

Around the Tea Table.

"How do you accomplish so much, and in so short a time?" asked a man of Sir Walter Raleigh. "When I have anything to do, I go and do it," was the reply. The man who always acts promptly, even if he makes occasional mistakes, will succeed when a procrastinator would fail—even if the latter have the better judgment.

QUEEN VICTORIA thoroughly enjoys a joke, and was recently much pleased at an old man at Crathie, to whom she was talking about the new church, when he said: "Your Majesty, the 'Agnostics' of the church are bad." He meant the acoustics, and the queen replied with a smile: "I hope they are not so in my south aisle."

A GENTLEMAN who offered to help an elderly Irish lady with her packages and bundles off a railway train was surprised by her when she said, by way of thanking him: "I don't know what office you are running for, sir; but I pay the saints you may get it." All men's motives are not selfish, though suspicion is seldom wanting.

A LADY famed for her skill in cooking was entertaining a number of her friends at tea. Everything on the table was much admired; but the excellence of the sponge cake was especially the subject of remark. "Oh," exclaimed one of the guests, "it is so beautifully soft and light! Do tell me where you got the recipe?" "I am very glad," replied the hostess, "that you find it so soft and light. I made it out of my own head."

It is reported that a student who had the ministry in view, but who was anxious to begin the work without a protracted course of study, asked an eminent professor if there were not some shorter course that he could take without wasting so much time in preparation. "Yes, there are shorter courses," was the reply, "but, my dear young brother," said the wise professor, "it takes God a half-century to make an oak tree, while he can make a squash in a few weeks."

SAID an Irishman to a telegraph operator, "Do you ever charge anybody for the address of a message?" "No," replied the operator. "And do you charge for signing his name, sir?" said the customer. "No, sir." "Well, then, will you please send this? I just want my brother to know I am here," handing the following: "To John McFlynn—at New York—(signed) Patrick McFlynn." It was sent as a tribute to Patrick's shrewdness.—*The Lutheran.*

AT Princeton Theological Seminary recently, a young preacher persuaded a fellow student to listen to a sermon. The preacher in embryo began. His subject was "Light." With a violent gesture of the right arm, he said: "Blot out the sun." With a similarly frantic movement of the left arm, he roared: "Blot out the moon." Then with a combined gesture, make up of both arms, he bellowed: "Blot out the stars." But it was enough. The auditor arose, to leave with a hoarse, cruel whisper, "turn off the gas."

"A few days since," relates a solicitor, "as I was sitting with my friend D— in his office, a man came in and said: 'Mr. W—, the lively stable keeper, tricked me shamefully yesterday, and I want to be even with him.' 'State your case,' said D—. 'I asked him how much he'd charge me for a horse to go to Richmond. He said half a sovereign. I took the horse, and when I came back he said he wanted another half sovereign for coming back, and made me pay it.' D— gave his client some legal advice, which he immediately acted upon, as follows: He went to the lively stable keeper and said: 'How much will you charge for a horse to Windsor?' The man replied, 'a sovereign.' Client accordingly went to Windsor, came

back by rail, and went to the lively stable keeper, saying: 'Here is your money! paying him a sovereign.' 'Where is my horse?' said W—. 'He's at Windsor,' answered the client. 'I hired him only to go to Windsor.'—*Pearson's Weekly.*

IS the course of a recent sermon Rev. Madison C. Peters, of New York, quoted the following apt illustration: "A poor workman told his wife, on awakening one morning, a curious dream which he had during the night. He dreamed that he saw coming towards him, in order, four rats: The first one was very fat, and was followed by two lean rats, the rear rat being blind. The dreamer was greatly perplexed as to what evil might follow, as it has been understood that to dream of rats denotes calamity. He appealed to his wife concerning this, but she, poor woman, could not help him. His son, who heard his father tell the story, volunteered to be the interpreter. 'The fat rat,' he said, 'is the man who keeps the saloon you go to so often, the two lean rats are my mother and me, and the blind rat, father, is yourself.'"

Interesting Facts.

LONDON has a population of 5,657,000.

The largest bog in Ireland is the Bog of Allan, which stretches across the centre of the island east of the Shannon, and covers nearly 25,000 acres. Altogether there are nearly 3,000,000 acres of bog in Ireland—that is to say, about one-seventh of the area of the country is bog.

The Eiffel tower in Paris has been put to a use probably never thought of by its original builders. The chief of police of Paris has placed on its summit certain agents, whose duty it is to note all those chimneys which throw up a dense column of smoke that is permitted by law.

