

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

WHICH IS THE BEST?

Which is the best?
To welcome each pleasure, so radiant with laughter,
When flowers close not and the heart knows not
Of a sad refrain, nor wound, nor pain,
Or to pass it denying though tears come thereafter

Which is the best?
To take of our measure of promise and peril
The tuneful chime of a lover's rhyme,
With the jingling song of a sycophant,
Or to moan some sad sorrow hopelessly sterile?

Which is the best?
To search for each singing by glow and the gleaming
Of peaceful skies ere the swift light flies
Afar from the noon, that passeth so soon,
Or to grope in the nightfall restless, undreaming?

Which is the best?
To rest in the sideways, where no one will name us,
As soft winds blow, silent and slow,
And the swift streams fill to the song bird's till,
Or to toil in the sunways, glorified, famous

• This is the best:
Receive with the laughter the tears that come after;
From pleasure or peril take promise though sterile;
Wakeful or dreaming, search for each gleaming,
Hopeful believing, trustful receiving,
Falling or famous, all fate may name us,
Choosing, refusing no pain nor rest,
Aye, this is the best!

"Way off"—the weather prognostications.

Now wheat won't hurt a man as much as old rye.

The night rolls on till stopped by the break of day.

Rejoice, O young man, in the days of thy youth, but remember that, big as he is, the whale does not blow much till he reaches the top.

Miss Gotham—"I adore travelling. Were you ever in Greece, Miss Loin?" Miss Loin, of Cincinnati—"No, I never was; but papa was in that lard trust, y u know."

Johnny Dumpsoy (with inflated paper bag)—S'h-h! See me bust this bag by my grandma's ear. Grandma (after the explosion, placidly laying her knitting in her lap and looking toward the door)—Come in.

Says the Ottawa Evening Journal:—"Japan has chosen the First of July as the National election and holiday. This is very appropriate. The feelings of the Japanese will not be jarred by their having to change their national holiday when we annex them."

If a fool knows a secret he tells it because he is a fool; if a knave knows one he tells it whenever it is his interest to tell it. But women and young men are very apt to tell what secrets they know from the vanity of having been trusted. Trust none of these whenever you can help it.

Caterer's Foreman. Mr. Ruche, I don't know what we are going to do with that Roman punch. Dubbs has put so much new rum in it that there is no sale for it. Caterer: Send it to that temperance society's dinner to-night, and have it marked "sherbet" on the menu. It will be a great card for us. We'll get all their trade in the future.

The original plates from which Audubon's book on the birds of America were printed were engraved on copper, and, since the high price of copper has made old copper of value to brass manufacturers, the plates have been sold and all but two of them melted down. By the merest accident the identity of the plates was discovered in time to save them from the melting pot, and they were taken possession of by the proprietor of the works, who was building a house at the time, and who had the plates polished and inserted as panels in a special mantelpiece which he had built in the library.

The Home Journal says: "Admiral Porter lately held a state dinner in Washington, and Ah Sin, a Chinese servant, was assigned to duty in attendance at the door. In his country a visitor of rank is indicated by the size of the card, and a huge yellow one means the presence of a prince. The small bits of pasteboard received but scant courtesy from Ah Sin, but when the gas collector presented his bill the celestial's demeanor underwent a change. The long yellow slip captured Ah Sin, and with profound salaams he bowed the astonished gasman into the presence of the amazed family and irate head of the Navy."

William Morris, who adds to his gifts of poetry that of taste in house furniture, says: "Blue and white plates and dishes are very beautiful in their proper places—on the table—but when suspended from the wall make the room look like a bric-a-brac shop. A vase or a jar or two give it is true, lightness and prettiness to an interior, but regiments of blue and white plates stuck up against the wall only prove poverty of invention and the absence of anything like real taste. To make art enter into the life of a people we must make beautiful the things they use, not merely those they gaze at as curiosities. Beautiful china and glass appear to the best advantage when in actual use, and not when stuck about all over a room."

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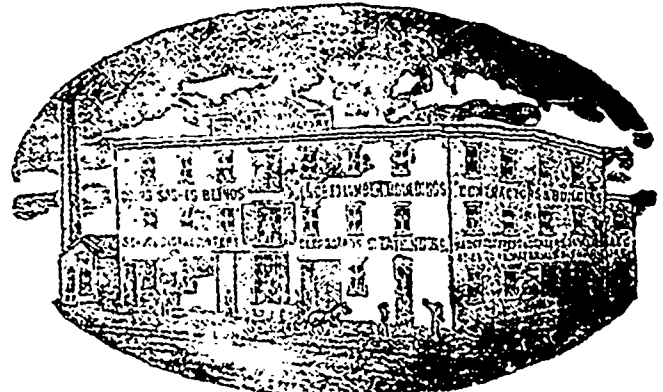
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