

## CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

Claribel wrote "Take Back the Heart" to a partner at whist who revoked when diamonds were led.

Among the articles found on the New York elevated railroads the past year were 1,700 umbrellas.

Bank cashiers are generally long lived. One would hardly believe that possible, since they are exposed to drafts the whole time.

It costs a trifle over a million dollars a year to run the Bell Telephone Company, and its earnings are upwards of three millions.

A woman is keeping in a book a list of things she ought to purchase but cannot afford to wear. She calls the book her ought-to-buy ography.

Sullivan, after looking all over the house for a piece of twine to tie a bundle with, sat down in a furious passion and evolved "The Lost Chord."

There are no fewer than fifteen private mad-houses in New York. Violent patients are not received in them. The charge is often as high as \$100 per week, which includes medical attendance, rides in the park, and the like. Victims of melancholia, of the opium habit, or of strong drink are usually the inmates.

"Yes, you may come again next Sunday evening, Horace, dear; but—" and she hesitated. "What is it, darling? Have I given you pain?" he asked, as she still remained silent. "You didn't mean to, I'm sure," she responded; "but next time please don't wear one of those collars with the points turned out-ward; they stick in one's cheek."

The population of some parts of New York city is in the proportion of 200,000 to the square mile; the most densely populated part of London has 170,000. In many cases there are fourteen or fifteen grown persons occupying two rooms, or even one, and many of these rooms are hardly more than closets, and dark ones, too. Few of them measure more than seven feet by nine, and have but one door and one window.

Reporters often pass by the same places, and when any circumstances occurs reg'larly, no matter if it is trivial, it will excite curiosity. On one of my regular beats I have noticed night after night, without particular regard for the hour or the weather, that a certain man stops at a certain house on West Fifth-street. The door immediately opens and a woman throws herself into his arms. He leans against the wide casement, and she snuggles close to him. The other night in passing I seemed to disturb them.

"Don't mind me," I said. "I am used to it."

"We don't," answered the lady, "we are used to it, too."

Mr. Clark on, a north-country gentleman some eighty-five years old, who surveyed the railway between Leeds and Derby under George Stephenson, recently related an incident connected with that period. Mr. Clarkson said he remembered Stephenson calling all the engineers together at the end of their survey at the Tintine Ho'd, Sheffield. At the conclusion of the business Mr. Stephenson mounted the coach in a merry mood for London. "Now," said George, addressing the mail coach driver and guard, "what's to be done with you saucy fellows when these grand railways are completed?" "Well, Mr. Stephenson," said the ready-witted driver, "I don't know; you'll just have to make civil engineers of us."—*Railway News*.

An innkeeper named Jellinek, of Brezina, Bohemia, was in 1881 tried before a jury, and found guilty of having given his wife arsenic with intent to poison. She, however, survived, and the husband was sentenced to penal servitude for life, a sentence subsequently, on technical grounds, commuted to sixteen years of the same punishment. The wife afterwards emigrated to America, and recently she swore an affidavit before the Austrian Consul that it was she herself who, from motives of jealousy, mixed the arsenic in her own food, and then accused her husband of the attempt to poison her. A fresh trial has accordingly just taken place. It lasted four days, and resulted in the acquittal of Jellinek, after having suffered six years' penal servitude for a crime he never committed.

An electrician of New York—at present a visitor in the French Capital—recommends to the attention of sensitive Frenchmen three systems for putting condemned criminals to death, which are, he says, being studied in his own country, and one of which, he believes, will shortly be selected for carrying out the death sentence. The first consists of a copper bandage placed round the criminal's head in such a manner that a magnetic pole presses closely on the nape of the neck. The "patient" stands on a large zinc platform, his hands being tied behind his back. A second pole is attached to this species of platform, and at the right moment the signal is given, the discharge takes place, death being instantaneous. M. Jablochkoff has invented a more "comfortable" plan, his notion being to place the condemned man in an easy chair, with his hands on the arms of the *fauteuil*, and his feet touching the zinc platform. A stop is pressed, the electric current "seizes the man by the two elbows and by his feet," and in half a second all is over. A third system has been devised by another electrician which differs in no material way from the first mentioned, and certain American legislators are, it appears, carefully examining the three with the object of deciding in favour of that which will ensure the quickest and most painless death.—*Electrical Review*

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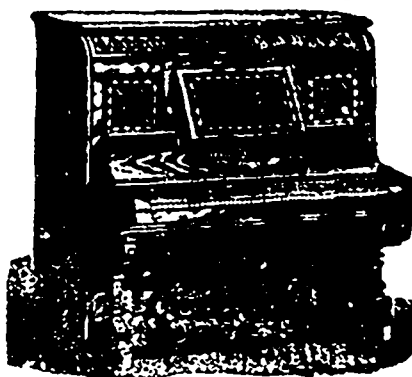
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