

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

When is butter like Irish children? When it is made into little pats.

Little Lillie: "Don't you think, doctor, that I look just like my mamma?" Mother: "Hush, child, don't be vain."

The English like French maids, and the French like English maids. That's the way a balance is made between the two countries.

The shade trees in New York parks have a hard fight for life. An official commission has just gone over them and reports that they are preyed upon by 1,028 different species of insects.

He: "I'm awfully glad to be able to offer you an umbrella, Mrs. Hauterivo." She: "You're very kind, Mr. Seizer; I shall take great pleasure in returning it to my husband. He left it at the club last night, you know."

A cow-boy married an actress belonging to a strolling theatrical company. In a short time a commercial traveller ran away with her. When the deserted husband heard of it, his brow grew dark, and convulsively clutching his revolver, he hissed, "I'll kill that scoundrel on sight if—ho ever brings her back!"

"See here, Talbot, you told me that Miss Courtney owned this country seat!" "No, I didn't, Joe. I said she owns a country seat." "Well, where is the one she owns?" "I don't know; I saw her carry it with her when she went to milk this morning." "Good gracious, Talbot, what are you talking about?" "A milking-stool!"

A henpecked gentleman determined to sup with a party of friends against the will of his wife. He was resolved that he would, and she that he should not go. He did not go. His friends missed him, and, just for a lark, invaded his residence, where they found him and his wife sitting in their chairs fast asleep. He had given her an opiate that he might slip away, and she had given him one that he might not.

A TERRIBLE INFLICTION.—At a family party a young prodigy was executing on the piano a symphony, more military than pastoral. Parents and friends were in ecstasies. "Isn't it beautiful!" exclaimed an old aunt, speaking to the neighbor from the next door, who had joined the party. "What splendid execution! You seem to hear the sound of the soldiers' footsteps dying away in the distance." "Ah," said the neighbor, "if they would only take the piano with them!"

A few days ago a well-known society young man shocked one of his lady friends by his ignorance of history. It was after a dinner party at his house, and she was telling him what she had learned in her private history class. One thing led to another, and all the time he was getting into deeper water. At last she surprised him by inquiring, "Now, tell me, Mr —, what are the Knights of Bath?" He stammered for a while, and finally blurted out, "Why, Saturday nights, I suppose."

A London correspondent says that the people of the English metropolis in a year's time eat 500,000 oxen, 2,000,000 sheep, 200,000 calves, 300,000 swine, 3,000,000 head of fowls, 500,000,000 pounds of fish, 500,000,000 pounds of oysters, 200,000 lobsters, some million tons of canned goods, no end of fruit and other stuff, and 50,000,000 bushels of wheat. It takes 200,000,000 quarts of beer to quench the common thirst. But more than this, they drink 10,000,000 quarts of rum and 50,000,000 quarts of wine. Taking out the water used for sprinkling, cooking, and fountains, and the actual drinking supply is desparately small.

A package has been received at the dead letter office which was mailed in Boston and addressed to the Prince of Wales, London, England. It was held for postage. When opened it was found to contain a brass figure of Christ, evidently detached from a small crucifix, and a small glass tube containing white liquid and having two wires running through the tube and projecting from both ends. A paper enclosed contained an incoherent sentence. The dead letter officials were apprehensive that the glass tube might be an infernal machine, as it was carefully packed in cotton, and they are trying to find some one who will test the explosive qualities of the liquid, if it has any.

The "Palace of Waters," not more than sixty years ago, was discovered, by the falling in of some of its arches, to exist beneath Constantinople. The roof of this enormous cistern, which is formed of massive arches, is supported by magnificent marble columns about 10 feet apart. Two Englishmen have attempted to explore this mysterious lake. The first of these attempts was made about 1830 by a traveller, who induced a boatman to accompany him. They never returned, and, it is presumed, either perished in a current of foul air, or bewildered among the columns, died miserably of hunger. The second explorer tied one end of a quantity of twine to one of the pillars near the entrance, and rowed in a straight line for two hours; he saw, however, nothing but avenues of columns stretching round him in all directions, and lost himself in the darkness. After this attempt the boat was removed, and no one is now allowed on the water. By the ground giving way in different parts of Constantinople, it has been found that this marvellous lake stretches many square miles beneath the city, but nothing definite is known of its extent or history.

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