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### Fortunes in Farthings.

It is well known that shopkeepers make pounds by ignoring farthings or by giving something for them that is worth far less than a farthing, but where shopkeepers make the pounds banks and the English government make their hundreds of pounds. If a farthing is due from you in taxes you are charged one penny. On the other hand, you are never paid one penny for a farthing.

The same principle is applied to fractions of pounds. Banks in reckoning interest for themselves call any part of £1 a full pound, whereas in reckoning interest for you odd shillings are left out of account. Thus for a deposit of £99 9s. 11d. you would receive interest on £99 only.

It is amazing how the state profits by not paying fractions of pence.

The government has a special fund in which are placed the fractions of pence withheld in paying dividends on government stock. This fund amounted to more than £150,000 in ten years before being used for other purposes. As far as the government is concerned, farthings mean a lot.—London Answers.

### His Little Lot.

There were some interesting episodes in the life of Sir Charles Euan-Smith. Once in the market place of an Afghanstan town he was fired at by a native. He lodged a complaint with the ameer, who appeared to take no notice of the incident, merely remarking, "That's all right." Sir Charles complained again and met with the same reply. He still thought that the ameer was treating a serious matter with less consideration than it deserved, but thought it advisable to say no more on the subject. About a week afterward he was invited by the ameer to ride with him. They rode for some distance outside the town, and they passed gibbet after gibbet. At length Sir Charles said, "Your highness has been busy of late." "Oh, no," replied the ameer; "they are your little lot." He had seized all the members of the would be assassin's family and hanged every one of them.

### Be Natural.

Holmes says that there are six people present whenever two meet in conversation—the real A, the real B, A as he sees himself, B as he sees himself, A as B sees him and B as A sees him.

The remark comes back when one goes out upon the street and considers himself and the other people who pass, particularly those who seem on the slippery road to success. It is not they themselves who go by; it is what they would have other people think them. If they are young and inexperienced they must tighten up their faces with an artificial solemnity; if they are getting on in years they must affect an artificial snappiness. They wear their outward aspects like clothes.

One feels like crying in the ears of young men: "Be natural. Live or die, sink or swim, survive or perish, but be yourselves."—New York Globe.

### The Primrose.

The primrose has suffered injustice from the poets, who seem to regard it as a floral weakling. Shakespeare wrote of "pale primroses" that die "ere they can behold bold Phoebus in his strength." Spencer regrets "so fair a flower" should perish through "untimely tempest"; Milton laments the "rath primrose that forsaken, dies," and many later poets have written of it in similar strain. Why? For the primrose is a hardy plant and will be found where few other flowers can exist, on the mountain heights of Europe and Asia and even on the highest ranges of the Himalayas. And Disraeli recognized its color in the fried eggs upon his breakfast table.—London Notes and Queries.

### He Was Right.

A man rushed to the entrance of a lunatic asylum in the middle of the night and yelled to the keeper to let him in.

"Let me in!" he cried. "I have suddenly gone insane."

The keeper woke up, thrust his head out of a first story window and belittled down in a rage:

"What? Come here at this time of night? Man, you must be crazy!"—Brooklyn Eagle.

### The Unexpected.

Amateur Photographer (touring in the country)—Pardon me, sir, but would you object to my taking your daughter just as she is? Farmer Green—Well, this is sudden; but take her, and be happy. Keep yer eyes on him, Sal, till I scoot round for the parson.—London Mail.

### Just a Suggestion.

"I'm still waiting for you to pay me that \$5 you owe me, Dubson."

"Oh, don't let that worry you."

"That's what I'm trying to do, but I would feel greatly encouraged if you would let it worry you occasionally."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

### Curious Fishing Plant.

There is a strange vegetable growth under the sea called the fishing plant, which opens and shuts periodically, like a big mouth. When fishes are near enough to this wonderful plant, all of a sudden it closes its "mouth" and swallows them.

### The Rest Hour.

"Bobby, why aren't you playing with your cousin Ethel?"

"Gee whiz, mother! Don't I get an hour off at noon?"—Puck.

### Poor Experience.

"Experience is de best teacher," said Uncle Eben, "but gittin' arrested ain't no way to study law."—Washington Star.

## FOR THE CHILDREN

### Some Interesting Information For Boys and Girls.

### BIRDS AND THE WEATHER.

Our Little Feathered Friends Not So Wise as We Give Them Credit For Being—Making the Most of Opportunity—Portrait of a Little Girl.

