

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

OUR REAL DESIDERATUM.

By a "Well informed" Fool.
 Ah! I was fogged by the Materialistic,
 By Huxley and by Zola, Koch and Moore;
 And now there comes a Maelstrom of the Mystic,
 To whirl me further yet from sense's shore.

Microbes were much too much for me, Bacilli
 Bewildered me, and Phaygooytes did daze,
 But now the author cuts of "Piccadilly,"
 Harris the Prophet, the Blavatsky craze.

Thibet, Theosophy, and Bounding Brothers—
 No, Mystic Ones—Mabatmas I should say,
 But really they seem so much like the others
 In slippery agility!—day by day

Mystify me yet more. Those germs were bad enough,
 But what are they when compared to Astral Bodies?
 Of Useless Knowledge I have almost had enough,
 I really envy unenquiring noddies.

I would not be a Chela if I could,
 I have a horror of the Esoteric,
 Besant and Olcott may be wise and good,
 They seem to me pursuing the chimerical.

Maddened by mysteries of "Precipitation,"
 The Occult Dream and the Bacillus-Dance;
 We need Societies for the propagation
 Of Useful—Ignorance.

—London Punch.

AT THE OPERA.—Auditor (enthusiastically)—Why, your prima donna sings like a canary!

Madager (dryly)—Yes, but her bill is much larger.

"So Tuffer is really engaged to Miss Pond?" "Yes, sudden, wasn't it?"
 "I should say so. Love at first sight, I presume." "No; not till second sight. You see the first time he saw her he didn't know she was an heiress."

"I want an egg plant," said a young married woman to the grocer. "I'm sorry, but I haven't one in the store just now." "Well, I must get one somewhere, and raise my own eggs; for I'm resolved not to pay such high prices for them."

Innocent Maiden to Experienced Lawyer—"Maude says she is not engaged; it is only an understanding. What is an 'understanding'?"
 Experienced Lawyer—"Oh!—a contract by which the lady is bound while the gentleman is free."

APPROPRIATE LOCATION.—"Yes," said a friend of the person they were discussing, "he is a great traveller, and tells you some of the most marvellous stories." "Where does he live?" was the question. And the very natural answer was, "Oh, in some out-and-out-lying district."

WHERE A BET TELLS.—Remember that there is not the slightest use arguing with a person who has not learned the use of logical argument. A bet is a fool's argument, but it is a very good argument to use with a fool; and the bigger the fool the better the argument—both financially and otherwise.

ACCORDING TO SPECIFICATION.—Jenks—A prestidigitator, who gave an exhibition at the Summer hotel I was putting up at, took twenty yards of ribbon, about a peck of flowers, a live rabbit, a lot of cloth and other things out of a hat that was handed to him by some one in the audience.

Banks (wearily)—Was the hat my wife's?

IN LUCK.—"She is very handsome, and they say she is pious, too."

"Yes, she belongs to the Society of Christian Endeavour."

"Do you think you have made any impression on her?"

"Well she is trying to convert me."

"By Jove, you're in luck! She not only wants you for this world, but for the next."

PERCHANCE.—A would-be literary woman, whose enthusiasm for Lord Byron's poetical works has led her to name her two boys Harold and Manfred, recently bought a little dog to which she gave the name "Perchance."

Replying to a visitor's comment upon the singular name of the animal she said, knowingly:—

"I named him for Byron's dog. Don't you remember the line where the poet says, "Perchance my dog will howl?"

THE OLD DISPUTE SETTLED.—Bridegroom (after the ceremony)—"Maud, you and I are one now. It only remains to be decided which is the one. I tried to win you, didn't I?"

Bride—"Yes, Harold."

"And I won. That seems to settle it."

"Not quite, Harold. You tried to win me. You succeeded. Then you are the winner, are you not?"

"Yes, dear."

"And I'm the won."

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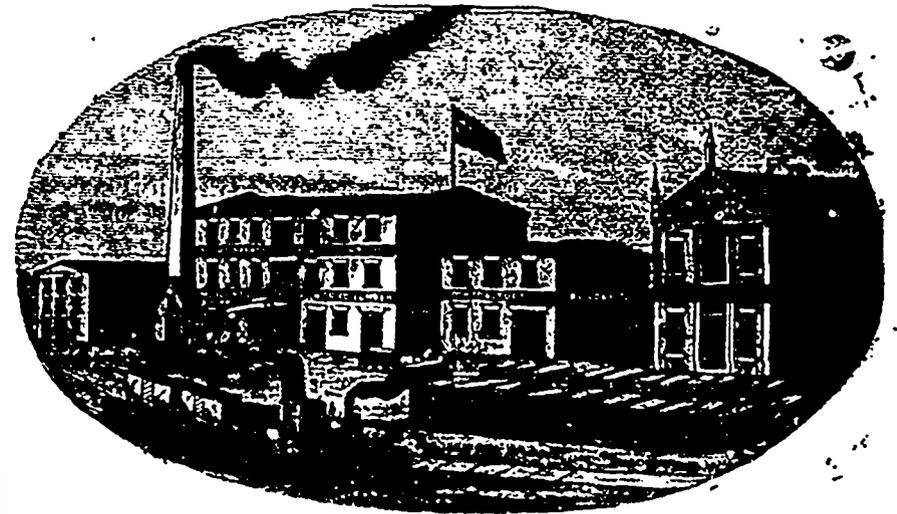
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