

## GIBB-GHAT AND CHUCKLES

## THE FISHER'S WIDOW.

The boats go out and the boats come in,  
Under the wintry sky;  
And the rain and foam are white in the wind,  
And the white gulls cry.

She sees the sea when the wind is wild,  
Swept by the windy rain;  
And her heart's weary of sea and land  
As the long days wane.

She sees the torn sails fly in the foam,  
Broad on the sky-line gray;  
And the boats go out and the boats come in,  
But there's one away.

—Arthur Symons.

No chorus to this:

Mine eyes have seen the coming of the woeful Russian grip,  
It is going through the country on a kind of flying trip;  
It is seizing all the people just above the upper lip.  
And it still goes sneezing on!

Men who have to swear off from swearing generally continue swearing off and on.

In five minutes a woman can clean up a man's room in such a way that it will take him five weeks to find out where she put things.

The late Robert Browning translated parts of Homer into English when he was eight years old. But no child of eight could translate Browning into English, suggests the *New York World*.

The magnitude of stamp collectors' operations may be judged from a statement that a gentleman lives in Baden Baden who refused an offer of \$1,250,000 for his collection of postage stamps.

Visitor—"Tommy, I wish to ask you a few questions in grammar."  
Tommy—"Yes, sir." Visitor—"If I give you the sentence, 'The pupil loves his teacher,' what is that?" Tommy—"Sarcasm."

The Sultan of Turkey has sent three hairs from the beard of the prophet by a special messenger as a present to the town of Aleppo. Wherever the messenger appeared during his journey he was received in state, and the governor of Aleppo came to meet him before the gates of the town.

A LITTLE TOO MUCH.—During the performance of Hamlet at the theatre of a small town, the actor who took the principal part fainted, whereupon the director came forward with the announcement, asking: "Is there no one in this highly intelligent audience who will, to oblige the rest, undertake the part."

A western man announcing the illness of the editor piously adds: "All subscribers who have paid cash in advance are requested to mention him in their prayers. The others need not, as the prayers of the wicked avail nothing." This is pretty rough on the clergymen who had been getting free copies.

The late Empress Augusta was extremely fond of hand-organ music, and not only frequently encouraged organ-grinders to play before the palace, but also had several broken-down street musicians on her pension list. It is said that she left a bequest for the erection of a house of refuge for incapacitated itinerant performers.

Irene (old-time rival)—"Maud, dear, that's a beautiful ring on your finger. May I ask how much it cost?"

Maud (maliciously)—"I didn't ask Harry how much it cost, Irene, love."

Irene (sweetly)—"I always had a curiosity to know. When I was wearing it myself, you know, I couldn't very well ask him."

EPISCOPAL KITTENS.—Small boy—"Do you want to buy some Presbyterian kittens?" Minister—"Kittens! no; go along." A week later the boy calls at the "Episcopal rectory" and asks the rector if he wants to buy some 'Piscopal kittens. Rector replies, "Episcopal kittens! Why, I never heard of such a thing." Just then the Presbyterian minister who was calling at the house came out and said, "Look here! Aren't you the boy that came to my house a week ago to sell me some Presbyterian kittens?" Small boy—"Yes, sir." Minister—"Well, aren't these the same kittens?" Small boy—"Yes, sir." Minister—"Well, how is it that they are Episcopal kittens now?" Small boy—"Why you see when I brung 'em to you they hadn't got their eyes open yet." Exit Presbyterian minister.

A Scotch clergyman once said the great peculiarity of the old Scottish elder or deacon was his power of expounding Scripture; he was never at a loss about the meaning of a passage. As an illustration of this, he said: An elder was reading and commenting upon the thirty-fourth Psalm, and the book being printed in the old style, when he came to verse thirteen he saw: "Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile." The last two words he read aloud as "squeaking girls," and then he remarked by the way of exposition: "It is evident from this passage, the Scripture does not absolutely forbid kissing, but as in Christianity everything is to be done decently and in order, we are encouraged by the passage to choose rather those girls that take it quietly, and not those that squeak under the operation."

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