

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

It is now considered unlucky to name vessels after women.

So far as we know, Jonah was made the First Secretary of the Interior.

Though gas lights were first used in 1792 they were not utilized for street lighting until 1825.

The orange tree is not ephemeral. At Versailles is one four hundred years old, planted by Eleanor of Castile, Queen of Charles III.

A man at Carlisle, Pa., wrote a love letter to a married woman 27 years ago, and her husband has black mailed him out of \$300 a year ever since.

VATERLOO! - Frenchman:—"Ah! mon ami, I am naturalized." Englishman:—"Well, but what do you gain by that?" Frenchman:—"Vaterloo."—Moonshine.

Marketman:—"Why did you return that pair of fowls yesterday?" Customer:—"Because I thought you had better send them to a home for aged couples!"

It has been discovered in France that the fatty matter of wool may be transformed into a substance which has been named "ceroïd," having the consistency and several properties of wax.

"I don't like these shoes," said a lady customer, "because the shoes are thick." "Is that the only objection?" blandly asked the bootmaker. "Yes," was the reply. "Then, madam, if you take the shoes, I can assure you the objection will gradually wear away."

Trials have been made on the Spree at Berlin with the *Electra*, belonging to Messrs. Siemens & Halske, in presence of a number of prominent engineers. The boat is propelled in the usual way by a storage battery and electric motor working a screw of peculiar construction, and, as far as can be judged from the short trial just made, has proved a success.

"Richard," said Madame, "I saw a beautiful costume at Bizarro's to day, and I should like it ever and ever so much." "And I should like to have you have it," replied Richard, "but really, Clara, I haven't the money to spare." "O, you great tonto! I know better than that. I saw a brand new check book in your desk only yesterday, and not one of the checks had been used."—*Boston Transcript*.

Rev W. C. Winslow, of the Egypt exploration fund, writes that "the gold handle of Pharaoh's tray," just received at the Boston museum of fine arts, is "simply the rarest of the rare;" that "no piece of gold plate connected with table or temple feasts of old Egypt has ever before been therein found, and that, consequently, neither Bunk nor the British museum has the like." There have also arrived at the museum six cases of ceramics and other relics, from Naukratis, Dossennah, and elsewhere. And the colossus of Rameses II is being pulled to Port Said, thence to be shipped to Boston; its archaeological value, when it reaches the museum, will be \$10,000.

Against the practice of giving tea and coffee to children we cannot speak too strongly. Childhood is the period when the nervous activity is at its greatest. The brain is ever busy in receiving new impressions. Reflex action, co-ordination of muscles, and the special senses are all under a special course of training. The nervous system is pushed to its utmost capacity, and long is the list of victims that follows its over-stimulation. In these little people nothing but harm can come from the use of such cerebral stimulants as tea or coffee. Bid, then, as this practice is, let us as physicians be aggressive in its prohibition. Do not be satisfied by answering no, when asked as to its use, but let us educate the families with whom we come in contact that such practice is evil. I speak emphatically, because not only among the poor and uneducated, but among the rich who should know better, this practice is marvelously prevalent.

ALL ABOUT A RAT.—A rather curious case will shortly be heard before the tribunal of a German town, the original cause of which is a rat. It seems that some time ago the house of an inhabitant of the town was invaded by a number of rats, and to get rid of them, the following stratagem was resorted to:—The inmate of the house caught one of the intruders, tied a string of little bells round its neck, and let it go. The rat, on regaining its liberty, went to rejoin its fellows, but the latter, scared by the jingling of the bells, fled from the house, and sought domicile elsewhere. As for the one with the bells attached, it chose a neighboring house for its abode, and it was this that led to the present lawsuit. The inmate of the house was awakened one night by the mysterious jingling of a bell, and unable to account for the sound, he spoke about the matter to his family and household. The worthy people were extremely superstitious, and when on several succeeding nights the tinkling of bells was distinctly heard by everyone, the only conclusion that could be reached was that the house was haunted. Under this impression the servants quitted their places, their mistress fell ill; in fact, to the peace and tranquility that had formerly reigned succeeded terror and alarm. Ultimately, it chanced that the "ghost"—that is to say, the rat—was caught, and upon the much-tormented family learning who had belied the creature, it was decided to bring an action against him to obtain compensation for all the worry his stratagem had occasioned his neighbors.

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