

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

OUR COUNTRY.

Ah, feet that tread the rounds of life,
 Ah, thoughts that wander far and wide,
 Ah, hearts wherein are ere at strife
 A hundred passions,—turn aside
 From vain pursuits, from phantom dreams,
 The prize ye seek is near at hand;
 Though beautiful the distance seems,
 The present is supremely grand.
 Oh, land we proudly call our own,
 How fondly cling our hearts to thee,—
 Though better we have never known,
 A better thou in time shalt be.
 A child, we boast thy native worth;
 A youth, we see thee strong and good;
 A man, a monarch of the earth,
 Chief of a noble brotherhood.

H. L. SPENCER.

Experimental Philosophy—asking a man to lend you money. Moral Philosophy—refusing to do it.

ADDING INSULT TO INJURY.—First shopping fiend—Madam, that's my muff. Second shopping fiend—Why, how inexcusably stupid of me to pick up an imitation monkey-skin.

"I know we are poor, dear papa," said Evelyn, nestling her head against his shoulder, "but Athelstane is brave and hopeful, and he says that love will make a way." "I know it will," said old Hlyson, grimly; "it's made away with six tons of parlor coal and \$25 worth of gas since Christmas, and it's next winter that's worrying me."

A fatal defect—Civilian—What do you think of the new dynamite cruiser, the Vesuvius? Naval officer (dubiously)—Well, she's a pratty fair sort of a vessel. Civilian (testily)—Why, what's the matter with her? Naval officer—The cruiser is swift enough and all that sort of thing, but I give you my word as a gentleman that her dancing accommodations are simply wretched, shamefully inadequate.

The ready wit of Sheridan is recalled by that of another prominent politician on the occasion, some years ago, of the Derby being won by a French horse. The Frenchmen present, as was natural, cheered voriferously, &c., one of them shouted—"Waterloo avenged!" "Yes," said the statesman, who was present, "You ran well on both occasions."

A geyser that throws hot mud has begun operations in Dakota. It is suggested that newspapers politically antagonistic might perhaps secure the services of the geyser for a reasonable consideration. The hint is, however, superfluous, for if the mud they are in the habit of throwing at each other is not reeking hot, it makes up for it with a reek that would do credit to the most vigorous of the two and seventy, "each well defined and separate stinks," ascribed by Southey to the memorable city of Cologne.

DOWN-TRODDEN LABOR.—Patrick—"O!ve been readin' the L'bor Organ, to-day, Biddy. 'Tis starvin' we are."

Biddy—"Be away wid yer nonsense. Shure, haven't we money in our pockets, an' money in bank?"

Patrick—"Thru, Biddy; but it's gloomy Oi feel when Oi see what the Labor Organ says of our troubles. C: it we economize, Biddy?"

Biddy—"Wull, yez moight save foive dollars a year by shoppin' the Labor Organ."

Patrick—"Be jabbers, Oi wull."

"Ah, me," said Mrs. Slick, as the family doctor drove away from the door of her residence on South Park Street, "he says I've got the roomatis and am out of killer general-like, and that I must take a course of massag', whatever that means. Mrs. Jones has been throu' the mill, and she says they just scrub you, and pinch, and scrape, and pull, and rub, and mawl, and stroke, and scrunch you, until you feel as tho' they'd skin you like an eel. Well, these modern innervations may be fash'nable, but, for my part, I think sich treatment is only fit for cattle that has thick hides, and has run to fat, but for an old body like me it's downright barrabrick, and I might as well suffer from a respectable complaint as to be defatted and deroomatised by a human scruncher as has no feelin's."

WHY DOES THE SHELL OF THE LOBSTER TURN RED ON BEING BOILED?—The answer to this question in general terms is that the salts which go to make the color in the shell undergo a chemical change by being subjected to the action of hot water. This answer is hardly a satisfactory one. The matter is one which has excited more popular than scientific curiosity. It is a question for the chemist rather than for the naturalist, and that, probably, is the reason why it has not received more attention. All crustaceans undergo this change of color on being boiled. Salt water crustaceans become redder in the process than fresh water crustaceans. The addition of common table salt to the water in which the creature is boiled will conduce to greater redness. Whether it is the sodium or the chlorine in the salt that helps to this result I do not know. The creature itself has nothing to do with the change in its shell, for if the shell be taken from the living crustacean and then boiled, the result will be exactly the same. It has been suggested that red may be the basic color of the shell, and that the chemical change which takes place is merely the elimination of the other colors. The objection is that there is no evidence of removal of color shown in the water. The objection is not vital however.—*Scientific American.*

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 Bewailing his sores, rags and dirt;
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 And we live in more genial times,
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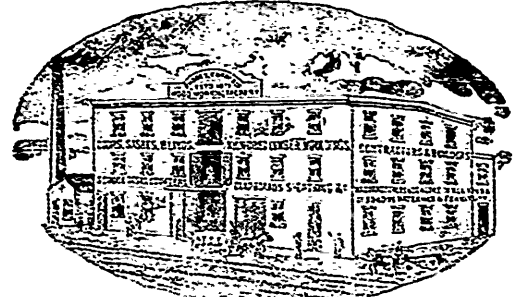
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