

#### Farmer and the Party wire.

When the independent telephone companies first began to come together in conventions to exchange experiences, one fact was always commented upon with great curiosity by the managers of town or city plants, says Success. This was that they invariably met with failure in their endeavors to induce farmers to put in what are known as "lockout" devices, by means of which every telephone on a party line becomes practically a private wire.

In cities, the party line is considered a great nuisance, because there is no privacy in conversations, and all the bells on the line are rung each time a subscriber calls. Naturally, the managers of plants figured that this objection prevailed in the country also; but, almost without exception, they found that one of the great attractions to the farmer was that his telephone did ring every time the other sixteen or twenty people on the line rang up, and that he could hear or be overheard in conversation. It was a practical demonstration of the social hunger the farmer has endured for centuries, and which is now ended, thanks to the arrival of telephone competition.

#### The Universities of Switzerland.

Geneva is only one of the universities of little Switzerland. Basel, founded in 1640; Lausanne, founded as an academy in 1537, and as a university in 1890; Zurich, founded in 1832; Bern, founded in 1834; Fribourg, founded in 1889, have each secured a high educational place, though in its historic impressiveness Geneva is unique. But Geneva and her five companions are noble illustrations of the spirit and power of democracy. Their support is derived largely from the cantons in which they were located. Although the constitution of 1848 authorized the federal government to erect and to maintain a polytechnic school and university, the university has not been established. The cantons support their universities with a willingness which is as great as obtains in the States of the American Union touching their respective State universities. The University of Zurich is maintained by a commonwealth of but 350,000 people, and within an area of less than 700 square miles. Basel, with a population of less than 100,000, supports its university. They are examples of the power of an enlightened democracy which interests itself in the highest education. This interest is not confined either to the cause of liberal learning, for the technical schools of Zurich are among the best of the world.—Harper's Magazine.

#### Tired of Waiting.

The little boy was five years old and it was his first year at school. One morning he did not wish to attend so he told his mother he was very sick. His mother, being a very kind-hearted lady, tried to reason with him, and said:

"Just think how bad your teacher will feel when she calls the roll and she says, 'Robert Nolan,' and there will be no little Robert to say, 'Present!'"

"That's just it, mamma. I have said present every day and I haven't received any present yet."—Magazine of Fun.

#### Thrilled.

He was looking at Niagara Falls. "Splendid! Magnificent!" he murmured. "So the spectacle touches you, too?" ventured a fellow spectator. "Touches me!" roared the first. "Such splendid horsepower, such magnificent energy! And me running my mill by steam! Say, it more than touches me. It breaks me all up."—Philadelphia Ledger.

#### Shedding More Information.

Mrs. Chugwater—Josiah, what is a pronouncement?  
Mr. Chugwater—Pronouncing amen to anything you want to indorse. I should think you could tell that by looking at the word itself.

#### Secret of Longevity.

"I see that Dr. Lasalle has been communicating his ideas of longevity to the Academy of Medicine.

"They are those of Flourens, who set them forth in his lectures at the Sorbonne. But Flourens had not the same opportunities for basing his theories on a broad foundation of statistics. Reasoning from analogy, he concluded that human beings ought to live five or six times longer than it took them to attain the full adult state—that is to say, from twenty to twenty-five years.

"It takes a cat eighteen months to grow up, and the creature, if left to die a natural death, does so at an age varying from ten to twelve years. The dog takes two years, and lives to twelve or fourteen; the horse five, and goes on to twenty-five or thirty. A well-constituted human being ought to live from a hundred and twenty to a hundred and forty.

"In addition to the cases of longevity cited by Flourens, Dr. Lasalle gives a long list. Some of them take one's breath away. For instance: Peter Czortan, who died recently at Temesvar, in Hungary, at the age of 183, and an old man (name not mentioned) who has just turned his 200th year in an asylum at Pulske. He buried his wife in his 133d year. Would it not be well to send a scientific commission to Pulske to investigate into this Methuselah's claim to extraordinary longevity?"

