

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

JANUARY.

Which of the merry months shall I praise?
Meadow birds, say!
Shall the April nights or the Autumn days
Have place in my lay?
"Oh, the sun of the summer is golden and strong,
And the flowers of the summer shine fairly and long—
Sing thou to the summer the first of thy song,
As we sing on the spring."
No! No!
Meadow birds, no!
Mine is the month that is born in the snow.
May hath the bud, and the bee, and the dove,
And the sky of the summer is bluest above;
But the year's first month, she bringeth my love—
And her bridal day!
Say, is it wrong
To keep crown and song
For the month that leadeth my lady along?

Too High.—Miss Warble—"What will you charge me for a gold breast-pin representing a musical staff with the treble sign and a single note?" Jeweller—"Ten dollars." Miss Warble—"Oh, dear! That's too high—I'm only a contralto."

The Proud Soprano.—Worshipper—"There was no soprano in the choir to-day. What was the matter?" Organist—"The soprano had a dream last night in which an angel told her the Lord wanted her to sing anthem No. 95 to-day." "Well?" "Well, the soprano got mad and said she wouldn't be bossed by anybody."

The Social Question.—The widely published statement that only servant girls wear high hats at the theatre has seriously disturbed both ladies and servants. For, if it is true, the ladies will have to discard high hats at the theatres, and of course the servants will also, as they can't afford to wear anything that will mark their social condition.

No Writers' Cramp.—Doctor—"From the condition of your hand and arm, I should say you were suffering from writers' cramp—too much exercise on one set of muscles."

Young Business Man—"But I never write, I employ a typewriter." "Um—engaged to her?" "Y-e-s."

"Do you—er—dictating with your other arm."

The Health Reform Dress. If that health reform dress is really constructed on hygienic principles it will be received with favor, if it is pretty, and from what has been ascertained regarding this costume there is no reason for believing that it is so very weirdly hideous. One or two of the designs look as though the gowns had been neatly fitted to a flour barrel or a hay mow, or a pump, but others are quite attractive. After all, there is something in this reform dress—viz, the girl. That is why the new costume will become popular, if it ever does.

A Pretty Tall Story.—A friend of mine happened to be with Marion Crawford recently in England, and during the conversation happened to tell a "club" story to the novelist.

"I would like to work that into a short story, if you don't mind," said the novelist.

My friend told Crawford that one of the objects of his visit was to secure, if possible, a short story from him.

"Very well," said the author. "You amuse yourself with my books, and I'll let you have the story. About 6,000 words, you said? All right."

And within two hours' time, to my friend's astonishment, Crawford handed him the manuscript of "as perfect a little gem of a story as you ever read." And Crawford had earned \$200 between breakfast and lunch."

He Did His Best.—Here is one of Stockton's best:—A Jew lawyer in New York was engaged to defend a man for murder, and after looking into the case concluded that the outlook was very gloomy for the prisoner; in fact, his conviction seemed certain.

When the jury was got together it was found that there were eleven Irishmen and one Polish Jew in the box.

The lawyer, feeling quite desperate, sought out the Polish Jew and said:

"I'll give you \$500 if you'll get that jury to bring in a verdict of manslaughter—understand, manslaughter."

The juror promised to do his best, and sure enough, after staying out some time, the jury returned a verdict of manslaughter. The lawyer was overjoyed and almost embraced the Polish Jew when he asked for his money.

But the juror looked sorrowfully at the \$500 in his hand and said:

"I dinks you ought to make it a thousand."

"A thousand? And why?"

"Vel, yer see, I had an awful time getting der jury round. Dose 'leven Irish fellows wuz all fur acquittal."—Atlanta Journal.

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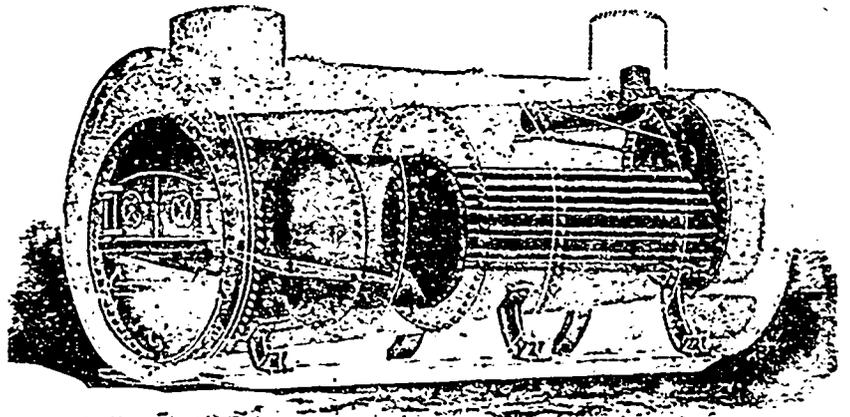
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