

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

A country paper contains the following satisfactory announcement: "A number of deaths are unavoidably postponed."

It is said by an eminent physician that half of the supposed mad dogs have nothing the matter with them but the toothache.

An Irishman, upon seeing a squirrel shot from a tree, said, "Faith and that's a waste of powder; the fall itself would have killed the squirrel."

A man has invented a voting machine. If it will cast votes for less than \$5 apiece we really don't see what use we have for a certain class of our citizens.

Raw onions are now eaten to cure insomnia. Where it fails to cure husband or wife it will at least keep the other awake for company, and that's some consolation.

He—"Wonderful shot that of Henry's. Why, he hit the bull's eye nine times in succession yesterday!" She—"Yes; but think of the sufferings of that poor bull! Men are so cruel!"

When they talked about the nine in Athens it was the nine Muses; to-day, all over this country, the nine refers to baseball, excepting through the Middle and Western States, where it is understood to mean quinine.

First Burglar—Bill, the jig is up. No cracking that bank to-night.
Second Burglar—What's the matter? Detectives onto us?
First Burglar—No; I saw the President and Cashier buyin tickets for Montreal this morning.

UNANIMOUS.—"Bridget, I don't think the flavor of this tea is as fine as the last we had."

Bridget—"Faith, mum, an' me cousins are of the selfsame opinion. They said last evenin' that the army were bastely."—*Epoch*

IT DIDN'T TAKE.—Mrs. Conn Keily—"Has Mithur McFalloy been naturalized yet, Mrs. McFalloy?"

Mrs. McFalloy—"Yis, Moiko was naturalized lasht wako, but, begorra, Mrs. Kelly, it didn't take; he spakes wid as strong an Oirish accent as iver."

HE HAD 'EM BAD.—A Yorkshire clergyman had been taking an eager part in a cricket match on Saturday, and next morning thoughts of the stirring contest would creep in; for, much to the amusement of some hearers, he said, very solemnly, after the first lesson, "Here endeth the first innings."

An art connoisseur, writing of the disintegration of many modern paintings in the new Louvre on account of the poor pigments that were used in painting, predicts that within fifty years half the pictures painted in this century will have completely faded from their canvases. This would be an undoubted blessing if the proper half could be selected for destruction. And how thankful posterity would be if only posterity could know what it is going to escape.

Divers have been at work, recently, in Bedford Basin, sending up cannon balls from the ships burnt previous to the hasty departure of Duke Danville's fleet in 1746. This fleet, on leaving France to re-take Louisburg and capture Annapolis, consisted of 18 ships of the line, 36 frigates, and 20 transports. Off Sable Island they were dispersed. The remainder rendezvoused at Bedford Basin, wherein they were nearly unmanned by scurbutic fever. Eleven hundred died during five weeks' encampment. The remainder were hurried on board, but finding it impossible to work the ships, several were burnt or scuttled. The remains of several of them were visible many years ago. The divers are very reticent as to what else is in sight, further than to say there are at least 20 tons more awaiting removal from the bottom. All kinds of stories are afloat in connection with this, and the ships may yet be located which will be interesting at least.

HOW RAIN IS PRODUCED.—Did it ever occur to the reader that there is just as much water in the air above him on a clear, bright day as on a cloudy or rainy one? Rain does not come from somewhere else, or if it is wafted over you by the wind from somewhere, the water that is over you is simply wafted on to some other place. What is said above explains this. Water is absorbed in the air above us, at a certain temperature, and it becomes insensible. Cool that air by a cooler atmosphere, or by an electrical or chemical influence, and the moment the air becomes cooler it gives up some of the watery particles that were insensible or invisible at the higher temperature. These small particles thus given out unite, and, when enough of them coalesce, obstruct the light and show the clouds. When enough of them unite to be too heavy to float in the air, they begin to descend; pair after pair of them come together until a raindrop is formed. One of the minute raindrops is made up of millions of infinitely small watery particles. Air passing over the cold tops of mountains is cooled down so that it gives up a good deal of the concealed watery vapor, and hence little rain falls in the region along the lee side of such mountains. This is why little rain falls in Colorado and in other places north and south of the State. The prevailing winds blow to the west, and the cool tops of the Rocky Mountains lower their temperature and thus take out the moisture that would otherwise fall in rain.

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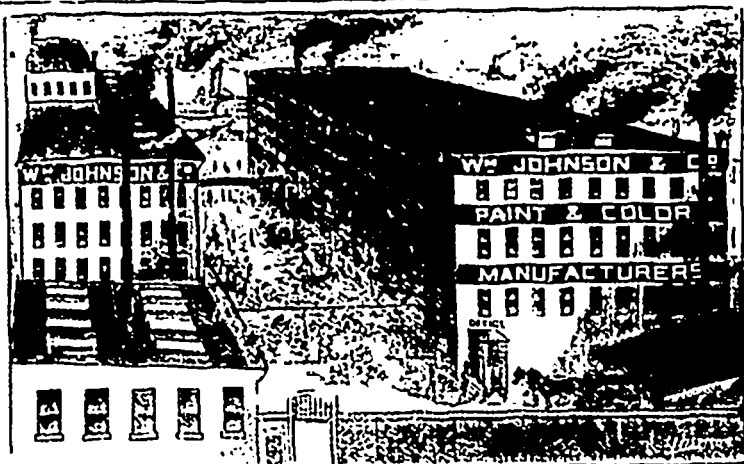
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