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A Delightful Dinner Party.
Thackeray liked to dine alone at the Star and Garter, a famous hostelry in Richmond, near London. Harry Furniss, whose fame as an illustrator is international, in speaking of this peculiarity of the novelist said:
"An old acquaintance of mine, Sir James O'Dowd, a great friend of Thackeray's, told me that Thackeray often drove all alone to the Star and Garter and went solemnly through an elaborate course dinner and returned to town in his carriage, still in solitary state. O'Dowd happened to be dining one evening at the Star and Garter in another room and, strolling into the larger one, came across Thackeray, screened off from the other diners and just finishing his elaborate repast."
"Well, Thackeray," he said, "you are an extraordinary man—here all alone when you must have known any or all of us would have kept you company."
"All alone! My dear O'Dowd," cried Thackeray, "I alone! Why, I have had the best of companions a man could entertain. Becky has just left, and Penderennis, Colonel Newcome and I have had a delightful evening. The colonel has not had such a jolly tuck-in for years."

Knew a Bigger One.
A couple of young military officers were dining together at a restaurant one night, and the conversation became a discussion on lies and lying generally, and finally there was a warm debate as to who was the biggest liar known to them. An old gentleman sitting at a table near was unable to avoid overhearing the discussion, and after a few minutes he rose and came over to their table.
"I have just heard you decide, gentlemen," he said gravely. "That Lieutenant Arthur Blank is the biggest liar you have ever met. I am his father."
After a few seconds' embarrassed silence one of the young officers began to stammer apologies, but the old man waved them aside.
"No, no," he said, "don't apologize. It's quite unnecessary. I was only going to say that if you regard my son Arthur as the biggest liar you have met you cannot possibly have met my other son, Richard."—London Answers.

"To the Bitter End."
The derivation of the often used phrase "to the bitter end" is explained by a writer in the New York Sun as follows:
It is a nautical term. If you have ever been on a big ship you must have noticed two large pieces of timber sticking up out of the deck forward, alongside each other. They sometimes have a whiffiness between them, and they are used to secure the anchor cable. These pieces of wood are called the "bits."
When the ship comes to anchor and the cable is paid out all that part of it which is abaft or behind the bits is called the "bitter end of the cable." In a storm or in poor-holding ground for the anchors the more cable that is paid out the better the anchor will hold, and when the captain is at all doubtful he pays out his cable to the "bitter end" sooner than risk any harm to his ship.

What He Gained.
Mrs. Smith was grieved and disappointed at the conduct of her son Robert. She called him into her presence and questioned him gravely as to his latest enormity.
"Mrs. Hayes tells me that you tied a tin can to her dog's tail," she said.
"Yes, mother."
"What a shameful thing to do!"
"Yes, ma'am."
"Do you know that the poor dog ran away so far that he has never come back—that he probably ran himself to death?"
"Yes, ma'am."
"Oh, Robert! What do you gain by such cruelty?"
"I gained a dollar from Mr. Hayes."

Our First Fox Hunters.
The first hunt club organized in America was the Gloucester Fox Hunting club, formed by about 125 gentlemen of Philadelphia. The first meeting was held in December, 1796, in the old Philadelphia coffee house. Men who later became famous in the country's history were among its members. The Revolutionary war for a time put a stop to the sport when Samuel Morris and twenty others of the club organized the First City troop. This old Gloucester club survived for fifty-two years, until 1848.—Argonaut.

Sheer Waste.
Sir Archibald Geikie tells a story of a Scotchman who, much against his own will, was persuaded to take a holiday. He went to Egypt and visited the pyramids. After waiting for some time at the great pyramid he muttered, "Man, what a lot of mason work not to be blazin' in any year!"

Success and Failure.
It is sometimes hard to find out just how the man who is successful has managed to succeed, but it is always easy to see why failure comes to those who fail.—Chicago Record-Herald.

