

AS GOOD AS IF IT WERE IN ÆSOP.—
The Nantucket Islander says the following story was lately told by a reformed inebriate as an apology for much of the folly of drunkards: A mouse ranging about a brewery, happening to fall into a vat of beer, was in imminent danger of drowning, and appealed to a cat to help him out. The cat replied, "It is a foolish request, for as soon as I get you out I shall eat you." The mouse piteously replied, that would be far better than to be drowned in beer. The cat lifted him out, but the fume of the beer caused puss to sneeze, and the mouse took refuge in a hole. The cat called upon the mouse to come out, "Did you not promise that I should eat you?" "Ah!" replied the mouse, "I did, but *I was in liquor at the time!*"

GEMS.

He who needs forgiveness himself ought to be merciful to others.

The art of conversation is the art of hearing, as well as of being heard.

A good word is an easy obligation; but not to speak ill requires only our silence, which costs us nothing.

There is an essential meanness in the wish to get the better of any one. The only competition worthy of a wise man is with himself.

If money be not thy servant, it will be thy master. The covetous man cannot so properly be said to possess wealth, as it may be said to possess him.

Harmless mirth is the best cordial against the consumption of the spirits; wherefore jesting is not unlawful if it trespasseth not in quantity, quality, or season.

False happiness is like false money: it passes for a time as well as the true, and serves some ordinary occasions; but when it is brought to the touch, we find the lightness and alloy, and feel the loss.

What a beautiful comment the following is upon a good housewife—"To hear her converse, you would suppose she did nothing but read; to have looked through the department of her household, you would have supposed she never read."

Some one, looking at a rich man, said: "Poor man, he toiled day and night until he was forty, to gain his wealth; and he has been watching it day and night, ever since, for his victuals and clothes."

(For the Life Boat.)

A half starv'd Frenchman once 'tis said,
 Passed by a butcher's door;
 Where British beef, both white and red,
 Hung out in plenteous store.

The Frenchman gazed with longing eyes,
 Then loud, "bon, bon," he cried:
 The butcher turned with quick surprise,
 And spoke with wounded pride.

Get away you outlandish cheat,
 Nor talk such stuff as that;
 You say *bone, bone*, I say 'tis meat,
 And meat extremely fat.

ANONYMOUS.

Enigma.

(Written for the Life Boat.)

I am composed of eleven letters.
 My 6, 5, 6, 7, is a musical instrument.
 " 4, 9, 10, 6, is a mass of bread.
 " 1, 9, 9, 12, is one of the bones of the mouth.
 " 2, 10, 4, 1, is lame or crippled.
 " 8, 3, 10, 1, is to punish.
 " 11, 7, 10, is a Chinese plant.
 My whole is what every Cadet should have.
 HENRY POLSON.

Question.

If paker, tongs and shovel, cost 5 shillings, what will a peck of coals come to?
 HENRY PILSON.

There being some mistakes in the answer inserted in our last, from D. J. Mac, to the problem in the Match number, we give below a correct one from our attentive correspondent at Bytown:—

14520 inhabitants — 33 = 440 deaths.

<i>Burials</i>	<i>Births</i>	<i>Burials.</i>	<i>Births.</i>
then as 4	:	:	440 : 550
			<i>Girls.</i>
then 12	÷ 13 = 25.	As 25	· 12 :: 550 : 264
			<i>Boys.</i>
		As 25	· 13 :: 550 : 286

Thus you find there are 13 boys for every 12 girls.