

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

THE JUDGMENT.

Thou hast done evil
And given place to the devil;
Yet so cunningly thou concealest
The thing which thou feelest,
That no eye espieeth it,
Satan himself denieth it,
Go where it chooseth thee,
There is none that accuseth thee;
Neither foe nor lover
Will the wrong uncover;
The world's breath raiseth thee,
And thy own past praiseth thee.

Yet know thou this:
At quick of thy being
Is an eye, all seeing,
The snake's wit ovsadeth not,
The charmed lip persuadeth not;
So thoroughly it despiseth
The thing thy hand prizeth,
Tho' the sun were thy clothing,
It should count thee for nothing.
Thine own eye divineth thee,
Thine own soul arraigneth thee,
God himself cannot abridge thee
Till that judge forgive thee.

—Dora Read (Goodale, in N. Y. Independent).

IN A FIX.—Mrs Muggins—"It's a-raining and Mrs. Goodsoul wants to go home, and I have no umbrella to lend her except my new guinea one? Can't I let her have yours?"

Mr. Muggins—"Hardly! The only umbrella I've got has her husband's name on the handle."

MISLEADING.—"You advertise that there is a fine stream of water on the place; but I don't see it," remarked a stranger who wanted to rent the place. The landlord said: "Just work that pump-handle a little, and you will see a fine stream of water. You don't expect to have the Niagara Falls on the place for 15 dollars a month, do you?"

A Warning to the Tenderfoot.—J. Chalmers Phipps (on tour over the plains); "When I gaze around, don't you know, over these boundless, rolling plains, stretching on every side to the horizon, without a vestige of human habitation, I am positively filled with awe."

Broncho Bob—"Filled with ore, eh? Well, don't let the boys find it out, or they might stake you out for a mineral claim."

A land and building concern, owning a large plot of ground on the outskirts of the town, received an order from the corporation to purchase a few acres for a cemetery. In discussing this proposal, one of the shareholders expressed himself as follows:

"Gentlemen, our land has been lying dead long enough. I vote that we turn it into a cemetery, by way of putting life into the concern."

The cowboy's lasso is made by cutting a raw hide into thin strips, half tanning it with the hair on. These strips are then stretched over a block and braided into a rope, the strands being pulled very tight. The lasso is then buried in sand for a week or two, and absorbs moisture from the ground, which makes it soft and pliable. When taken out of the ground it is stretched out and the hair is sand-papered off. It is then greased with mutton tallow and properly noosed, and is ready for use.

The historian Froude recently gave his views of style as follows: "I have never thought about style at any time of my life. I have tried merely to express what I had to say with as much simplicity and as little affectation as I could command. As a rule, when I go over what I have written I find myself striking out superfluous epithets, reducing superlatives into positives, bringing subjunctive moods into indicative, and in most instances passing my pen through every passage which had seemed, while I was writing it, to be particularly fine. If you sincerely desire to write nothing but what you really know or think, and to say that as clearly and as briefly as you can, style will come as a matter of course: ornament for ornament's sake is always to be avoided. There is a rhythm in prose as well as in verse, but you must trust your ear for that."

A blessed thing it is for any man or woman to have a friend, one human soul, whom we can trust utterly; who knows the best and worst of us, and who loves us in spite of all our faults; who will speak the honest truth to us while the world flatters us to our faces and laughs at us behind our backs; who will give us counsel and reproof in the days of prosperity and self-conceit, but who again will comfort and encourage us in the days of difficulty and sorrow, when the world leaves us alone to fight our own battles as we can. If we have had the good fortune to win such a friend, let us do anything rather than lose him. We must give and forgive, live and let live. If our friends have faults, we must bear with them. We must hope all things, believe all things, endure all things, rather than lose that most precious of all earthly possessions, a trusty friend. And a friend once won need never be lost, if we will only be trusty and true ourselves.

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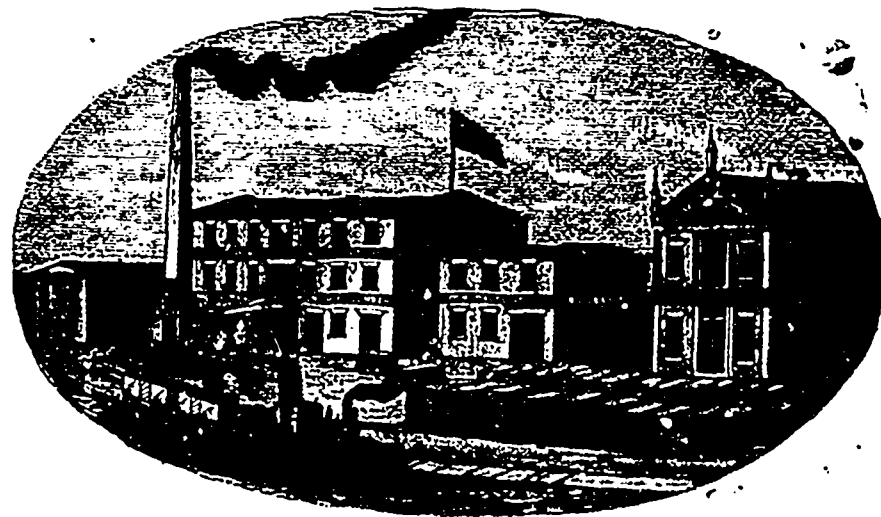
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