

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

The figures of this year, 1888, resemble three big girls and a dude as they spread themselves across the pavement on a fine afternoon.

"Is your mistress in?" said a caller to the domestic. "She is, sir." "Is she engaged?" asked the caller. "Faith, she is more than that," was the prompt response; "she's married."

Never judge men from appearances. The man in the soft hat and short coat may be a parson, while the man with a high hat and white tie may be only a deacon who thinks he can preach.

Wordsworth frequently spoke of death as if it were the taking of a new degree in the Universe of Life. "I should like," he remarked to a young lady, "to visit Italy again before I move to another planet."

Flanagan—Thim's the thinniest pair o' gents I ever seen, barrin wan.

Lannigan—An' how thin was he might I ask?

Flanagan—Begorra, he was as thin as the two o' thim put together.

London *Truth* sums up the record of Osman Digma, the famous Arab Chief, as follows: Killed, six times; fatally wounded three times; severely wounded, four times; troops totally dispersed, nine times; permanently discouraged, three times; escaped once.

"Stop that whistling! Don't you know it is Sunday, and the minister is listening to you?" said a young officer to a sailor on board an English vessel on which a Presbyterian minister was a passenger. "Nonsense!" said the minister, "Let him whistle; it keeps evil thoughts out of his mind." That man know something of human nature and of the workings of the human heart; and he had a just and generous idea of the Creator. Like Luther, he believed that "music drives the devil away."—*Home Journal*.

"Are you well acquainted with Mr. Rigby?"

"Quite well. He is employed in the same office with me."

"I think he is such an interesting young man. He is always so melancholy. He surely must have suffered some great disappointment?"

"Yes, he has."

"Oh, how romantic! How was it?"

"Why, he expected a rise of salary on the 1st, and didn't get it."—*Nebraska State Journal*.

The registrar-general's report upon marriages in England is far from cheerful reading. The market is "flat" "depressed," and the demand, it is rudely hinted, out of all proportion to the supply. Matrimony has been steadily on the decline for the last twenty years. In 1886 the ratio was 17½ per thousand (the half does not indicate a marriage between juveniles, but 5); in 1886 it was only 14. At this rate England will in a hundred years resemble heaven in so far as there will be "neither marriage nor giving in marriage" in it; there the similarity will end.

WHAT AN ANTHEM IS.—Speaking of anthems reminds me of the story of two old British sailors who were talking over their shore experience. One had been to a cathedral and had heard some very fine music, and was decanting, particularly upon an anthem which gave him much pleasure. His shipmate listened for a while and then said: "I say Bill what's a hanthem?" "What," replied Bill, do you mean to say you don't know what a hanthem is?" "Not me." "Well then I'll tell yer. If I was to tell yer, 'Ere Bill, give me that 'undspike, that wouldn't be a hanthem; but was I to say, Bill, Bill, giv, giv, giv me, give me that, Bill, give me, give me that hand, handspike, hand, handspike, spike, spike, spike, ah-men, ah-men. Bill givmethathandspike, spike, ahmen! Why that would be a hanthem."

"Yes," said the young man as he threw himself at the feet of the pretty school teacher. "I love you and would go to the world's end for you."

"You could not go to the end of the world for me, James. The world, or the earth as it is called, is round like a ball, slightly flattened at the poles. One of the first lessons in the elementary geography is devoted to the shape of the globe. You must have studied it when you were a boy."

"Of course I did, but—"

"And it is no longer a theory. Circumnavigators have established the fact."

"I know, but what I meant was that I would do anything to please you. Ah! Emmie, if you knew the aching void—"

"There is no such thing as a void, James. Nature abhors a vacuum; but admitting that there could be such a thing, how could the void you speak of be a void if there was an ache in it?"

"I mean to say that my life will be lonely without you; that you are my daily thought and my nightly dream. I would go anywhere to be with you. If you were in Australia or at the North Pole I would fly to you."

"Fly! It will be another century before men can fly. Even when the laws of gravitation are successfully overcome there will still remain, says a scientific authority, the difficulty of maintaining a balance—"

"Well, at all events," exclaimed the youth, "I've got a pretty fair balance in the savings bank and I want you to be my wife. There!"

"Well, James, since you put it in that light, I—"

Let the curtain fall.

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