

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

Expect nothing from him who promises a great deal.

Some one says the age of a political party may be told by its rings.

There is no use crying over spilled milk. It may be three parts water.

Why is a watch dog bigger by night than by day? Because he is let out at night.

The fellow that gets into a breach-of-promise suit, if not caught at first, is lassoed at last.

Things are sullen and will be as they are, whatever we think them or wish them to be.—*Cudworth.*

Fruitless is sorrow for having done amiss if it issue not in resolution to do so no more.—*Bishop Horne.*

A good word is an easy obligation; but now to speak ill requires only our silence, which costs us nothing.

Our grand business is not to see what lies dimly at a distance, but to do what lies clearly at hand.—*Carlyle.*

The bigot is like the pupil of the eye; the more light you put upon it, the more it will contract.—*O. W. Holmes.*

One of the best rules in conversation is never to say anything which one of the company would rather you had left unsaid.—*Dean Swift.*

In England an ordained clergyman is disqualified from entering Parliament. There is something really beautiful in the care the English people take of their ministers.

AT HOME.—Attendant (to Mr. John L. Sullivan at his hotel)—Her majesty, the queen, sir, has expressed a desire to see you.

Mr. John L. Sullivan—Well, show de old lady up at once.

Mrs. Brown—"You told me that if I left my table-cloth out all night the fruit stains would disappear. Well, I put it out last night." Mrs. Jones—"Of course the stains were gone in the morning!" Mrs. Brown—"Yes, so was the table-cloth."

The guide leads a couple to the brink of a frightful precipice, and then says in a mournful tone: I brought a gentleman and his wife here last year. The lady leaned over too far and disappeared. The gentleman said it was one of the finest views he had ever seen.

"And why are you so surprised, Mr. Sampson," she said, drawing herself up with hauteur, "that I play the piano so well?"

"Because your hands are so small, Miss Smith, that you must find it difficult to strike an octave."

Then she played some more for him.

An Englishman was once grumbling against the land o'cakes. Said he: "No man of taste would ever think of remaining any length of time in such a country as Scotland." "Tastes differ," replied the Scotchman. "I'll tak ye to a place ca'd Bannockburn, no far frae Stirling, where throtty thousand o' yer countrymen ha' been for 500 years, an' they 've nae thoct o'leavin' yet."

A jibbing or balky horse stopped short in front of our window, the other day, and a crowd of interested spectators gathered round. The old horse showed a lively interest in the numerous suggestions made to produce locomotion again. These are some of the chunks of wisdom left lying round loose:—"Turn him about;" "Put pepper in his mouth;" "Twist his ears;" "Twist his tail;" "Back the trap on to him;" "Push him along;" "Back him;" "Pull his tongue;" "Light a fire under him;" "Kick his knees;" "Hold up one foot till he gets tired;" "Throw him down;" "Let him stand;" "Jerk the reins;" "Keep the reins still;" "Lick him;" "Lick him some more;" "Tie a rope around his tail;" "Shut off his wind;" "Pinch his nose;" "Give him some oats." "Coax him;" "Hitch another horse in front of him." The horse's brain got confused, so he walked slowly on that he might get to his stable and think.—*Farming World.*

There is one lesson to be got from a visit of an hour or two to the British Museum, namely, the fathomless abyss of our own ignorance. One is almost ashamed of his little, paltry heartbeats in the presence of the rushing and roaring torrent of Niagara. So if he had published a little book or two, collected a few fossils, or coins, or vases, he is crushed by the vastness of the treasures in the library, and the collections of this universe of knowledge.

I have shown how not to see the British Museum: I will tell you how to see it:

Take lodgings next door to it in a garret if you cannot afford anything better—and pass all your days at the Museum during the whole period of your natural life. At three-score and ten you will have some faint conception of the contents, significance and value of this great British institution, which is, as nearly as any one spot, most vital of human civilization, a stab at which by the dagger of anarchy would fitly begin the reign of chaos.—*Dr. Holmes in the Atlantic.*

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