

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

THE BLITHE NEW YEAR.

Sing me a song of the blithe New Year,
Of the blithe New Year, that cometh in view,
Let your voice ring out full loud and clear,
Sing I sing mayhap as the angels do,
Sing of a life with a higher aim
Than living for self, not for the world,
Let every note in your song proclaim
The banner of peace and hope unfurled!
Sing me a song where each rhythmic note
Shall picture life both noble and grand,
That song and words through all time may float,
And clearer grow on the farther strand,
If minor chords in the song shall blend
With rare sweet strains the while between,
It is but what shall be to the end,
Those notes must come to each heart, I ween.
—Gail Humphreys Howard

The speech of the tongue is best known to men God best understands the language of the heart.—Warwick.

"I am at your service, ma'am," as the burglar said when the lady of the house caught him stealing her silverware.

Marriage certificates with divorce coupons are being introduced in Chicago, and are becoming very popular.—*Tid Bits*.

It is a shame for a rich Christian to be like a Christmas-box, that receives all and nothing can be got out till it be broken in pieces; or like unto a drowned man's hand, that holds whatever it gets.—*Bishop Hall*.

She (witnessing a game of foot ball)—What are they doing now, George?
He—They're putting Brown, one of the half backs, into an ambulance.
Four of his ribs are broken and his spine is bent.

She (enthusiastically)—Oh, isn't it all so very interesting and exciting?
—*New York Sun*.

Mistress (who had been out)—Why, Bridget, where is the statue of the Venus of Milo?

Bridget (fresh importation)—Wan av them Oitalian image men, mum, come along an' said that he cud fix it as good as now for fifty cents, mum, an' I laved him the job.—*New York Sun*.

In a recent letter to the *London Times*, Prof. Max Müller contends against the view set forth by Professor Sayce in his address to the Anthropological Section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science that the original home of the Aryans was not in Asia. Prof. Sayce, following Dr. Schrader of Jena, and other German scholars, transfers the original home of the Aryan stock to Scandinavia or Lithuania. Canon Isaac Taylor has supported Prof. Sayce's view in a paper read before the Anthropological Institute.

A certain gentleman from the North being of a genealogical turn of mind, believed that he discovered in his pedigree some remote connection with the Royal Stuart blood. Going south, he made much of this presumed relationship, until he was generally spoken of, in bated breath, by his innocent English friends, as "a descendant of the Stuarts." At a large public gathering he was thus mentioned, and the description instantly engaged the rapt interest of a stranger a new arrival from Caledonia. "A descendant of the Stuarts!" he cried. "Eh, sirs, I'd like fine to see ano' o' the old Royal race." "Then there he is," answered his interlocutor, pointing him out—"there—the gentleman standing in front of the fireplace." "Gude sakes!" said the astonished Scot; "that's my ain brither Jock."

For a good, every-day household angel give us the woman who laughs. Her biscuits may not always be just right, and she may occasionally burn her bread and forget to replace dislocated buttons, but for solid comfort all day and every day she is the paragon, and if she cannot laugh at Yuletide, when can she? Home is not a battlefield, nor the one long unbending row. The trick of always seeing the bright side, or, if the matter has no bright side, of shining up the dark one, is a very important faculty—one no woman should be without. We are not all born with the sunshine in our hearts, as the Irish prettily phrase it, but we can cultivate a cheerful sense of humor if we only try, and surely now is the "acceptable time" when family and friends meet round the Christmas fire and table, and, for at least one day, sink their cares and troubles out of sight.

When a grave of an old Viking was opened recently his skeleton showed that he had been laid to face the setting sun. He had worn a woollen surcoat, edged with a frilling of gold, and buckled at the neck with a golden clasp. His belt was of stamped leather, fastened by two gold buckles. Over his lap was his shield, round, two feet across, with the underside of wood and the outer of bronze, with a rim of iron. His hands were placed across his shield as if to clasp it to his breast, and on them had been bracelets of bronze, with serrated edges and rims of gilded silver. His two-edged sword of iron, 30 inches long and sheathed in wood, lay at his side, and close at hand was a dagger of iron and a barbed javelin. To the right of his feet was a bucket, such as the Saxons carried on their war ships, made of the same materials as his shield.

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