

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

"You can't play that on me," said the piano to the amateur, who broke down on a difficult piece of music.

"I hear that old Curmudgeon is sick. Is his illness really serious?"
"To him, possibly; not to the rest of the family."

There is said to be a tree in New Guinea which, when touched, knocks a man down. It must be a species of boxwood.

A Chinaman wants to be a policeman in New Haven. He doesn't care so much about the salary of the position, but there are about fifty small boys he hungers to club to death in a legal way.

Scene—A Highland stream; Sandy fishing in it under a steady down-pour of rain. Enter Donald.

Donald—"What are ye gettin', Sandy, ma mon?"

Sandy—"Weet!"

A Scotch Presbyterian minister, who married a couple of his rustic parishioners, felt exceedingly concerted on his asking the bridegroom if he were willing to take the woman for his wedded wife, by his scratching his head and saying—"Ay, am wullin', but I'd rather hae her sister."

One of our city contemporaries announced the Dominion Day last Friday in these cheerful terms: "To-day is the funeral first. Halifax will observe as usual by strict attention to business." There is sometimes a shocking amount of jollity about funerals, but the 1st July does not seem to be our contemporary's "funeral" anyway.

PADDY'S AIM AT A SPARROW.—An Irishman tried to shoot a sparrow with an old Queen Anne musket. It fired. The bird, with a chirp or two, flew away unconcerned in the foreground, and Pat was swiftly and noiselessly laid on his spine in the background. Picking himself up, and shaking his fist at the bird, he exclaimed, "Faix, you wouldn't a chirped if you'd been at this end of the gun."

Mr. Minks—"Seems to me that now girl is a very good one, isn't she?"
Mrs. Minks—"She is a perfect treasure. I can't imagine how I ever existed before she came, and I'll never let her go, never; but the beauty of it is she is just as well satisfied as I am, and I know she'll never think of leaving." "Don't be too sure about that. She may take a notion to get married some fine day." "No danger; she's been married once."

Scene—Aden, at the mouth of the Red Sea. Detachment newly arrived. Young subaltern, with an umbrella meets Irish corporal, who duly stands at attention and salutes.

Young Sub.—"Well, Corporal Murphy, what do you think of Aden?"

Corporal M.—"Sure, sir, oi think its moighty hot, an' I don't wonder as Adam and Ave was onaisy in it."

With all his sincere religious conviction, Mr. Justice Lush was not austere, still less fanatic. He did not neglect his wine, and he continued almost to the end of his days the old-fashioned habit of finishing his bottle of port after dinner. Perhaps it was a recollection of this indulgence which, in Westminster Hall, on November 2, 1865, suggested a joke on his name and that of a colleague in the Queen's Bench appointed about the same time, Mr. Justice Shea. As the new judges walked up the hall there were loud cheers, and cries of "Lush and Shea." "Lush and Shea," said a bystander; "that is the old toast of 'Wine and woman.'"

The Chicago Times says: "Sarah Bernhardt and her pet tiger cub Minette had a royal time on Thursday afternoon at the hotel, which was not so pleasant for the other parties concerned. Mme. Bernhardt ordered a special dish cooked for the cub. When it was brought in by the waiter the hungry young tiger made a spring and fastened his teeth in the arm of the terrified attendant, which caused him to utter a howl of agony, and hastily deposited his assailant's dinner on the richly carpeted floor. The waiter retired, and soon after found it necessary to call a physician to dress the wound. His injuries are said to be quite serious, and blood poisoning is feared. The cub also attempted to bite the head waiter, but the latter was too alert. Bernhardt was much amused over the little episode, but the bitten waiter proposes to sue for damages."

HOW SHE GOT HER INSPIRATION.—Howard Paul tells this story of Eliza Nicolle, the famous English costumier, who is to London what Worth is to Paris. She received one day *carte blanche* for a costume from a lady of high distinction and immense wealth. It was for a ball dress, and the only conditions imposed were that it should be suggestive of youth and spring. The fair *modiste* racked her brains, but the longed-for inspiration would not come. Time was short, the fair client much too rich to disappoint, and the idea obstinately refused to present itself. All night long Miss Nicolle wrestled with her wits, but they got the better of her, and at last, weary and irritable, she abandoned the struggle for the time, and threw open the window to watch the coming daybreak. She leaned out, moodily watching the ever-changing greys and greens, and rosy flushes in the east, until by-and-by the sun rose in all its splendor, and with it came the vainly sought idea. The soft greys and faint pink flushes, the delicate primrose and sudden burst of rosy red were an inspiration, and when Eliza Nicolle sent home the dress, christened "Dawn in June," it was declared a veritable *chef d'oeuvre*.

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