

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

There is no action of man in this life that is not the beginning of a long chain of consequences, that no human providence is high enough to give us a prospect to the end.

An old friend to a disconsolate widow: "I hope your good husband was well prepared to leave?"

The widow, sobbing violently. "Prepared? I should think so. He was insured in six companies."

Guest at country tavern.—"Have you any cheese, landlord?" Landlord—"Not a bit in the house, sir." Guest—"Not even a little piece?" Landlord—"Yes, there is, come to think! Here, Pete, run down collar and fetch up that rat trap."

A Foreman Blacksmith the other day, observing one of his men cutting out a keyhole in a large unshapely fashion, laid his hand on his shoulder and said:—"Man Wulhe, if I had kent ye was gaun to make a keyhole like that I wad hae advised them no to pit a door there at a'."

A wonderful landscape on exhibition in Paris is executed in European and foreign insects. Every desired tone is supplied by 45,000 coleopters in foreground, and 4,000 varieties of the insect tribe for the remainder of the picture. The work required four years of the artist's time.

Blanche—Have you made any conquests this summer?

Lillian—Oh, yes; Mr. Jones proposed the day before we came away.

Blanche—Doesn't he pop the question in the most awkward manner imaginable?

They meet as strangers.

"If I give yer a nice cinuar," said she to the tramp, "will yer do a little work for me?" "Certainly, madam," was the frank reply. After dinner he explained to the woman that, aside from being out of practice in wood sawing, his physicians had strictly forbidden it; "but" he went on, "I want to do something, of course, and if your husband has a new pair of boots that he wants broken in I'll undertake the job."

It takes nearly one hundred million eggs a month to keep the English in cakes and puddings. The matter of the protection of the English hen from the competition of the pauper fowls of France has been thought so serious that even Gladstone has paid some attention to it. Experts estimate that the consumption of eggs in England is one hundred a year for every person. Nearly fifteen million dollars is paid every year for the eggs imported into the country.

This happened one evening, recently, not 1,000 miles from Cambridge. Two tricyclers chanced to halt by the roadside for a brief rest just as a group of Irish laborers were passing on their way from work. Attracted by the bright new machines, two of the men paused to look at them.

"If you only had a tricycle, Pat," said one of the 'cyclers to the nearest of the men, "you could ride to and from your employment."

"Ride to the devil!" said Pat, with a contemptuous look at the combination of man and wheels. "Do ye think I can' from the mould country to drive a donkey-cart, bebad, and be my own horse?"

Liberia appears to be a model republic from the standpoint of the professional politician. Mr. Taylor, the colored United States Minister to that country, who has returned on leave of absence, reports that there are a little over 2,000 voters in the Republic, and fully one-half of them are office-holders. We presume that the chief amusement there is a political game of "puss in the corner" between the office-holders. When the Liberians become a little more civilized, they will no doubt find means to double the number of offices and thus provide a berth for each voter. Mr. Taylor complains, however, that there is not a horse, or cow, or mule, or useful animal of any kind, not a single car, cart, or even a wheelbarrow in the whole country. And yet with all these offices and all this freedom from competition between man and the lower animals, Mr. Taylor does not think Liberia is a good place to live in. There is no satisfying some people.

AN ELECTRICAL STRATAGEM.—According to the *Electrical Review*, when the electric telegraph was first introduced into Chili, a stratagem was resorted to in order to guard the posts and wires against damage on the part of the Araucan Indians and maintain the connection between the strongholds on the frontier. There were at the time between forty and fifty captive Indians in the Chilean camp. General Pinto called them together, and, pointing to the telegraph wires, he said:—"Do you see those wires?" "Yes, General." "Very good. I want you to remember not to go near nor touch them; for if you do, your hands will be held, and you will be unable to get away." The Indians smiled incredulously. Then the General made them each in succession take hold of the wire at both ends of an electric battery in full operation. After which he exclaimed:—"I command you to let go the wire." "I can't, my hands are benumbed," said the Indian. The battery was then stopped and the man released. Not long afterward the General restored them to liberty, giving them strict injunctions to keep the secret, and not to betray it to their countrymen on any account. This had the desired effect, for, as might be expected, the experiment was related "in the strictest confidence" to every man of the tribe, and the telegraph has ever since remained unimolested.

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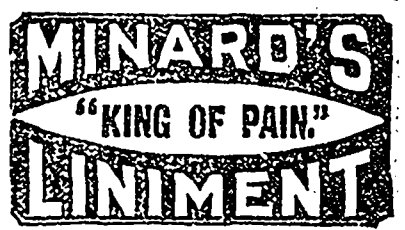
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