

Time for George to Stop and Think.

He suddenly put his hand in his waistcoat pocket and drew out three broken cigars. Then he looked at his best girl with a forgiving smile.

"Flor de King Alfonso," he airily said. "Fifty dollars a hundred. But who cares!"

"Let me see them," said the girl. She inspected the fragments closely.

"Yes," she quietly announced, "that's the kind papa always buys when he's running for office. I know the odor. Five dollars a thousand. Somebody has fooled you, George."

She was a wise girl, and she did not smile.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Convincing.

The late Wilhelm Jordan used to be very much annoyed because of the constant tearing up of the streets in Frankfurt. One day he said to one of the men at work, "Why are you digging up the pavement again?" "Because a new water pipe is to be put in." "But the old one was still good." "So was the old Nibelungenried, yet you wrote a new one, herr doctor," retorted the laborer, with a laugh, in which Jordan joined.

Draining Desert Lands.

One of the curiosities of irrigation is that it is sometimes necessary to drain such lands. When the lands are situated on a comparative level the water from the irrigating ditch above seeps along the line between the rock formation and the soil to the land below and in many cases accumulates in such an amount that it actually becomes swampy. Then it has to be drained, just as in the case of swamps. It seems strange to witness the laying of a drainage system in an arid country, but it has been done a great many times. The average user of irrigation who fails may trace his lack of success to the too liberal use of water. Instead of

watering, he really drowns the crops.—New York Press.

The Famous Mamelukes.

The mamelukes were a body of soldiers who ruled Egypt for several hundred years. Their name is derived from an Arab word which means slave, and they were originally captives from Caucasian countries. In the middle of the thirteenth century they were introduced into Egypt as the sultan's bodyguard, but upon the accession of Turan Shah, whom they hated, they overthrew him and elected one of themselves in his place. For nearly 300 years they held the power there, and even when compelled to resign it they had much influence in Egypt. In 1811 nearly all the mamelukes were massacred by Mohammed Ali, and those who then escaped to Nubia were destroyed in 1829.

Very Unexpected.

The teacher in the infant's school was explaining the principle of subtraction.

"Now, suppose," she said, "that mother put seven cherries on the table and little Willie came in and took one. How did mother know that one was gone when she did not see little Willie take it?"

She paused for an answer, expecting some child to say, "Because there would be six left."

But, instead, little Eva, blushing furiously, asserted:

"I spect Willie forgot to hide the stem and the stone!"—London Saturday Journal.

Preparing Him.

"You're going to marry sister, ain't you?" her little teacher inquired.

The young man blushed. "I—I don't know," he replied.

"That's funny," said the terrible infant. "Pa has looked you up in the rule books, ma has found out all about your grandfathers, and sister has begun her shopping. Gimme a nickel won't you?"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

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