

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

WHO CAN TELL?

"I wonder," said sweet Marjory,
To the robin on the wall;
"I wonder why the flowers are short,
And why the trees are tall?
I wonder why the grass is green,
And why the sky is blue?"
I wonder Robin, why I'm I,
Instead of being you?

"I wonder why you birds can fly,
And I can only walk?
I wonder why you can only sing,
While I can sing, and talk?"
Oh, I wonder, I so wonder
Why the river hurries by?
I think you ought to know, Robin;
I would, if I could fly!

"I wonder," said sweet Marjory,
With a puzzled little frown,
"I wonder why the moon won't shine
Until the sun goes down?
I wonder where the stars all go
When they're not in the sky?"
I must believe you know, Robin,
For all you look so shy!

"I wonder why the snow comes?
And why the flowers die?
I wonder where the summer lives
When the wintry winds blow high?
I wonder," said sweet Marjory,
With her plump chin in her hand,
"I wonder, Robin, if we two
Shall ever understand?"

—Anne L. Hutchins, in March St. Nicholas.

Not Encouraging.—Alphonse (rapturously)—"Ah, Gertrude, I see you are alone."—"Well, yes, I was."

A Cork paper in describing an interval of peace in a stormy public meeting, said:

"For some time a great calm reigned."

"Harry," enquired the anxious wife, "what doctor shall I call?"

Send for Dr. Squinino," replied the sick husband, foolishly. "He's courting old Bullion's daughter, and old Bullion is the treasurer of the life insurance company I'm insured in."

WORDS WITHOUT THOUGHT.—The Squire; "Good morning, Miss Violet. Bunt on an errand of mercy?" Miss Violet (the rector's daughter, modestly); "Oh, no! I'm just taking a few little pies of my own make round to the cottagers."—Ariel.

Edwin (tenderly touching her tresses)—Sweet one, let me be like this lovely hair.

Angelina (tremulously)—What—dearest—What would you be?

Edwin (rapturously)—All your own.

Mr. Waffle—"Aw, Miss West, kindly allow me to escort you into the banqueting salon."

Miss West—"Pardon me, Mr. Waffle, but did you expect to walk or ride?"

Mr. Waffle (standing on her dress)—"Why, walk, of course."

Miss West—"Then please get off the train."

BY RETORT.—Mr. Edmund Yates recalls a capital retort by Byron to certain lines of his noble relative, Lord Carlisle, whom Byron detested. The first Napoleon left a snuff box to the first Lady Holland. Lord Carlisle implored her not to take it, in verses beginning:—"Lady, reject the gift, 'tis tinged with gore." Byron capped the lines by writing—

"Lady, accept the gift a homo wore,
In spite of all this elegiac stuff;
Let not four stanzas written by a bore
Prevent your ladyship from taking snuff!"

THE OBSERVATION PARTY.—An "observation party" creates considerable amusement. In a small room at one side of the parlor where the guests are a table is set on which is a tray containing from 25 to 40 or 50 small articles, such as a thimble, a pair of scissors, a bodkin, a penknife, a coffee spoon, a spool of red silk or any articles that the hostess may collect together. One by one the guests are taken in the room to inspect the tray. After all have seen it, the room is shut up and the subject is dropped. For two hours the time is taken up with games or in any way the hostess may fancy. After this each guest is given a paper and pencil and called upon to write from memory a list of the articles on the tray. Comparing notes is not allowed. The various lists are then read with the actual contents of the tray, and a prize is given for the best list and a booby prize for the worst one.

There's a good deal of guarantee business in the store keeping of to-day. It's too excessive. Or too reluctant. Half of the time it means nothing. Words—*and words*.

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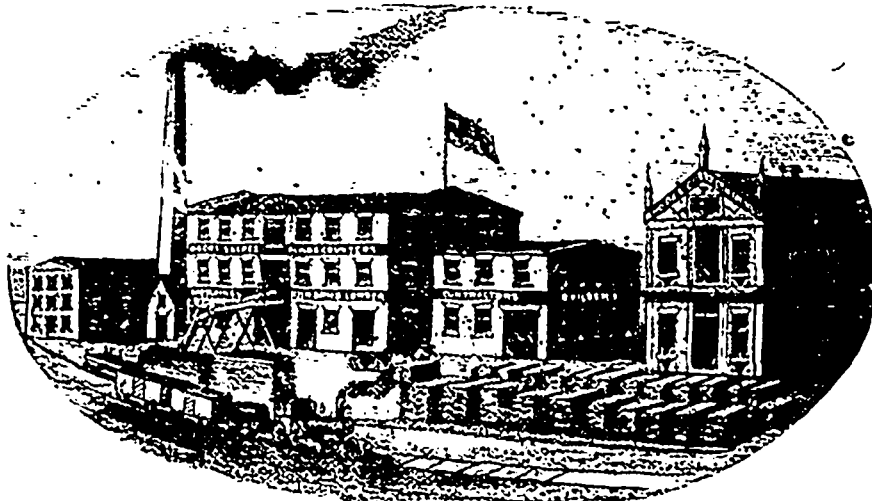
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