists in several countries:
Reads, writes and speaks eight languages.
Has written French verse, a suffrage book entitled "A Plea to Gallant Knights" and magazine and newspaper short stories, having begun this work in her fifth year.
Taught a class in Esperanto at the Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh.
Made the first translation of "Mother Goose" rimes into Esperanto.
Has memorized several of Cicero's orations and parts of Horace, Livy, Sallust and Caesar.
Plays the piano, violin, guitar and mandolin.
Illustrates her own writings.
Can swim, cook, row, drive an auto, box, ride a horse and play baseball.

SYMPATHY.
To give and take appears to be the inevitable law, and it seems as if those who have suffered most are those who have given most to us, in our sore human craving for help and sympathy.—*Miss Thackeray*.
How Could He Tell?
George was told to draw a line on the blackboard and write a sentence. Instead of obeying instructions to the letter he wrote the sentence first.
"George, why didn't you draw the line first, as I told you to do?" was the teacher's impatient inquiry.
George regarded her with wondering eyes. Surely the ways of women were beyond comprehension. Then he asked seriously:
"How could I tell where I'd want that line till I got it wrote?"—*Indianapolis News*.

HUMILITY.
Humility is the means of progress. When we realize how little we know we shall yearn and strive to know more. When we feel how imperfect is our character, and not till then, we shall make earnest efforts after our improvement.
Eye Strain.
There are two common kinds of eye strain. It is a strain for a person who is farsighted to do close work, and it is a strain for one who is nearsighted to use the eyes for distances. Both kinds of eye strain produce the same symptoms—headache—and both require that the eyes be examined and glasses be provided.
Honesty and Sagacity.
A successful business man once told his son that only two things were necessary to make a great financier.
"And what are those?" the boy asked.
"Honesty and sagacity."
"But what do you consider the mark of honesty to be?"
"Always to keep your word."
"And the mark of sagacity?"
"Never to give your word!"
Association.
"A man is known by the company he keeps."
"Yes," replied Miss Cayenne, "and many men are unknown by the company they pretend to keep."—*Washington Star*.