

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

Although not much talked about the postage stamp is on everybody's tongue.

A DISTINCTION.—A tourist without money is a tramp. A tramp who has money is a tourist.—*Texas Siftings*.

An Irishman caught a humble bee in his hand, supposing it to be a humming bird. "Och," he exclaimed, "how hot his little feet is!"

"Why don't you rise earlier? It is dreadful to be so lazy." "Alas, I have often tried. I can make my mind up to it, but I cannot make up my body."

Mrs. Wiggins.—"Why? Would you like to have me stay, my little boy?" Angel Child.—"Yes, I would. Nobody ain't stayed to dinner with me this week, and I'm dyin' for a square meal."

Judge: "Hullo, Mr. Brown! What are you doing up at this time o' morning?" "Oh, I'm trying to scare up an appetite for my breakfast. Why are you up so early?" "I'm trying to scare up a breakfast for my appetite."

A WONDERFUL NEW COLOR.—"Hortensia" is the name of a wonderful new color seen for the first time in London this season. It is unknown to artists of the brush, and has been introduced fresh from the looms of Lyons and the salons of Parisian modistes. The tint is surprisingly vivid, and yet has a soft fruit bloom upon it unlike any other known shade.

The manufacture of perfumeries from Florida-grown flowers bids fair to become an extensive industry in that State. One firm at Jacksonville is already at work. It is reported that a gentleman from South Florida has patented a process for the utilization of the bloom of the mangrove and Apodilla, and to extract the sweet fragrance from the cassava plant as well.

An Alabama committeeman writes to a Normal School that the town is very well satisfied with its teacher. He says: "She tries to make everything just as pleasant as she can. She don't mind work. She takes the axe and cuts wood—went to the woods one evening after school and helped to saw off two cuts after 4 o'clock. The people are very well satisfied with her."

A NEW INDUSTRY.—In Sweden, the stumps and roots of trees remaining after a wood has been cut down, are being used for the extraction of illuminating oil by dry distillation. Other products, such as turpentine, creosote, acetic acid, and tar, are also obtained. When mixed with benzine this oil can be advantageously burned in ordinary benzine lamps. It is reported that this industry promises to become very important.—*Industries*.

RAPID COUNTING.—In factories where pencils are made in numbers, a simple method of counting has been devised, with a view to saving time and trouble. Strips of woods are employed, having in each 144 grooves, and the workman, taking up a handful of pencils, rapidly rubs them along the board once and back, thus filling all the grooves in which the pencils lie, similarly to pens on a rack. In five seconds a gross may thus be counted, without the least likelihood of making a mistake, and much time and labor are saved.—*Industries*.

On the farm of J. P. Jenkins, in Lewis county, W. Va., is a large walnut tree which is four feet in diameter. About four or five feet above ground the tree is divided into two large branches which annually produce loads of walnuts, one branch producing a fine crop of black walnuts, while the other side or branch produces a heavy crop of butternuts or white walnuts. The bark of the tree from the root to the top has the appearance of a perfect commingling of both varieties. The tree is probably over 100 years old.—*Washington Star*.

FEW BEARDED ORATORS.—A gentleman who has paid considerable attention to the human voice contends that hair around the mouth tends to impair the utterance in song and speech. The sounds are broken or muffled as they are projected from the mouth. Most of the famous lawyers, ministers and parliamentary orators have been clean shaven. Among these may be mentioned Lord Mansfield, of whom Junius said that he considered him the most dangerous man in England, because the most talented; Wilkes, the noted demagogue; Lord Erskine, Lord Jeffrey, the reviewer; the Earl of Beaconsfield, Mr. Gladstone, Lord Macaulay, Richard Gordon, John Bright, Rev. Mr. Chalmers, Rev. Edward Irving, the friend of Mrs. Carlyle, and Rev. Mr. Spurgeon. Actors, as a general rule, are clean-faced, unless when representing historic characters, like King Lear. In our own country Patrick Henry, Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, Wendell Phillips, Edward Everett, Daniel Webster, Rufus Choate, William Lloyd Garrison and Charles Sumner did not have beards or mustaches. Now every other minister looks as fierce in the pulpit as a dragoon in a saddle ready to draw sabre for an onslaught. Foreign singers, to a man, are hairy about the mouth. Americans as well as British have copied the men of the continent of Europe in the matter of hair about the mouth during the past fifty years; before that a bearded American or Britisher was rarely seen. Now almost every one who can raise a beard has one. It is not known whether Demosthenes or Cicero wore beards, but we suppose Peter the Hermit, who preached the first crusade, and Walter the Penniless, were bearded, because they could not spare time to shave.—*Boston Globe*.

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