CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

What is meant by an inch of rainfall is that 14,500,000 gallons of water have fallen on a square mile of ground.

The following inscription was painted on a board at a ford—"Take notice! When this board is under water, the river is impassable."

The young man who would waste time in kissing a pretty girl's hand would eat the brown paper bag and leave the hot house grapes for some one else.

"Why do you drink that vile stuff?" said a temperance man to a toper. "Because, my dear sir," was the crushing reply, "it isn't thick enough to eat."

"Arrah, thin, Mrs. Divins, will yez go to the circus wid a select party this day?" "Faith, thin, Mrs. Moriarty, minny thanks, but I ixpict a little circus of me own. This is the ould man's day for gettin' dhrunk."

An Irish priest, a moderate drinker, was asked to address a meeting in favor of total abstinence. He met the difficulty thus:—"Bhoys," said he, "I would recommend to ye moderation in all things. Moisten yer clay a little by all means, but don't make a bog of it If I hadn't meself moistened me own clay sometimes, I'd 'a' been dust before now."

Truth recently offered a prize for the best anagram on the words "The Federation of the British Empire," to be open to colonial and foreign competitors only. Anagrams have been sent from almost all the colonies, and specimens have been published in two numbers of *Truth*. About the best of those appearing in the second set are these: "Oh! if the times be ripe for it, then dare!" and "Ah, men! there is hope for it if it be tried."

Lord Erskine, when Chief Justice of England, presided once at the Chelmsford Assizes, when a case of breach of promise of marriage was tried before him in which Miss Tickell was plaintiff The counsel was a pompous young man named Stanton, who opened the case with solemn emphasis, thus: "Tickell, the plantiff, my lord—" when Erskine dryly interrupted him with "Oh, tickle her yourself, Mr. Stanton; it would be unbecoming in my position."

A Pointed Hint.—Clergymen should be brief and to the point. A Boston clergyman once had a broad hint to that effect:—

"We would have you short when you marry us, said a prospective bridegroom, because we are going west."

"How long after the ceremony will you start?" asked the clergyman.

"In about a week" was the reply.

Then the minister realized he had a reputation as one possessing the gift of continuance.

Miss Southend—George, you have asked of me the dearest treasure a woman has—her heart.

George—(heir of an Upper Water St. West India merchant—impatiently) Yes, Irene, relieve me of my suspence.

Miss Southend—You must give me time.

George—Time? How long, dearest? A day, a week, a month, a——

Miss Southend—(sweetly) No, George, only time enough to look you up in *Bradstreet's*. Pa says it is very conservative, and seldom errs.

There is a rumor to the effect that some of the more exclusive people of Washington society propose to "drop" Mrs. Cleveland on account of her strong attachment for an old school friend, who has the independence not to be above earning her own living. If there are any people who have formed such an idea as this they could not confer a greater honor upon the president's wife then by carrying it out. The advantage of not knowing such people would be worth something. The possibility of such a rumor obtaining currency is one more proof of the immeasurable distance to which the people of the United States have got away from the old idea of republican simplicity.

Lady and Woman.—Shortly after the war closed the negroes began to call each other "lady" and "gentleman," but in speaking of the whites they generally call them that "man" and that "woman." An instance occurred a few years ago in which Gen. W. Sherman played a part. The General was sitting in front of his house one pleasant evening with some friends, smoking and talking, when a fellow as black as the ace of spades sidled up, and addressing the General said: "Is de a lady here named Johnson?" "No," said the General. "Well," said the darky, "I think there must be a lady of that name living here, because she is my wife, and she is working for a woman named Sherman."

A Fatal Request.—"And what shall I give you for your birthday present, my Juliet?" twining his arms about her lithe figure, and starting in amazement to note, by the acute sense of feeling, that all her ribs were made in one piece, like a plaster cast. Juliet looked up into her lover's face timidly and dropped her eyes. They had been engaged only two days, and she was ever a little shy with strangers. "A letter press and a copying book, please, my ownest own." And Romeo stared at her a second, and then he thought a minute, and then he let go all holts and broke hatless and overcoatless for the door, and run, and run, and ran, and run, and ran, and run, and run, and ran, and run, and run.

P.S.—At latest advices he had got his second wind, and was still going.

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