

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

WHAT IT IS TO BE FORTY.

To discover a sprinkle of gray in your beard,
And a thinness of crop where the upland is cleared,
To note how you take to your slippers and gown,
And hug to the fire when you get home from town;
Ah, that's what it is to be forty!

To find that your shadow has portlier grown,
That your voice has a practical business-like tone,
That your vision is tricky which once was so bright,
And a hint of a wrinkle is coming to light;
Ah, that's what it is to be forty.

A sleigh ride, a party, a dance, or a dino—
Why, of course, you'll be present, you never decline;
But, alas! there's no invite, you're not young folks, you see;
You're no longer a peach, but a crab apple tree;
Ah, that's what it is to be forty!

A daughter that grows like a lily, a queen,
And that blooms like a rose in a garden of green,
A drapper young clerk in an ice cream saloon,
Both a dude and a dunce, is to carry off soon,
And a boy that is ton, and the pride of your eye,
Is caught smoking vile cigarettes on the sly
Ah, that's what it is to be forty!

At twenty a man dreams of power and fame;
At thirty his fire has a soberer flame;
At forty his dreams and his visions are wiser,
And he knows and he feels, as he ne'er did before,
That a man is a fool till he's forty!

Son—Papa, how do they catch lunatics? Cynical father—With diamond necklaces, décolleté dresses and fourteen button gloves, my boy.

Some one has discovered that love kisses are full of electricity; but they don't "shock" the kisser and kissee as much as they do the disinterested spectator.

"What is the name of your cat, sir?" inquired a visitor. "His name was William," said the host, "until it had fits, and since then we have called him Fitz William."

"Mamma," said the sweet small boy before admiring friends. "I knew as soon as I came in there were folks visitin' here." "Did you, darling?" said the fond mother trying to wilt him with her eye, "how did you know?" "Oh, you had your company voice on."

A scientist has discovered that a man is really nothing but an evolved specimen of the canine. It is pretty rough on a decent domestic animal like the dog to state that some men are any relation to him, but he may have been suffering from rabies and irresponsibility.

An Englishman who was spending his summer holidays in America last year, happening to take up a little book on geography, "for the use of schools," saw the following question and answer:—"Where is London?" "It is the chief town of a small island off the coast of France."

Stranger in Detroit (a hundred years hence)—"Why do all the people stand with uncovered heads when that little man passes?" Detroit—"Haven't you heard of him? He's the great society leader. He belongs to one of the old families." Stranger—"Old families?" Detroit—"Yes, siree! His great grandfather was the first Captain of the Detroit nine."

ADAM'S COMMENT.—That no woman can wear stays without being too tightly laced is the most deeply rooted opinion of every masculine breast. Probably the first remark made by the Father of Mankind, when he viewed Madam Eve in her now fall suit of fig leaves, was something to this effect:—"My dear, don't you think your waistband is a little too tight?"—Woman.

A story is in general circulation, and has not yet been denied, that Prince George of Wales recently became enamoured of the daughter of an English nobleman, whose purse is as short as his string of titles and list of family distinctions are lengthy. He proposed marriage to her and was accepted. The Prince of Wales, hearing of the affair, forbade the alliance and separated the pair by sending his son abroad. The girl's health suffered so severely from pining for her absent lover that her father addressed a letter to the future sovereign resenting the insult implied in the Prince's assumption that the marriage would be a flagrant mesalliance. The Prince remained obdurate, but it is understood that young Prince George insists upon becoming the husband of the girl he promised in good faith to marry.

HOME POLITENESS.—A boy who is polite to father and mother is likely to be polite to everybody else. A boy lacking politeness to his parents may have the semblance of courtesy in society, but is never truly polite in spirit, and is in danger, as he becomes familiar, of betraying his real want of courtesy. We are all in danger of living too much for the outside world, for the impression which we make in society, coveting the good opinion of others, and caring too little for the opinion of those who are in a sense a part of ourselves, and who will continue to sustain and be interested in us notwithstanding these defects of deportment and character. We say to every boy and to every girl, cultivate the habit of courtesy and propriety at home—in the kitchen as well as in the parlor, and you will be sure in other places to deport yourself in a becoming and attractive manner.—Home Guardian.

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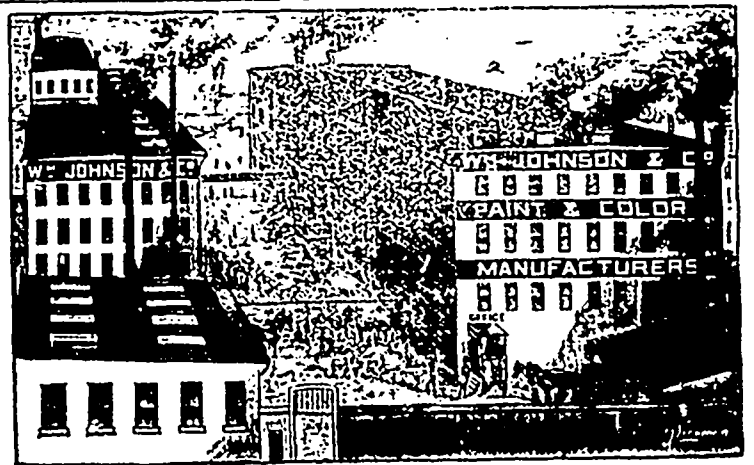
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