

THE LAST THING

There had been an explosion in a powder mill, and the proprietor, who was away on a pleasure trip, hurried home to make an investigation.

"How did it happen?" he asked the foreman of the mill as he viewed the wreck. "Who was to blame?"

"Well, you see, sir," replied the foreman, "it was like this. Bill went into the mixing-room, probably thinking of something else, and struck a match in mistake. He—"

"Struck a match!" exclaimed the proprietor in amazement. "I should have thought that would be the last thing on earth he'd do!"

"It was sir," said the foreman.

THE INTELLIGENT JUROR

"It is not uncommon with lawyers when addressing a jury to single out one member who appears to them to be the most intelligent, and, therefore, the one most likely to be influenced by their appeals," said a well-known jurist recently. "But it does not always work out advantageously," he continued. "All the testimony in a case recently tried in Texas had been taken, the lawyers for both sides summed up and the judge had charged the jury, when suddenly loomed up the aforesaid intelligent juror against whom both counsel had thundered their impassioned appeals. He was thirsty for information, and straightway addressed the court:

"I have been bothered a lot by two words the lawyers use here all the time."

"What are they?" demanded the court, expecting, undoubtedly, to be called upon to expound a fortiori or some other abstruse term.

"Plaintiff and defendant," said the juror. "I don't know just what they mean."