That birds are not such good weather prophets as they are generally believed to be is one of the assertions of Frank M. Chapman, the well known ornithologist, in an article on "Birds as Travelers" in St. Nicholas. Birds make as serious miscalculations as the rest of us, according to Mr. Chapman. "Sometimes," he says, "encouraged by an unusually mild period, birds come so far ahead of their usual time that they are trapped by the sudden return of cold weather. Then if they do not retreat they may suffer for lack of food. I have seen geese on the coast of Texas migrating northward in large numbers, urged onward by a warm wave. The next day, to my surprise, they all came flying back. But the day following that a severe 'norther' suddenly arrived. The geese had evidently encountered this storm and were driven back by it."

### Make the Most of Opportunity.

Don't wait for your opportunity—make it, as Lincoln made his in the log cabin in the wilderness. Make it, as Henry Wilson made his during his evenings on a farm, when he read a thousand volumes while other boys of the neighborhood wasted their evenings. Make it, as the shepherd boy Ferguson made his when he calculated the distance of the stars with a handful of beads on a string. Make it, as George Stephenson made his when he mastered the rules of mathematics with a bit of chalk on the sides of the coal wagons in the mines. Make it, as Douglass made his when he learned to read from scraps of paper and posters. Make it, as Napoleon made his in a hundred important situations. Make it, as the deaf and blind Helen Keller has made hers. Make it, as every man must who would accomplish anything worth the effort. Golden opportunities are nothing to laziness, and the greatest advantage will make you ridiculous if you are not prepared for it.—Philadelphia Ledger.

### The Stars in the Sky.

Man may never know how many stars there are. The best we can do is to figure on the number that can be seen with the largest telescopes that have been invented, for you know there must be many millions of them which to us are invisible.

We have counted the stars so far as we can see them, or, rather, so far as we can photograph them. Astronomers have found that a photographic plate exposed to the stars will show more of them than can be seen with the naked eye. By this method, the "Book of Wonders" tells us, man has been able in a way to count the stars he can see. It adds up to more than a hundred million of them. Astronomers found this out by taking photographs of the heavens at night, devoting one picture to each section until the entire heavens had been covered and then counting all the stars shown in the pictures.

### A Care Free Little Girl.

Quite undisturbed by the great events of the day is Miss Betty Gerard, whose portrait was snapped by a photographer at Palm Beach, Fla. Little Miss Betty has almost nothing to do but en-



Photo by American Press Association.  
MISS BETTY GERARD.  
Joy herself, and, judging from her happy expression, she finds that an easy and pleasant occupation. Betty was caught among the palms, where she and a number of her little friends were at play. She is a member of a prominent New York family, and this is her first winter at the famous winter resort.

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New Acquaintances.  
If a man does not make new acquaintances as he advances through life he will soon find himself left alone. A man should keep his friendship in constant repair.—Johnson.

An Artist.  
Mr. Banks—Don't you think my wife paints very nicely? Miss Millburn—Charming! It makes her look so much younger, I think.—London Telegraph.

God sends a new duty to conquer each new pain.—Adelaide Procter.

**A. D. GASH**  
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118 North La Salle St., Chicago  
Suite 615 to 618  
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Residence 1262 Macalister Place  
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From on and after this date The Broad Ax, can be found on sale at the following news stands:

- N. C. Chalmers, cigars, tobacco, notions store and news stand, 5012 S. State street.
- L. E. Chilton, news stand, S. E. corner 51st and State streets.
- S. Berenbaum, Cigars, Notions and News Stand; 31 W. 51 Street, near Dearborn.
- E. H. Faulkner, news agency; 3109 S. State street.
- George I. Martin, maker of fine cigars and news stand, 18 W. 31st St., near State.
- R. M. Harvey's barber shop and news stand, 3924 State street.
- W. M. Maxwell, notions, cigars, tobacco, confections and news stand, 5244 State St.
- Edward Felix, notions, cigars and news stand, 52 W. 30th St.
- F. Bishop, cigars, tobacco and news stand, 3 W. 27th St., near State.
- Sylvester McGlofin, news stand and laundry office, 4122 State St.
- William Gaughan, laundry office cigars, tobacco and news stand, 2636 State St.
- E. M. Oliver, notions, cigars and news stand, 15 W. 30th Street, near State.
- A. D. Hayes, cigars, tobacco, notions, stationery and news stand, 3640 S. State St.
- George McFaro, shoe shining parlors and news stand. 3800 1/2 State street.

