

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

The following is a sparkling translation of Horace, Ode II, Book I:—

AD LEUCONOEN.

Seek not to know what tale of years
To you and me on earth is givon, love,
'Twere better far to weep the tears
And smile the smiles sent us by heaven, love!

Whether the years be one or more
Of which we two shall be partakers, love,
Still will the wild wave lash the shore,
The rocks will still defy the breakers, love!

Be wise, decant your wine with care,
The bright is joy! the dregs are sorrow, love,
Shako not the flask, the liquor's rare,
Use well the day, nor trust the morrow, love!

A St. Louis grain speculator failed for half a million. What worried him most was that nearly \$50 of it was cash.

"Come, Doctor," said a gentleman to his minister, "I can give you a treat, a bottle of claret forty years old." The doctor was delighted, but when it appeared, the expected quart proved to be only a pint bottle. "Was's mo," said he, taking it up and inspecting it ruefully, "but it's unco wee o' its age!"

A minister, who owed his situation to his patron rather than to his abilities, in visiting and catechising his flock, asked one of them: "Who made Paul a preacher?"

"It was na the Duke of Queensbury," remarked a stern old Presbyterian, with a grim smile.

Evolution, as a theory, is infinitely more christian than the theory of "special creation," for it implies the immanence of God in nature, and the omnipresence of his creative power. Those who opposed the doctrine of evolution, in defence of "a continued intervention" of God, seem to have failed to notice that a theory of occasional intervention implies as its correlative a theory of ordinary absence.

SOCIALIST.—"Among other things, I am opposed to the Chinese."

ANTI-SOCIALIST.—"As you admit you won't work, in what manner do they conflict with you?"

"Why, they rob me of a living."

"How?"

"By doing the washing my wife used to got."

An imperturbable German trombonist, who followed the score with a stolidity indicating interest but no enthusiasm, suddenly shot out a blast that caused the leader to lift his hands in horror, and glance about to see what had happened. The players all stopped, and the offender, glaring at the score before him, exclaimed, "Dot vos ein mashed fly, bot I blav'd him," and he held the sheet up, revealing a note that proved to be the crushed remains of the insect in question.

Hand-books of etiquette are usually more comical than reliable, but a rather sensible one, called "Don't," has been published by Appleton & Co., (1 Bond St., N.Y.) Here is a sensible item:—

"Don't remove your glove when you shake hands, nor apologize for not doing so. It is proper to offer the hand gloved."

Proper or not, there is no more absurd ceremony than taking off the glove. In fact, a great deal of the hand-shaking itself is a nuisance and a bore.

In reference to a cartoon in *Punch*, representing the Church of England as a tree, and Mr. Gladstone, with an axe on his shoulder, just about to commence work, and underneath the words of the old song, "Woodman, Spare That Tree," a correspondent of an English exchange sends to it the following:—

Gladstone, soliloquising—

"Of all the trees, the fairest in the garden,
He bids me spare—its natural protector—
Whose son has got the Rectory of Hawarden;
Whose daughter is the helpmeet of a Rector—
(O axe! we've other blocks to chip—by Hector.)"

A good story comes to us about an ardent admirer of THE CRITIC, who always called it THE CRICKET. Some practical jokers, who had been amused at the old gentleman always quoting THE CRICKET as his authority on disputed subjects, cut from an illustrated paper a finely engraved Cricket, and, managing in some way to gain possession of the paper before it was delivered, neatly pasted the cut over the heading.

On receiving the paper the old gentleman was delighted, and dilated on the superior enterprise of his favorite journal, which had added pictorial cuts to its many other attractions. For some three or four weeks the jokers managed to doctor up the paper, but, tiring of the sport, they at last allowed THE CRITIC to be delivered without the cut. It was fun to them, but death to us, as the old gentleman became thoroughly disgusted at our want of pluck, and swears by THE CRITIC or CRICKET no more.

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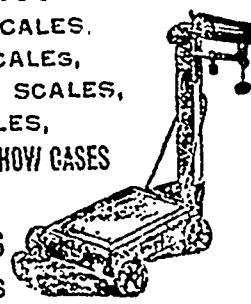
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