

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

**HARD DRINKING**—Mrs. O'Toole—"Shure, Mrs. Clanoy, can you tell me phwat 'meant by hard drinkin'?"  
Mrs. Clanoy—"Oim not shure, but I think it's sitting on a rook and sipping cold water, I dunno."

**IN BOSTON MUNICIPAL COURT**—Judge (to officer, a Colt)—"Are you sure that the prisoner was drunk?"  
Officer—"Is it drunk, yer honor? Shure af he ud schpoko through the illiphone the brith uv'im ud av made the pholes etthaggor."

**THE OLDEST LIVING MONARCH**—By the death of Emperor William of Germany, William III, King of the Netherlands, will become the oldest of reigning monarchs. He was born February, 1817. Dom Pedro of Brazil has been the longest on the throne, having succeeded his father, who abdicated in April, 1831. Alfonso, King of Spain, is the youngest of the list of rulers.—*N. Y. World.*

**Stumpson** (in answer to Talboy's greeting)—"Oh, all right, 'f 'twasn't for these East winds—"

**Talboys** (who's a little hard of hearing)—"Twins! My dear fellow, I congratulate you, I'm sure. I'd really no idea you were—and how are they—all there?—I hope—"

**Stumpson** (testily—large family already)—"I didn't say these twins"—  
(shouting)—"I said the East winds!"—*Punch.*

Some of the churches in Chicago have adopted a rule for late comers which would be a blessing at all public gatherings if it could be enforced. After the sermon has begun the late arrival is quietly directed to a seat in the gallery. This rule applied once never fails to have a good effect. The fashionable McFlimsey girl who stands before the mirror until 11 o'clock before starting to her devotions will not linger again, after she has failed to wad down the aisle in her best attire.

Two friends, riding in the north of Scotland, stopped opposite a hole in a peep bank, and one said to the other:—"John, I saw a brock (badger) gang in there."

"Did ye?" said John, "haud my horse, and I'll grip him." Away rushed John for a spade. After digging for half an hour till he was well-nigh speechless, he gave it up, saying:—"I canna find him."

"Dead," said the wag very coolly, "I wad hae wondered if ye had, John, for it's ten years since I saw him gang in!"

An English general, in reviewing a corps of cavalry, suddenly stopped before a splendid looking fellow and asked abruptly:

"Which is the best horse in the regiment?"

"Number forty, sir."

"What makes you think he is the best horse?"

"He walks, trots and gallops well; is a good jumper; has no vice; no blemish; carries his head well; is in his prime."

"And who is the best soldier in the regiment?"

"Tom Jones, sir."

"Why?"

"Because he is an honorable man, is obedient, tidy, takes good care of his equipment and his horse, and does his duty well."

"And who is the rider of the best horse?"

"Tom Jones, sir."

"And who is Tom Jones?"

"I am, sir."

The general could not help laughing, but he gave a sovereign to his informant, who received it without moving a muscle.

**PHYSICAL HISTORY OF SCOTLAND**—To sit on one of the Highland Hills that overlook the Firth of Clyde, and watch the ships as they come and go from all corners of the earth; to trace village after village, and town after town, dotting the coast-line as far as the eye can reach; to see the white steam of the distant railway rising like a summer cloud from among orchards and cornfields and fairy-like woodlands; to mark, far away, the darker smoke of the coal-pit and the iron-work hanging over the haunts of a busy human population; in short, to note all over the landscape, on land and sea, the traces of that human power which is everywhere changing the face of Nature;—and then to picture an earlier time, when these waters had never felt the stroke of oar or paddle, when these hillsides had never echoed the sound of human voice, but when over hill and valley, over river and sea, there had fallen a silence as of the grave, when one wide pall of snow and ice stretched across the landscape; to restore, in imagination, the vast ice-sheet filling up the whole wide firth, and creeping slowly and silently southwards, and the valley-glaciers into which this ice-sheet shrank, threading yonder deep Highland glens, which to day are purple with heather and blithe with the whirring of grouse, and woodcocks; to seal up the firth once more in ice, as the winter frosts, used to set over it, and cover it with bergs and ice-rafts that marked the short-lived Arctic summer; to bring back again the Arctic plants and animals of that early time, the reindeer, the mammoths, and their contemporaries, and thus, from the green and sunny valley, of the Clyde, with all its human associations, to pass at once, and by a natural transition, to the sterility and solitude of another Greenland, is an employment as delightful as man can well enjoy.—*Dr. Geikie's Scenery of Scotland.*

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