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Smiles

An excellent story of the endeavors of a teacher in an infant school to convey to her pupils the use of the hyphen is told. She wrote on the blackboard the word "Birds'-nests," and, pointing to the hyphen, asked:

"What is that for?"

A short pause, and then the smart youngster of the class piped out:

"Please, ma'am, it's for the birds to roost on."

In a church which could be named, the pastor was desirous of bringing about in a tactful way some improvements in the mid-week service, and announced for a subject, "The Ideal Prayer-meeting." A number of helpful suggestions had been made, when one brother, knowing to be harmless as a dove, if not wise as a serpent, got up, and said:

"I think everybody should come prepared to say something, so that no time should be lost except that which is taken by the pastor."

As he was known to be a great admirer of the pastor, the gravity of the meeting was somewhat disturbed.

"Do you think it would be wrong for me to learn the noble art of self-defence?" a religiously inclined youth inquired of his pastor.

"Certainly not," answered his pastor. "I learned it in my youth myself and have found it of great value during my life."

"Indeed, sir! Did you learn the old English system or Sullivan's system?"

"Neither. I learned Solomon's system."

"Solomon's system?"

"Yes, you will find it laid down in the first verse of the fifteenth chapter of Proverbs: 'A soft answer turneth away wrath.' It is the best system of self-defence of which I know."—Selected.

"I'll bet you anything you like," said Jones to Brown, "that you can't spell three simple words I'll give you within twenty seconds."

"I'll take it on. What are they?" said Brown.

"Well, here goes," Jones said, as he pulled out his watch. "Believe."

"B-e-l-i-e-v-e."

"Receive."

"R-e-c-e-i-v-e."

"Wrong," said Jones.

"What," exclaimed Brown. "I've spelt the two words you gave me correctly. I'm certain I'm not—"

"Time's up!" Jones said triumphantly. "Why didn't you spell the third word—r-o-n-g?"

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