

SHORT TALKS WITH THE BOYS

My son, I heard you speak of your father... What's the matter that you can't refer to... Suppose your father should speak of you...

CURIOS FACTS.

A woman in Connecticut has been made a notary... A few London milkmen and newsboys use tricycles in their daily rounds... A Goldboro, N. C., man is collecting a peck of nickles as a penalty for a lost bet...

The World's Great Bells.

Russia is in the lead in the line of bells, some of her manufacture being the most famous of the world... It is said that in Moscow, before the great fire, there were no fewer than 1,706 large bells...

Why the Duke of Albany Had a Military Funeral.

An extraordinary story is told in English court circles, and has been related by the Spiritualists, as to the reason which induced the Queen at the last moment to alter the arrangements for Prince Leopold's funeral...

A Tree With Hands.

Lieut. Houghton, who has recently visited New Guinea and several other groups of islands in the Pacific, reports the existence of a prehensile tree. It appears to be a species of ficus, allied to the well-known banyan tree...

Facts About Spools.

Spools are made in immense numbers. One factory turns out 100,000 gross a day, and consumes 25,000 cords of birch wood annually. The wood is first sawed into sticks four or five feet long, and from seven-eighths of an inch to three inches square...

Italian Epigrams.

The world is hard enough, God knows, without one shutting one's mouth the day it rains comfits... To a woman's eyes there is always an atmosphere of youth about a man who has once made love to her...

Obedying Orders.

Frederick the Great, whose brilliant victories elevated Prussia from an inferior to a superior position among European nations, was noted for the strictness of his military discipline. His soldiers were disciplined so to obey orders that they had no will of their own...

The commander rashed to the window. There was the soldier, as stiff and erect as his own weapon, with eyes stolidly staring right ahead, marching solemnly up and down his beat, followed by a motley crew of street arabs armed with old brooms, sticks, pitchforks and other improvised weapons...

EQUINE SAGACITY.

A Horse to be Put in Evidence in a Murder Case.

It is a well-known fact that a horse which has once been driven over a strange road will recognize that road the next time he is driven over it. Such testimony has been admitted as evidence in the highest French courts. Proceeding upon this theory, which was suggested to the coroner in the Wissahickon murder case by Dr. Huidekoper...

Artemus Ward was once travelling on a railway where, in consequence of the bad state of the road the trains ran very slow. When the pompous Conductor came round and punched the tickets Artemus meekly said: "Does this railroad company allow passengers to give it advice, if they do so in a respectful manner?"

the road. He was again turned, and the reins let fall upon his back. Instead of passing Thorp's bridge and going back along the road over which he came, the horse again walked upon the bridge and for the second time stopped in the middle of it and whinnied. In speaking of the trip after Dr. Huidekoper said it was plain that the horse had been driven before along the road and that he had crossed Thorp's bridge, which is the bridge from which the body of the murdered man is believed by the detectives to have been thrown into the creek. Dr. Huidekoper took a description of the horse, and should the testimony be admitted as evidence the horse will be admitted.

CURIOS FACTS.

The latest use of paper is the making of spokes for wheels. A novel feature in the dining-room of a hotel at Niagara Falls is a colossal mirror, in which the falls are reflected in such a manner that the guests may admire while they eat. Mrs. Genevieve Hummel, of Jeffriesburg, Missouri, aged 80, cut a wisdom tooth last week. She also cut one a year ago. They come a little late with some people, but they never come amiss.

The Midnight Sun.

In the far north-west there were streaks of cloud, grey, rose, pink, orange and purple, beneath which the sun suddenly dipped into the sea and went out of sight; but the glory of sunset continued all night. The darkness of the darkest hour was never greater than that of a summer evening in England. One deck we could read all night, even the smallest type. The sea was smooth and clear as a mirror. All night long the seagulls and other birds, of which by the way there are marvellously few in Norway, were flying across our bows, and the minutest object on shore could be distinctly seen. The effect was intensified by the appearance of the moon, which was at full; and just as the sun set in a warm glow in the north-west, the moon became prominent in the south-east, clear and cold and silvery. As going to bed on such a night was out of the question, we remained on deck till sunrise, which came about two o'clock. As that hour approached the glow in the north-north-east became more intense. Suddenly the orb appeared in a niche formed by the intersection of two islands, and the hilltops with young light. Presently, as the vapours on the rocky islet became condensed, a weird halo was formed around the sun's disc, so that it seemed like the eye of an eagle looking out on the desert of waters. Deep and dark were the shadows cast by the fishing-boat and rock. The shimmer on the rippling water was like that of the moonlight. By and by, as the sun got clear of the horizon, rosy hues stole over the sky, and Nature rejoiced in the glories of a new day.—W. S. Dalgleish.

How Long it Would Take.

The project for filling the Desert of Sahara with water is creating a great deal of discussion among foreign, especially French, journals. Naturally the question has arisen, how long it would take to fill the whole basin of Sahara, and some startling figures are given in connection therewith. Five thousand years, it is claimed, would be required to fill up that vast sea of sand were the water to flow through a passage 100 feet wide and 25 feet deep, with the velocity of four miles an hour. Under the same conditions it would take 4,000 years for the waters of the Mediterranean to fill the valley of the Jordan. With a channel 100 times greater capacity it would do the work in forty years. At the same rate it would take 490,000 years to fill the Caspian Sea to the level of the Mediterranean. Fortunately, it is only a portion of Sahara which can be made into a lake or inland sea, and doubtless they are middle aged men to say who will live to see this feat accomplished.

The Technicality and the Court.

A weary-looking overworked Technicality strolled into a court room to while away an afternoon. A prisoner took the witness-stand. Prosecuting Attorney—"Now, sir, tell the jury, did you or did you not kill that inoffensive man?" Witness—"I did." Attorney—"Let's understand each other clearly. Did you commit this most foul murder, coolly and deliberately?" Witness—"I did." Attorney—"Your Honor, we rest our case." "Mr. Sheriff, bring a rope," said the judge. "No, you don't," cried the Technicality; and, springing to its feet, it snatched the prisoner in its strong arms and bore him off to freedom amid the triumphant shouts of the lawyers for the defense. "Saved! Saved!"—Chicago News.

Artemus Ward's Best.

Artemus Ward was once travelling on a railway where, in consequence of the bad state of the road the trains ran very slow. When the pompous Conductor came round and punched the tickets Artemus meekly said: "Does this railroad company allow passengers to give it advice, if they do so in a respectful manner?" The conductor replied in gruff tones that he guessed so. "Well," Artemus went on, "it occurred to me it would be well to detach the cow-catcher from the front of the engine and hitch it to the rear of the train. For you see we are not liable to overtake a cow, but what's to prevent a cow strolling into this car and biting a passenger?"