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The Old Time Charivari.

THE charivari appears to be going out of fashion, and it is well that it is. It will soon be relegated to the past altogether and everywhere. Like many another once popular institution, it must yield its place to a newer civilization. But it is well that the present generation should know what it was like. Conducted as it was when I was a boy, it was rather a dangerous innovation. There were several bad features about it, aside from the noise and annoyance which it created. One was the practice of surrounding the house where the wedding took place and, while the festivities were on, demanding a sight of the "fair" bride, even if she were homely enough to frighten a freight train, and then a drink. When these demands were complied with the crowd quietly dispersed to discuss the merits or demerits, as the case might be, of the newly-wedded couple. To say that there was no wit in the remarks that followed would be doing the "braves" an injustice. That was just the place to hear it in its native and unadorned purity. When the demand was not complied with, there was sure to be a row, accompanied by another outburst of all the horrid instruments of torture, until the married couple succumbed, or the "braves" were driven off by shot-guns or a shower of stones. Cases were common where these unwelcome serenades were kept up night after night or until some one was carried from the field of battle with his head