

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

THE UNEXPECTED.

She was the reigning belle
Straightway in love I fell;
Potent became the spell—
Too plain for masking.
Then for a time I wooed—
For her sweet favor sued,
Till I'd my courage screwed
Up to the asking.

Out of the glare and heat,
Where to the music's beat
Tripped the untiring feet
Of the gay dancer,
Gently I led my fair
Partner, so debonnaire
Told her the whole, and there
Waited her answer.

Sweet was the flowers' perfume—
Weird the enshadowing gloom;
From the gay lighted room,
Sweet strains came faintly.
urning, she smiled and blushed,
Murmured surprise, and flushed,
Then, in the silence hushed,
Answered me quaintly.

Doubtless you think, she said,
When she had raised her head,
That which all lovers dread
"She'd be my sister?"
That's where you've made a guess
Wrong, as you must confess;
For she said softly: "Yes!"
Yes! and I kissed her!

A woman always seems to wear the largest hat she can find at night; a man wants the largest hat he can get in the morning.

After breaking the wishbone—She—There, it's yours. Now wish; but mind you mustn't tell your wish or it will never come true. He (tenderly)—But may I not tell you? She—Oh, dear, no. He (pathetically)—It never can come true unless I do tell you. She (shyly)—Well, then, in such an exceptional case, perhaps you had better tell me.

DISAPPOINTING.—Mrs. Culture—Well, my dear, did you meet Mr. Groathead, the eminent scientist and philosopher, whose vast stores of knowledge and mental acumen are the wonder of even this mighty age?

Daughter—"Yes, ma."

"Oh, I'm so glad. Sit right down and tell me all he said."

"All he said was, 'It's a very wet day.'"

A POLITE JUDGE.—A learned Irish judge, among other peculiarities, had a habit of begging pardon on every occasion. On his circuit his favorite expression was employed in a singular manner. At the close of the assizes, as he was about to leave the bench, the officer of the court reminded him that there was one of the criminals on whom he had not passed sentence as he had intended. "Dear me!" said his lordship. "I really beg his pardon. Bring him in."

News has reached the City of Mexico of a discovery of great archaeological importance in the State of Chiapas, near the ruins of Palenque, being nothing less than a large city hidden in the depths of the forests. Some buildings are five storeys high and in a good state of preservation. There is a well-paved road several miles in length still perceivable in the midst of a tropical forest. Palenque is said to be a mere village in comparison with this lost city of prehistoric times.

A young lady broke off her engagement with a suitor when a wealthier lover appeared upon the scene. She wrote to her old lover, requesting him to return her photograph. Here was a chance for revenge, which he took by sending her the following note: "I would gladly comply with your request, but if I do it will spoil my oucho deck. I have a collection of photographs which I use for playing cards, and I do not want to break it by giving away the queen of diamonds."

I met Christine Nilsson, now Countess de Miranda, while I was walking the other day in the Boulevards, says a writer in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. Woo is me! How direfully has the once lovely Swede changed for the worse. She has not faded, but she has fattened. Her face is broad, her features heavy and the expansion of her cheeks has diminished the apparent size of her once lustrous blue eyes. Her bright, fair hair alone reminds the spectator of her former charms. The winsome song birds of the last quarter of a century are one by one losing their notes, and their plumage as well.

EARTH'S ACCUMULATIONS.—Accumulations of surface matter are astonishingly rapid. Professor Newton estimates that 400,000,000 meteors fall to the earth annually. These add enormous quantities of matter to the earth, but do not, of course, account for all surface growth and changes. Modern London is built on the site of Roman London, but the ancient city is seventeen feet lower than the modern. The Jerusalem streets that Jesus walked through are twenty feet lower down than the streets of Jerusalem of to-day. One of the most interesting resorts in that city, in the time of Christ, was the pool of Bethesda. Recently, work being done by the Algerian monks has laid bare a large tank cut in the solid rock thirty feet deep.

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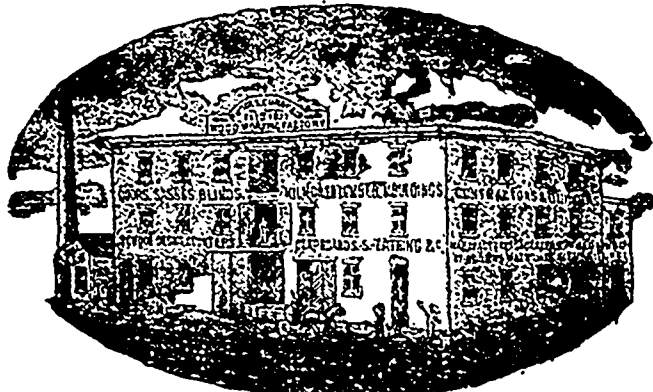
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