#### To Prevent Ship's Rolling.

A German engineer, Otto von Schlick, who has been studying for many years the prevention of ships' rolling, believes the solution lies in a gyroscope. Herr Schlick proposes to steady ships by mounting the gyroscope in the hold, and his first experiments on a large scale have been undertaken with an old torpedo boat. In this craft a gyroscope with a disc weighing 1,036 pounds was mounted with a steam turbine which would rotate it at a speed of more than 2,000 revolutions a minute. The oscillations and pitching of the vessel were carefully measured before the steam was admitted to the turbine, and then when the turbine was put in revolution the motion practically ceased. So successful were these experiments with the sixty-ton torpedo boat that it has been decided to proceed with a larger craft.

#### Sending Messages in Paris.

The telephone system of Paris leaves considerable to be desired and meets with constant complaint on the part of the subscribers. One of the latter endeavored to test the speed of the various means of communication of the city, sending messages in different ways from his rooms in the Rue Richelieu, in the center of the city, to a friend on the Avenue de la Grand Armee, near the Bois de Boulogne. He found that a bicycle messenger made the trip in eleven minutes and fifteen seconds, as compared with twenty-three minutes for a cab. A messenger sent via the Metropolitan Railway required thirty-five minutes, a message by the pneumatic tube three hours, while the message sent by telephone did not arrive at all.

#### Didn't Write to Her.

Little Dorothy came hurrying home from school to tell in glowing terms about her new teacher, says the New York World.

"What's her name?"  
"I don't know," said Dorothy.  
"Why, then, how do you address her?"  
"Why," answered Dorothy, "we do not write to her."—New Orleans Picayune.

#### More Appropriate.

The district attorney was about to summon another witness in the great blackmailing trial.

"I can't get his real name," said the attorney, "but I'll just put him down as John Doe."

"But he has so much money," ventured the assistant, "suppose we put him down as John Dough?"

#### Her Claims to Patronage.

When Mrs. Lombard offered to recommend Miss Simpson to her friends as a dressmaker, she was honest in her wish to help the little woman, but her efforts bore more evidence of honesty than of tact.

"I wish you would try Dora Simpson," she said earnestly to three of her friends who were calling upon her one day. "She's such a good little body, and so unfortunate! Her old customers have dropped off one by one, till there is scarcely a person in the neighborhood who employs her now.

"As I often say to my husband," continued Mrs. Lombard, with haste, as she saw signs of inquiry on the faces of her friends, "suppose she doesn't fit very well, that doesn't alter the fact that she has an invalid brother to support, and that she tried everything else from steamgraphy to cooking, and only took sewing as a last resort, and just hates every stitch she takes, and always has. Now, do try her, some of you. She's been with me for the last four days, making a jacket for my Jim. Dora is just as patient about it as can be, though we've had it all to pieces three times."

#### Lincoln the Lawyer.

It is conceded by all his contemporaries that Lincoln was the best all-round jury lawyer of his day in Illinois. Undoubtedly his knowledge of human nature played an important part in his success. He possessed another quality, however, which is almost, if not quite, as essential in jury work, and that is clearness and simplicity of statement. \* \* \* His logical mind marshaled facts in such orderly sequence, and he interpreted them in such simple language, that a child could follow him through the most complicated cause, and his mere recital of the issues had the force of argument.—Century.

#### Neglected Opportunities.

Mr. Sidener had made his first public speech. His subject was good—the iniquities of industrial economy—and he hoped his treatment had been adequate. He was not sure. He waited for his wife's verdict, but she was strangely silent.

She had listened to him from the gallery of the town hall, and he had half-expected her to meet him at the door afterward, and to say, as soon as they were out of hearing, "Oh, it was simply great, Eddy!" But they were half-way home, and she had said nothing of the kind.

"Well," he began, awkwardly, when he could bear it no longer, "what did you think of my speech?"

"What you said was all right," she answered, with guarded enthusiasm. "But it seemed to me you didn't make the most of your opportunities."

"Opportunities?" repeated Mr. Sidener. "What do you mean, Effie?"