Animals Used to Test Drugs.
Use is made of chemical manufacturers of various animals, such as chickens, dogs, cats and frogs, to test the efficacy of drugs.
Ergotine, for instance, is tested on chickens in an extremely simple way. Should it fail to turn a chicken's comb black it is at once known by the experimenter that the drug is worthless.
Dogs are employed to test hashish. This is manufactured from female birds of hemp, the male birds having no particular medicinal value. Hashish administered to dogs induces a peculiar pathological condition, if the drug is correctly prepared, which is seen in no other animal save man himself.
Digitalis, the heart stimulant, is best tested on frogs. Injecting a drop of the drug into the stomach of the frog, the chemist, by means of the kymograph, or heart recording machine, studies the changes of the frog's heart action, thus obtaining accurate knowledge as to the effect of that particular kind of digitalis.—St. Louis Republic.

Why They Like Iodoform.
"Train robbers, burglars, safe blowers, holdup men and, in fact, nearly all that class of professional criminals who resort to deeds of violence are greatly addicted to the use of iodoform," said a former California sheriff. "These fellows after committing some crime besprinkle their clothing liberally with the foul smelling fluid. They also pour it on their guns and knives and the tools of their trade. The reason is that they often make hurried flights in which they are not infrequently trailed with bloodhounds. There is nothing a bloodhound hates worse than the scent of iodoform, and it has been repeatedly the cause of the dog abandoning pursuit of a fugitive malefactor. Knowing this, the crooks are liberal buyers of an article that may tend to cause their freedom from capture."

Napoleon's Concentration.
The leading military principles of Napoleon were to seize the initiative by concentrating one's forces from marching into fighting order as quickly as possible and, having massed the troops as compactly as effective action will permit, to attack swiftly. This attack must be upon a portion only of the enemy's army, and the weight of one's whole force must be crowded in, so that at the point of action a decided superiority is attained. This theory of action is often explained to his generals. Moreau, in conversation with Napoleon in 1799, remarked that it was always the greater numbers that won, to which Napoleon replied: "You are right. When, with inferior forces, I had a large army before me I concentrated mine rapidly and fell like lightning upon one of the enemy's wings and routed it. Then I took advantage of the confusion which this maneuver never failed to produce in the opposing army to attack it on another point, but always with my whole force. Thus I beat it in detail, and the victory which was the result was always, as you see, the triumph of the larger over the lesser."—Edward D. Jones in Engineering Magazine.

Inside Information.
"Silk stockings must be very cheap in America. Nowhere in the world do women's slim and supple ankles gleam in lustrous silk as they do here."
The speaker was an English actor. He continued:
"A married man told me the other day that, going into one of your department stores, he said to a floor-walker:
"I'm looking for something pretty in silk stockings."
"The floorwalker smiled and, with a gesture, embraced the long rows of counters, with their charming saleswomen."
"That remark," he said, "describes, I believe, practically every one of our young ladies."—New York Tribune.

Plea For Trick Animals.
No dog or horse or cat ever finds it according to its nature to jump through flaming hoops, roll barrels, walk a tight rope or do scores of other things it is forced to do by trainers. The jump of sugar or the bit of meat given deceives no one who knows anything about animals. Refusal to applaud, persuading children not to attend these exhibitions because of the cruelty that is behind them, influencing one's friends against the whole scheme of making money through trick animals—these are some of the ways in which we may help.—Our Dumb Animals.

Mexico's Four Nosed Snake.
The most deadly reptile in Mexico is the four nosed snake. It usually measures from four to six feet in length and from two to four inches in diameter, with sixteen great fangs, eight above and eight below. It has the ferocity of a bulldog and the venom of an Egyptian asp.

Solar Freak.
"Leap year is so called because the earth goes round the sun for three years, but in the fourth year it leaps over it," wrote a very youthful student in an examination paper.

Santa Claus

Visited the
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Tuesday afternoon and was greeted by nearly 400 children. His welcome being so hearty he has decided to make the BEEHIVE his headquarters until Dec. 25th



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