FREDERICK REMINGTON, artist, author and war correspondent, says: "It seems worth while noting that while a great many football men went into the army, if any prize-fighters went in I did not hear of them. Yet a favorite defence of the ring is that it develops the manly qualities so necessary to the nation."

The *Presbyterian* calls attention to a singular fact in saying: "It is stated on good authority that there are no colored saloon-keepers. If this be a fact, such record is highly creditable to the black man, for we believe there is no law, written or unwritten, which abridges his rights and privileges as a citizen in this respect."

The *Home Magazine* notes that to the list of bibles named after curious typographical mistakes an important addition is made in the so-called "Printers' Bible, which contains perhaps the most strangely appropriate misreading of any: 'Printers have persecuted me without a cause' (Psalm cix. 161), 'p'rinters' being substituted for 'priests'.

It is calculated that a fluent speaker utters between 7,000 and 7,500 words in the course of an hour's uninterrupted speaking. Many orators of more than usually rapid utterance will reach 8,000 and even 9,000. But 125 words a minute, or 7,500 an hour, is a fair average. The average number of ideas given in an hour's speaking could be represented by three figures—sometimes by ciphers.

ONE of the best illustrations of the progress of the world wrought in the field of invention may be seen in the comparison between the ancient and modern methods of reaping. The old reaping knife, sickle and scythe have given place to a remarkable machine. The *Californian Christian Advocate* speaks of the operations of one of these machines as follows: "Stockton has again

distinguished herself by building the greatest harvester known. This giant reaper, which has been in successful operation during the past week, cuts a swath fifty-two feet wide, and will cut, thresh and sack from one thousand five hundred to one thousand eight hundred sacks of grain in ten hours. It requires ten men to operate it, and is driven by a traction engine. It will cut one hundred acres of grain in a day, and has been working in the very heaviest growth of wheat on one of the fertile islands of the San Joaquin. It is predicted that this thrasher will greatly reduce the cost of harvesting grain, but, of course, will only be practical on very large ranches and on perfectly level land."

THE thousand mosquitoes dance up and down in the sun, with the minutest interval between them, yet no one knocks another headlong on the grass or breaks a leg or a wing, long and delicate as they are. Suddenly a peculiar, high-shouldered, vicious creature, with long and pendulous ears, darts out of the rising and falling cloud, and settling on your neck, inserts a poisonous organ. What possessed the little wretch to do this? Did he smell your blood while he was dancing? No one knows.

It is a curious fact that red-haired people are far less apt to become bald than those whose hair is covering in of another hue. The average crop on the head of the red-haired person is said to be only about 30,000 hairs. Ordinary dark hair is far finer, and over three dark hairs take up the space of one red one; 105,000 are about the average. But fair-haired people are still better off; 140,000 to 160,000 are quite a common number of hairs on the scalp of a fair-haired man or woman. A curious calculation has been made to the effect that the hairs on the head of a fair-haired person, if they could be plaited together, would sustain a weight of something like eighty tons, equaling that of five hundred people.—*Medical Record.*

EVERY an dog can use the telephone to good advantage. A lady passenger who arrived in the city by train reported that her little pet dog had been left by accident on the platform at the second station out. The courteous officials telephoned through respecting the trouble, and the answer came immediately that a dog of that description had just been brought into the railway station. The receiver was put to the dog's ear, and the lady was asked to speak to it. She did so. The effect was electrical. The dog barked a cordial recognition of the voice, and by its antics expressed a great desire to jump into the apparatus and traverse the wires in order to get to its mistress all the sooner.

A SINGULAR but instructive instance fell under the observation of Sir Humphry Davy, when, early in life, he was assisting Dr. Beddoes in his experiments on the inhalation of nitrous oxide. Dr. Beddoes having inferred that the oxide must be a specific for palsy, a patient was selected for trial and placed under the care of Davy. Previously to administering the gas, Davy inserted a small thermometer under the tongue of the patient to ascertain the temperature. The paralytic man, wholly ignorant of the process to which he was to submit, but deeply impressed by Dr. Beddoes with the certainty of its success, no sooner felt the thermometer behind his teeth than he concluded the talisman was in operation, and in a burst of enthusiasm declared that he already experienced the effects of its benign influence throughout his whole body. The opportunity was too tempting to be lost. Davy did nothing more, but desired his patient to return on the following day. The same ceremony was repeated, the same result followed, and at the end of a fortnight he was dismissed cured, no remedy of any kind except the thermometer having been used.