



HAND PAINTED CHINA.

## BARLEY'S FIANCEE.

BARLEY heard Coles coming up stairs, and groaned. It was the two hundred and seventy-fifth night since Cole's engagement to the Sum of Earthly Bliss. Barley knew that he was going to hear about it again. He was a thin and cadaverous individual without visible attachments, and he hated to hear Coles expatiate on the Sum of Earthly Bliss.

Before the door opened, however, Barley had an inspiration, and he greeted Coles with ghoulish glee, remembering how Coles had once greeted him. "Congratulate me, old boy; I'm engaged to the dearest girl in the world."

Coles struck out wildly with both arms. "You engaged, Barley?" he gasped, with vain unbelief.

"Yes, and I'm so happy, oh, I'm so happy, Coles." Barley grinned horribly, a ghastly smile. "I'm so happy!"

"When, Barley?"

"To-day. She's like a willow by the brook; she's a daughter of the gods, divinely tall and most divinely fair. She's like a star when only one is shining in the sky."

Barley was drawing on all the poetry he had ever known.

"She's a tulip by a river-brink. Oh, Coles," Barley cried convulsively, "I'm so happy!"

Coles clung to the door-handle. "I just came to say that I couldn't stay to-night. Emmie is expecting me. I'm awfully glad you're so happy, Barley."

"She has sixty thousand dollars, and she's the only son of her mother. I'm so happy Coles."

But Coles was hastening down stairs in a maze that lasted till Emmie thought perhaps after all they had made a mistake, which woke Coles as effectually as a jab from her hat pin.

Barley arose and embraced the emptiness of his room like a lover.

"Wasn't it worth a few lies?" he cried. "No man can listen to a lunatic for ever."

But, oh, my! what will happen to Barley when the woman who is sure to come hears from Mrs. Emmie Coles that he was once engaged to sixty thousand dollars?  
PENNY.

## WHY NOT ON EARTH?

SPEAKING of Heaven, the Churches all declare  
No high, no low, no rich, no poor are there;  
No rank or caste defiles that blest abode,  
All men are equal in the sight of God.  
Would it displease Him, I should like to know,  
Were men all equal in the world below?

G.C.

## CHAIR-Y OF APPROVAL.

PLUGWINCH—"McCarthy will find very few Conservatives prepared to stand on his platform."

BOSTWICK—"No, they seem rather more disposed to sit on it."

## THE DANGEROUS TRAILER.

BORAX—"What put O'Doolan's nose out of shape?"  
SMILAX—"Don't you know? He had his head smashed by a trailer in Ireland thirty years ago."

BORAX—"Nonsense. Why, there were no trailers then."

SMILAX—"That's all you know about it. This one was trailing his coat at Donnybrook Fair and O'Doolan stepped on it"



## BEEN THERE HIMSELF.

TRAMP—"I tell you what, it's kind of tough to be in a strange place without money and friends."

FARMER—"Yes, I know it is."

TRAMP—"Why, you were never a tramp, surely?"

FARMER—"No, not just exactly. But you see I woz up ter Ter-onto onct 'nd got buncloed out ov every cent I had, 'nd I woz three days walkin' back tew Pumpkin Plains again."