

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

ROSE AND THORNS.

None pluck the rose who do not sharpest thorns discover.
And rarely Love is found but keenly wounds the lover.

And none, despite the rose's thorns, could bear to lose it;
Ah! Love may wound the eager heart, but still we choose it!

The degree of M. A. is one that any learned female may be proud of, but many true women have probably found as much comfort in the plain title of "ma."

Mistress (arranging for dinner)—"Didn't the macaroni come from the grocery, Bridget?" Bridget—"Yis, but Oi sint it back. Every wan av thim stims was impty."

Lord Braxfield, a stern and determined, but withal a humorous, Scotch judge, had a favorite maxim which he often repeated: "Hang a thief when he's young, and he'll no steal when he's auld."

A DIFFERENT CLAN.—"Hae ye a black Mackintosh in here?" said a railway guard as he thrust his head into a carriage window at the Greenock station. "Na, guard," said one of the occupants, "we're a' red Macgregors."

"Donald," said a Scotch dame to her son, "what is elander?" "A slander, mithor?" quote Donald, twisting the corner of his plaid, "aweel, I hardly ken, unless it be an over-true tale that ae good woman tells o' onither."

GIRSY PROVERBS.—Those are the fattest fishes which fall back from the line into the water.

It is not good to choose woman or cloth by candle-light.
What is the use of a kiss unless there be two to divide it?
Who has got luck need only sit at home with his mouth open.
Who wants to steal potatoes must not forget the sack.
Two small stones do not grind small.

An interesting problem to astronomer and philosopher is the remarkable ring of minor planets travelling in orbits between those of Mars and Jupiter—interesting whether considered as an exploded world or in the modern light of a nebulous ring from the sun broken in condensing. Over 270 have been discovered, and Prof. Kirkwood now gives the assurance that the number unknown is practically unlimited. He shows that Jupiter is probably tending to reduce the number by increasing the eccentricities of their orbits until their perihelion distances fall within the sun itself. He believes that several of our periodic comets may have been asteroids, drawn from their orbits in this way.

Banker—"What's the matter, Pat?"

Patrick—"Sure there's three moor ov thim hathen Chinymen started a laundry right fernist the other two. Bad luck to 'em; they'll ruin this foine country!"

Banker—"In what way?"

Patrick—"Takin' the money out ov it. Sure they ivery mother's son ov 'em goes home to Chiny as soon as they've got a few dollars ahead, an' they takes the cash wid 'em. It's no wonder money is tight, sor. Is the bank open yit, sor?"

Banker—Yes, Patrick; we are ready for business. What do you wish?"

Patrick—"O'ive saved up some more money, an' Oi want yez to send it to ould Oireland fer the skirmishin' fund."

Of an iron egg in the Berlin Museum the following story is told: Many years ago a prince became affianced to a lovely princess, to whom he promised to send a magnificent gift as a testimonial of his affection. In due time the messenger arrived bringing the promised gift, which proved to be an iron egg. The princess was so angry to think that the prince should send her so valueless a present that she threw it upon the floor, when the iron egg opened, disclosing a silver lining. Surprise at such a discovery she took the egg in her hand, and, while examining it closely discovered a secret spring, which she touched, and the silver lining opened, disclosing a yolk. Examining it closely, she found another spring, which, when opened, disclosed within the yolk a ruby crown. Subjecting that to an examination she touched a spring and forth came the diamond ring with which he affianced her to himself.

Any man who will inveigle another person into committing a crime of any kind should be held as more guilty than the victim. The excuse that these spies and snakes put forward, that good comes of their acts, is an untenable one. The teachings of Christ, which are deeply burned in the hearts of every just person, so utterly forbid such ideas that we cannot see how any person, much less one who professes to be a follower of our Saviour, can for a moment try to justify them.

When a zealot undertakes to regulate the morals of his neighbors, as a rule, it may be safely said there is an ulterior purpose behind his acts. This fact can be traced through the whole animal kingdom. It is an old and true saying that "a sheep-killing dog will go away from home to perform his tricks." Hence we think true manhood has placed the right estimate on the character of the sneak, spy or informer. In war their portion is death; in peace it should be the execration of the whole human family.

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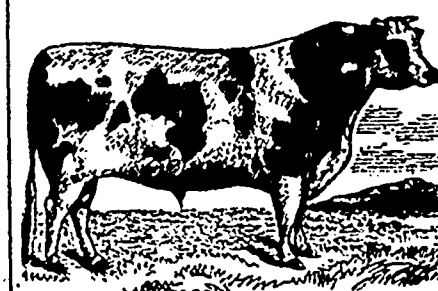
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