

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES

WINGS.

What matters it though life uncertain be  
To all? What though its goal  
Be never reached. What though it fall and flee.  
Have we not each a soul?

A soul that quickly must arise and soar  
To regions far more pure—  
Arise and dwell where pain can be no more,  
And every joy is sure.

Be like the bird that on a bough too frail  
To bear him, gaily swings;  
He carols though the slender branches fall—  
He knows that he has wings.

-Victor Hugo.

Grammar is *not* taught in our public schools. The child who escapes from school with a tolerable knowledge of the English language does so in spite of his training, not because of it, or he owes his good fortune to the fact that his teacher has defied the prevailing system and burned the prescribed text-book.—*Truro Guardian*.

A Novelist at Home.—Miss Braddon, whose novels have made her familiar to every American, is a tall, active minded woman of 52, with gray hair and a ruddy complexion. She is the daughter of a solicitor and has a country house in the heart of the New Forest. She is an expert horse-woman, writes three novels a year and is married to her publisher.

"It's a sayin' that o'Ve heard among the quality that ivery family has a black shape in it"

"Yis; but devil a worrud av it is so—not for people loike us."

"Begorry, how foine 'twould be if that same applied to goats. It's devil a thing o' d eire whether 'twas black or what color, so long as ivery family had wan."

One of our neighbors, a little boy of nine years, had learned a verse at Sunday school. "I have planted, Apollo's water I." The next Sabbath the verse was call'd for. Not one in the class could remember it. Our little friend, however, had a glimmer of light, and holding up his hand, said; "I can't remember exactly what it was, but I know it was something about Apollunaris water!"

She was Severe.—The daughter of a well-known bank President was recently, for reasons satisfactory to him, put on a monthly allowance which was to be deposited by him to her credit in his own bank. The young lady was given a cheque-book of course. The second week of the new arrangement she went to the bank to get some money, and the teller gravely informed her when she presented her cheque that her account was overdrawn. "Overdrawn!" exclaimed the pretty maiden. "Well," with great severity, "will you please tell the President, with my compliments that I hope he will not allow such a thing to occur again." And the clerks had immediate engagements under their desks.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland is expected to kiss every one of the Irish ladies who attend his court. It is dreadful to think of, says a Dublin correspondent, and English girls won't believe me when I tell them about it—but it is an absolute, uncontradictable fact—and few things are more diverting than to watch the presentations on a drawing-room night. Sometimes the kiss is on the fluff of hair which almost every lady wears now on her forehead; sometimes, but very seldom, it is on the cheek, for most cheeks have a pearly appearance which none save a very remorseless Lord-Lieutenant would think of disturbing; and sometimes, but only when the partner of his throne is not looking, there is a sly salutation upon the dewy lips. His Excellency blushes a little after this latter, and twists up his moustaches, preparatory to recommencing operations on the next, while the debutante skips away to her chaperone, and is transported by the especial mark of favor bestowed upon her. This yarn is open to belief by any one having sufficient credulity.

Almost as good as the "anthem," which has not yet done going the rounds.—There are some things in every life which are perplexing and inexplicable. In our tour [around the world] in nearly every church where we worshipped which had a choir of some pretensions, it gave us the piece, "Consider the Lilies," and in song, bold and flighty, told us five or six times that Solomon was not arrayed. For the first two or three times we did not consider the gravity of the matter, but finally became a little restive over Solomon's condition when it was repeated and emphasized in moderate tones, in tenderness and in high-sounding tones, in thrills, in shrieks, that Solomon was not arrayed, and what was more embarrassing, the singers sometimes looked and bowed to us, as if we were to blame for it. When we reached San Francisco we thought, This will end the Solomon business. We supposed that it was a favorite in the East because he had his bringing up there, but, to our amazement, we heard it in three churches in the Occident, as well as Orient, that Solomon was not arrayed. In the East there was appropriateness in it, where nobody is much arrayed. But when we heard again in Saratoga, on different occasions, that Solomon was not arrayed, from four to six times right along, and in a manner that could leave no doubt, and when significant movements of the head were made at us, we felt that it was time that something should be done without fail. Let a collection be taken up for Solomon."

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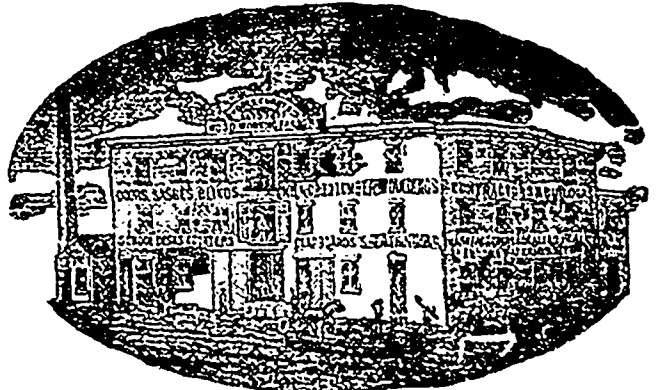
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