

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

THE EMPIRE GOWN.

Take a large sized table cloth,
Stitch two sides together,
Run a pucker round the top
On a ribbon tether.

Cut some arm-holes near the neck,
Put the belt below them,
Just to touch the shoulder blades,
So as not to show them.

Let the skirt be flowing loose,
Like a sail that's flapping
In the vagrant Southern breeze,
Mast and yard-arms tapping.

Tack some buttons up the back,
Two or three is plenty,
For you know an Empire Gown
In the waist is scanty.

Put some lace about the neck,
Sew it there or pin it—
Then, to make the gown complete,
Let the girl get in it.

Teacher to pupil—Johnie, what is a demagoguo? Johnie—A demagoguo is a vessel that holds wine, gin, whiskey, or any other liquor.

Mrs. Playful (squeezing the French maid's waist as they meet in the dark hallway): "Ma Belle!"
Lizette: "Don't, monsieur; madam might see us."

"Pretty bad under foot," said one citizen to another, as they met in the street. "Yes, but it's fine overhead," responded the other. "True enough," said the first; "but then very few are going that way."

Bishop Gullen:—Miss Autumn, I hear you are an earnest student of the Bible. What, in your opinion, is the most interesting line of Holy Writ?
Miss Autumn (promptly):—"Behold the bridegroom cometh!"

"This heading, 'French Duel; a Man Hurt,' doesn't fill the line by about three-quarters of an inch," sung out Slug 47.
"Fill out the line with exclamation points!" thundered the foroman.

MAKING THE BEST OF IT.—"Sing Sing," shouted the brakeman, as a Hudson River train slowed up at that station. "Five years for refreshments," yelled a passenger with short hair and bracelet, as he rose to leave the car in charge of a deputy sheriff.

Jeweller (to lady whose purchases surprise him)—"Excuse me, madam, but may I enquire why you have selected only designs in imitation of bugs, spiders, lizards and serpents in purchasing your jewellery?" Mrs. Thinkhardt—"Certainly, sir. My husband drinks, and I'm going to make him think he's got 'em."

A curious bird found in the jungles of Australia is described by a traveller in that country. He says: "It is called the ballador, or dancer, from its jumping action. Two of them were seen together, and carefully studied. As soon as one bird alighted, the other jumped up, the time being like clockwork in its regularity, and each in turn uttering a note sounding like 'to-lo-do,' uttering the syllable 'to' as he crouched to spring, 'lo' while in the air, and 'do' as he alighted—a regular song-and-dance performance."

She glided into the office and quietly approached the editor's desk. "I have written a poem—" she began. "Well!" exclaimed the editor, with a look and tone intended to annihilate, but she wouldn't annihilate worth a cent, and resumed: "I have written a poem on 'My Father's Barn,' and—" "Oh!" interrupted the editor with extraordinary suavity, "you don't know how relieved I feel. A poem written on your father's barn, eh? I was afraid it was written on paper and that you wanted me to publish it. If I should ever happen to drive past your father's barn I'll stop and read the poem. Good evening, miss."

A wonderful invention has been exhibited for preventing collisions at sea. The motive power is electricity. A small plate, not larger than a cheese plate, is fixed at the side of the vessel, and the approach of any vessel within two miles immediately causes a bell to sound, and an indicating arrow shows the direction from whence it approaches. The idea of course, is that waves of sound are carried more quickly by water than air, and if the invention can be perfected the torpedo boat will be rendered useless. In the tentative experiments that have been made on the Thames the indicator has worked perfectly.

This is said to be a true story, though appearing in the Melbourne Punch. Lady Carrington, the wife of the Governor of New South Wales, is stated to be a demure little lady, at times with a keen sense of humor. The other day a magnate from South Australia called at Government House. He sent his card in, and waving the footman aside, said he would "go up and give his lordship a surprise." At the top of the stairs he met a nice-looking young woman, and, in a fine, old gentlemanly gallant way, chucked her under the chin and pressed a half-crown into her hand, saying at the same time, "show me into the presence of his lordship, my little dear." The little dear, with enigmatical smile, opened the door of his lordship's study and said, "Bob, here is a gentleman to see you; and," opening her hand, "he's given me half-a-crown to show him where you were."

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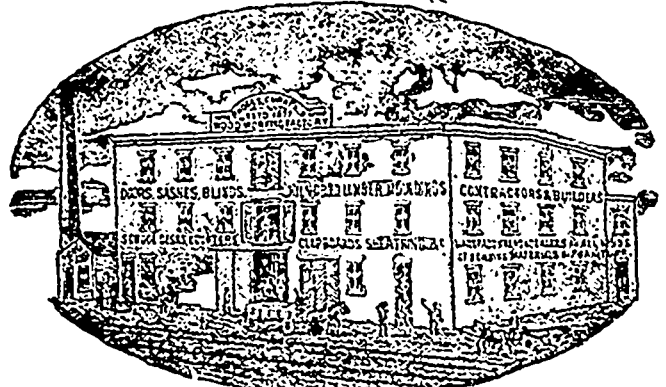
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