

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

When does a lady treat a man like a telescope? When she draws him out, looks him through, and then shuts him up.

Never put much confidence in such as put no confidence in others. A man prone to suspect evil is mostly looking in his neighbor for what he sees in himself.

Too Much for his Strength.—Elevator Boy (to fat old lady): "Goin' up, Mum?" Old Lady: "Yes, I'm goin' up; but sakes alive, a little boy like you can't pull me up in that thing"

Bridget: "Enjoy sleep, is it? How could I, I'd like yez to tell me? The mimit I lay down I'm asleep, and the mimit I'm awake I have to get up. Where's the time for enjoyin' it to come in?"

Bride (exchanging bridal costume for travelling suit). "Did I appear nervous at all during the ceremony, Sara?" Bridesmaid (envious): "A little at first, dear, but not after George had said 'Yes.'"

A MILE IN FIFTY SECONDS.—The fast locomotives used on the "two-hour" trains of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company between New York and Philadelphia, have 6 feet 8 inch wheels, 18-inch cylinders, and 24-inch stroke. The engines do a mile in 50 seconds—at least, so the *Scientific American* reports.

When He Would Sign a Pledge.—Wife: I do wish, John, that you would sign the pledge the beginning of this new year. I don't believe you realize how much you drink. Mother was speaking of it to day. Husband: How much longer does your mother expect to stay? Wife: She leaves next week. Husband: Well, the day she goes I'll sign; but don't ask me to give up drink while she is here.

Says the *Banker's Monthly*.—"The ends of the earth are uniting: just think of it; oranges from Australia and California meeting in the London fruit market, but it is only momentarily. There is no rivalry, for, when by the California season we are out of the London market, Australia succeeds us. Steam is rapidly reducing this little world to one country, and by and by 'meu the world o'er shall brithers be an a' that.'"

Astronomy and Photography.—Photographers who have a turn for astronomy may like to know that the rays of light proceeding from the star Capella, which, acting on the sensitive film, impressed the image of this distant sun on the photograph recently taken, started on their voyage in the year of the battle of Waterloo. At least, so says Mr. Sadler, the author of a paper on "Photographing the Stars," read at the last meeting of the Liverpool Astronomical Society.

Light-Resisting Power of Water.—Professor Forel is continuing his researches as to the light resisting power of water, his trials being made in the limpid Lake of Geneva. His method is to submerge chloride of silver papers at intervals of 10 metres, after sunset, and then to take them up at night after a day's exposure. It was found that the depths where absolute darkness, or stoppage of actinic rays, was observed varied according to the month. Strange to say, March allowed the light to penetrate the greatest distance—100 metres—while May and July respectively arrested it at the depths of 75 and 45 respectively. It is evident, therefore, upon correlating this experiment with others, that the results obtained must be a measure, not of the intensity in the months named, but of the turbidity of the water. However, Professor Forel intends to continue these experiments every two months for the space of a year.

Soaring Birds.—An interesting contribution to the question of the soaring of birds was made recently by Professor W. P. Trowbridge to the American Academy of Sciences. It appears that his son has discovered that birds of prey and some others have the power of locking together those parts of the wing holding the extended feathers, so that the action of the air extends the elbow, and the wings can be kept in the position for an indefinite period without any expenditure of muscular exertion on the part of the bird. Professor Trowbridge expressed the opinion that it is possible for a bird to sleep on the wing, and Professor J. S. Newberry said that he once shot a bird which came slowly to the ground with its wings extended, but quite dead. He believed the discovery of Mr. Trowbridge explained what he had never previously been able to account for.—*English Mechanic*.

The editor of *Book Chat* denounces, in round terms, the belief that the ideal novel is one in which the reader cannot lay the book down until the story is finished. He says: "This is a favorite expression in referring to sensational fiction. It delights the author, and to the general public seems to embody the requisites of an ideal novel. The real meaning, force and application of the phrase is worthy of attention. A novel which cannot be laid down until the story is finished, can safely be said to be a work that will not live. It may be popular, it may be graphic and bright, yet it lacks some essential for a permanent life. Consider the great novels of the past that are living to-day, and see if this can be said of any of them. Who would be willing to read Dickens, Thackeray or George Eliot through at one sitting? The delight we find in them is in quietly living with the characters, learning their joys and sorrows, becoming more intimate with their peculiarities, loving their personality, joying in their success, sympathizing in their failure."

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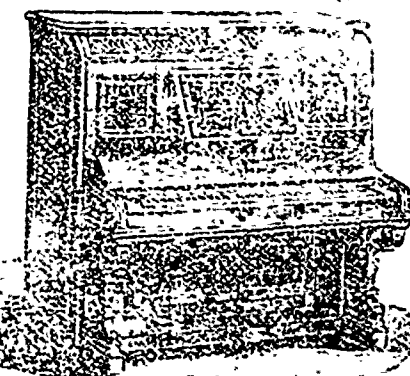
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