"Why," Mrs. Sidener replied, "you had ever so many chances to sit down before you did."

#### He Loved Her Not.

A little 6-year-old girl friend of mine came running to me and threw herself into my arms, sobbing as if her heart would break.

"God doesn't love me any more," she wailed; "God doesn't love me!"

"God doesn't love you? Why, dear, God loves everyone," I assured her.

"O, no, he doesn't love me. I know he doesn't. I tried him with a daisy."—Harper's Bazar.

#### The Need.

"Here is another question that ought to be brought before Congress," said the earnest citizen.

"My dear sir," answered Senator Sorghum, "Congress now has all the questions it can take care of. What it needs is some answers."—Washington Star.

#### Unkind.

Mrs. Blondine—My late husband was jealous to the last.

Mrs. Neighbors—Indeed!

Mrs. Blondine—Yes. Just before he died he requested me not to wear mourning for him—and he knew I looked better in black than anything else.

#### The Road to Success.

Thus the public schools in the last five years have taken a new place in the lives of the children for whom they were created. Not only do they teach the three "R's," but, step by step, they help boy and girl along the road to success that leads out from the highway of liberal education. The girl learns to be strong, womanly and wise, versed not only in the wisdom of books, but in the knowledge that every housewife, every mother, needs. The boy is schooled in the practical gospel of self-help, self-reliance and a clear conception of the duties that fall to the lot of a manly man.—St. Nicholas.

#### "Dust Devils" of Nile Valley.

Travelers in the celebrated Death Valley of California have described the wonderful contortions of the sand pillars that small whirlwinds sometimes send spinning across the hot plain. Even more remarkable are "dust devils" seen by an explorer, in the valley of the White Nile. Sometimes two of these whirling columns, gyrating in opposite directions, meet, "and if they be well-matched the collision stops them and a struggle ensues as to which way they shall twist. Gradually one gains the mastery, and the two combined rush on together." Some of these whirlwinds will strip the clothes from an Arab's back, or send a goat spinning round and round like a top.

#### Queens Taller than Kings.

There is hardly a king in Christendom to-day whose wife does not overtop him by a head.

King Edward is quite six inches shorter than Queen Alexandra.

The Czar is overtopped a full head by the Czarina.

Kaiser Wilhelm is of the medium height, but the German Empress is tall, and that is why the proud Kaiser will never consent to be photographed beside his wife, unless she sits while he stands.

The King of Italy, short and squat, hardly comes up to the shoulders of the tall, athletic Queen Helena.

The King of Portugal, though father, is less tall than his Queen.

Even the Prince of Wales is shorter a good four inches than the Princess.

The young King of Spain is several inches shorter than his new bride.

The Queen of Denmark towers above her royal spouse.

#### His Awful Fate.

Giles—According to the coroner's verdict, a mob composed entirely of women was responsible for Green's demise.

Miles—How did it happen?

Giles—He accidentally got near a bargain counter where \$1 shirt waists were being sold at 98 cents and was trampled underfoot.—Columbus Dispatch.

#### Didn't Mind the Machines.

"I hope," said the renter of room No. 1197, "that the rattle of the typewriters in my office doesn't annoy you."

"No, sir, it does not," responded the crusty capitalist whose office was No. 1199; "but their gabble does annoy me exceedingly."—Chicago Tribune.

#### His Turn Coming.

"The boys are saying that Gayman cleaned you out in the little game you had at the club the other evening."

"He did—but I've bought the summer hotel at the resort over in Michigan where he always spends his vacations. Don't say anything to him about it, will you?"

#### Friendship's Tribute.

Mrs. Wellon (trying on her gorgeous bonnet)—How do you like the effect?

Mrs. Chillcon-Kearney—Why, it's wonderful. You have the right idea. There's nothing like contrasts, is there?

#### Simple Life.

Aunt Mary—The idea of you marrying young Wiggins! Why, he can't raise enough money to buy a square meal.

Pretty Niece—Oh, that doesn't matter; we are going to visit among our relations.