

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

"I go through my work," as the needle said to the idle boy. "But not till you're pushed hard," as the idle boy said to the needle.

The Arab who invented alcohol died 900 years ago, and a Kansas prohibitionist claims that he would be alive yet had he never tasted it.

A great memory is oftentimes a great nuisance. A person with a gift of language and a photographic recollection of details must have rare judgment and taste not to be a bore in social intercourse.

THE OFF'UN—Driver (to quiet stranger on suburban road)—"Hi mister, jest hold that there horse's head for a minute while I get down, will yer?" Stranger (nervously)—"Wh-wh-which one?" Driver—"Why, the off'un, to be sure." Stranger—"My good man, I am totally unacquainted with horses, and it is quite impossible for me to tell which of your animals is an orphan."

The London press has recently been discussing the question as to whether marriage is or is not a failure. The question to our mind can only be settled by personal experience, and hence we advise our younger readers to marry and thus give the question a practical test. For our own part we think that the failure of bachelors and middle aged spinsters to have entered the state of conjugal bliss is as well worthy of public consideration.

A stout, elderly lady was hanging by a strap and casting black looks at an inoffensive but ungallant dude who sat sucking the end of his cane; a sudden lurch of the car flung the lady upon him with great force. "Say, dash it, don't you know," exclaimed the youth, "you've crushed my foot to jelly?" "It's not the first time I've made calf's foot jelly!" retorted the woman severely, as he vanished and she prepared to sit down.

NOT IN SOCIETY—A witty judge in Dublin, who had known Mr. Morley pretty well when he was Chief Secretary in Ireland, met him somewhere, it is said, on the occasion of the Ripon-Morley demonstration, and was accosted by the philosopher thus: "We don't meet so often now, judge; and, indeed, I fear you don't often come across men of my views and ideas." "Troth and I do, Mr. Morley, very often indeed," was the immediate reply; "not in society, though, but in the dock."

It has been a great mystery to many young persons why the dark, rich colored wood so much used for furniture should be called "rosewood." Its deep tinted, ruddy-streaked surface certainly does not resemble the rose, so we must seek some other reason for the name. Here it is: when the tree is first cut, the fresh wood exhales a very strong, rose like fragrance, which soon passes away, leaving no trace of the peculiar odour. There are several varieties of rose-wood trees; the best, however, are those found in South America, the East Indies, and neighbouring islands.

A man dressed in Tyrolese costume entered the shop of the principal barber in Innsbruck, sat down in a chair and made a sign that he desired to be shaved. The proprietor of the establishment, seeing a rough looking fellow clad in the national *Joppe* reclining on the velvet plush, requested him to "get." "We don't serve peasants here; this is a saloon for gentlemen." The stranger rose with a smile. "Very well," he said, "but oblige me, in case my adjutant comes in, by telling him that I have gone to be shaved by your rival across the street. I am the Archduke Joseph."

The regret which imbues the "Idvls" is not only that of the nonfulfilment of personal aspirations; its mainspring lies deep in the heart of the times, and embodies the sincere emotion of one-half of thinking Europe, who, standing on debatable ground amid the wrecks of old social systems and beliefs, look fearfully into the future. To these, the traitors and heathen who overcame Arthur in that "Last weird battle in the West" signify the disturbing forces at work in modern society, the savages whom we are raising among us to hasten the downfall of modern civilization, as the hordes of outlying barbarians did that of Rome—a coming overthrow due to the decline of faith in that blameless King and Order of Nobility, of whom Arthur and his Round Table are but symbols.—*The American Magazine.*

Mrs. Slick is one of those decided women who ill brook the slow easy-going ways of some country swains, and on one occasion she was impelled to speak her mind to one of her would-be admirers in her own straight-forward fashion. This is what occurred. Tommy Silent, a young, but by no means an enterprising farmer, had been attentive to Jane for many months. He had waited upon her regularly after prayer-meeting and singing school, and had acted and assumed the role of a lover, but never by one single word had he given expression to his attachment. At length his provoking silence became unbearable, and she determined to cut short such an unsatisfactory courtship. One evening, just as they had returned from singing school and had taken their seats in the kitchen, she thus addressed Tommy:—

"I just wond-r, Tommy Silent, how long you think I am going to stand this sort of work. Here it is getting on for eleven o'clock, time for decent folks to be abed, and there you sit without a word to say for yourself. Now listen, I can't go on forever this way, foolin' my time away, and I'm going straight to bed, so you had better put on your hat and coat and make tracks for home." Mrs. Slick says that Tommy never seemed to mind her quiet rebuke, and that he came home from that time out with her younger sister, to whom he was married seven years later!

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