T. B. Hall, Laundry office, cigars, tobacco and news stand. 3618 South State street.  
Fred M. Waterfield, cigars, tobacco, notions and news stand, 5202 South State street.  
Coleman & Glanton, cigars, tobacco and news stand, 3342 S. State street.  
Miss E. M. McClain, hair dressing parlor and news stand. 30 W. 39th street.  
F. M. Diffay, cigars, tobacco, notions and news stand. 3605 State street.

Nothing but an American.  
When I look back on the shifting scenes of my life, if I am not that altogether deplorable creature, a man without a country, I am, when it comes to pull and prestige, almost equally bereft, as I am a man without a state. I was born in Indiana, I grew up in Illinois, I was educated in Rhode Island, and it is no blame to that scholarly community that I know so little. I learned my law in Springfield and my politics in Washington, my diplomacy in Europe, Asia and Africa. I have a farm in New Hampshire and a desk room in the District of Columbia. When I look to the springs from which my blood descends the first ancestors I ever heard of were a Scotchman who was half English and a German woman who was half French. Of my immediate progenitors my mother was from New England and my father was from the south. In this bewilderingment of origin and experience I can only put on an aspect of deep humility in any gathering of favorite sons and confess that I am nothing but an American.—From "The Life and Letters of John Hay" in Harper's Magazine.

### State Lines.

Oklahoma produced 80,000,000 barrels of oil last year.  
Nebraska's 803 state banks contain \$114,487,652.98, belonging to 382,222 depositors.  
As a deer hunting state Vermont now rivals Maine, with 6,000 deer killed in 1915, compared with from 8,000 to 10,000 in the Maine wilderness.  
Careful estimates place the California gold output for 1915 at fully \$2,200,000 more than the previous year, when the total output was \$20,653,496. The yield will easily be the largest in thirty-two years and, with one exception, the largest in fifty-one years. So California still remains the premier gold producing state in the Union.

### Recent Inventions.

Clothing made of pressed feathers as a substitute for wool has been invented by an Italian priest.  
To lessen the labor of threading needles there has been invented a magnifying glass with a spring clip to hold it on a needle.  
Bostonians using a new invention, the oscillograph, were the other day able to hear the waves of the Pacific booming on the San Francisco shore.  
An Illinois inventor has patented a roadside signboard that is intended to show all the roads in the vicinity and other information of value to strangers by a map.

### Dress Hints.

Green is an ill becoming color for brunettes to wear.  
White gloves can be tanned by soaking them in saffron solution until the required tint has been obtained.  
Always sew on buttons before wearing new gloves; otherwise at a critical moment a button will drop off, spoiling the appearance of the best glove.  
To make rubbers last longer put a half inch layer of crushed tissue paper in the heel of the rubbers. The paper will form a soft cushion for the hard heel of the shoe and lessen the wear on the rubber.

### Laundry Lines.

Be sure to iron garments with the straight of the goods and thus prevent stretching of the bias seams.  
It is best to give linens a long soaking before washing. If this method is followed stains will wash out easily.  
To remove ink spots from linen or cotton, dip the spots in pure melted tallow. Wash out the tallow and the ink will come out with it.  
Do not stretch the round centerpiece on the bias before ironing, but treat it as though it were square. Stretch first with the warp, then with the woof of the material and iron in the same way. The result will be a perfectly smooth, round surface.

### Woman's World.

According to the census, Pennsylvania last year had 7,000 woman farmers, the majority of whom owned the land they worked.  
In Georgia during the past three years the number of woman farmers has more than doubled. The majority of the women go in for raising hogs, cattle and foodstuffs, leaving cotton planting to the men.  
The women of Des Moines, Ia., are credited with being responsible for the establishment of a municipal court in their city. A majority of the male voters went against it, but the majority of the women voters was so heavy that they won the day.

### Animal Oddities.

Kingfishers make their nets of fish-bones.  
Man eating tigers are the exception rather than the rule.  
Alligators do not attain full size until they are nearly 100 years old.  
When a lion is frightened it trots away slowly until it thinks it is out of sight, and then bounds off like a greyhound.  
When a lobster is about to shed its shell the latter splits down the back and drops off in two equal parts. Then the tail slips out of the shell like a finger out of a glove.