

## CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

A great many people hold theories who can't hold their tongues.

A man who pleads drunkenness as an excuse for crime expects to get off on a mental alibi.

An editor recently received a poem entitled "The Oyster Stew," with the request: "Please put it on your inside." He rather regretted that he couldn't.

In ancient times kissing a pretty girl was a cure for headache. It is difficult to improve upon some of those old-time remedies.—*Leicester Examiner*.

Jones (to his friend)—"Yes, old boy, I've determined to economize on car fare, and walk home from the office every day. By the way, let's go in and take something. It's a long walk home."

To how many has it ever occurred that beneath all our efforts and strivings there lurks the impelling force of pain, which, had we and the world in which we live remained as in the days of Adam, energy, zeal and devotion, would have been unknown characteristics of the human race. Hunger and thirst are the great whips of mankind, which impel us to seek for relief, and after these, but in a higher plane, are the whips of love, ambition and fame.

Mr. De Lono (on being introduced)—Miss Coquette and I have not before.

Miss Coquette (coldly)—Yes, I remember now.

"We will let bygones be bygones, for time heals all wounds and no doubt I was a very silly boy at that time."

"Boy?"

"I must have been; it was ten years ago, and your reason for refusing me was that you were old enough to be my mother."—*Omaha World*.

Could a shot from the Zaliniski dynamite gun sink the new ironclad "Trafalgar"? The *Baltimore Herald* and other American papers say yes. Well, perhaps it could if it made a hit. But our contemporaries may as well remember that the Zaliniski gun throw a shell only one mile, and that the "Trafalgar" will be armed with a gun that can throw huge shells five or six miles. Thus the "Trafalgar" while out of range could dismount the Zaliniski, and if the dynamite guns fired from fortresses are to sink great ironclads like the "Trafalgar," they must first be made to shoot further and they may then fare better.—*Sydney Advocate*.

THE COMINO CAT.—Fashion has long been favorable to dogs. Cats are now coming forward. Some charming belles at Luchon thought this season of using the Pyrenean cat—which is a pretty creature, and not so wild as it looks—as a *suivez-moi, jeune femme*. The notion sprang up in this way. A beauty down there was given in one of her excursions a lovely cat. But, as her arms were laden with mountain flowers, how carry it? A peasant suggested cutting a hole at one of the ends of a hand basket for needle work just large enough for the cat's neck to be held in without strangulation when the lid was fastened down. As the basket was padded and lined with satin and bedizened with fringe and ribbons, pussy did not object to being a prisoner therein and to being placed on the lady's bustle as a pack. There was no other means of carrying the feline unless there. So the basket was fitted up with strings to tie on the waist, and so borne into Luchon. The arrangement was daring, original and piquant. It found imitators, and in a few days there were not Pyrenean cats enough for the ladies' bustles. Fashion even dared to invade the sanctuary at Lourdes with a mountain tom or tabby on the dorsal hump.—*Paris Correspondence London Truth*.

A HEATHEN CUSTOM.—The recent decision of a case in Calcutta has directed attention to an extraordinary and, from a Christian and Western point of view, intolerable state of things actually prevailing throughout India. An Indian lady, who had been betrothed in childhood according to usage, declined, when the time came for consummating the absurdly premature contract, to live with the person who had been selected as her husband. The latter appealed to the courts, and the courts, following the letter of the law, decided in his favor. Thus a woman is forced—and legally forced—to spend her life with a man who is objectionable to her, because in her childhood her friends and his deemed it advisable to promise her to him. Unconsciously, all these years, she was the predestined wife of a husband who, when she came of age, had only to claim her as his own, and she had no resource but to go. But that is not the worst of it. In the nature of things it happens that the persons to whom many of these children are thus affianced die before they have attained what in India are considered years of wisely discretion. The consequence is that of some 21,000,000 widows in the Indian Empire, 79,000 are under nine, 207,000 are under fourteen and 382,000 under nineteen years of age. The Hindoos look upon this early widowhood as a punishment for sins committed in a former state of existence, and the result is that the condition of these poor children is most deplorable. They have to undergo penances which are dreadful to contemplate, and are subjected to all sort of reviling and other forms of persecution. A correspondent of the *Times* (whose initials are those of Professor Max Mueller) tries to interest the humane public in the lot of those unfortunates which, he says, is sanctioned by nothing in the Hindoo Scriptures and is mere superposition.—*Montreal Gazette*.

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Post Office Inspector's Office,  
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