

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

Reading makes a full man, (alking a ready man. The happy medium is reached when a man reads enough to give value to what he has to say

"I love you more than life," cries Pat,
"Even death can't change my heart's command,"
Says Nora laughing, "Prove but that,
No longer I'll refuse my hand."

Sutherland Edwards has published a novel called "What is a Girl to do?" That depends somewhat. If she wants to climb over a fence, she is to look cautiously in every direction, gather her skirts in one hand, then stoop her head and crawl under.

Oswaldus Nothingorus is said to have made 1600 dishes of turned ivory, perfect and complete in every part, yet so thin and slender that all of them were included at once in a cup turned out of a pepper corn of the common size. They were so small as to be almost invisible to the eye. They were presented to Pope Paul V.

Willie Anderson was a resident of Kilsyth, and was one of the thinnest men ever seen, being "a perfect rickle o' bones." He was continually being, and one day, on the doctor visiting him, and asking where he felt the most pain, he replied: "Weel, doctor, I'm that thin that I dinna ken whether it's a sair stomach or a sair back."

A writer in the Springfield Republican claims to have found out the useful point of the mosquito. He says: I found out the real mission of the pest by putting a lot of the wrigglers into a hoghead of water, and filling another hoghead into which no wrigglers were put. The second body of water soon became foul, while the first remained sweet, showing that our swamps would more often be some sources of disease if they were not infested with mosquitoes.

A CITY OF THE INSANE.—Editor Bell, of the *Medico-Legal Journal*, says that in Belgium, Lieux is literally a city of the insane. "It has a population of 10,000," he said, "and contains about 160 first-class and 1,000 second-class boarding-houses, where parties of two and three insane persons are kept in board at reasonable prices. The people are mostly farmers, and the same borders occupy their time at farming and other occupations, never being allowed to overwork themselves. There has not been a homicide here in thirty-six years."

CORRUGATED IRON CASKS.—Casks made of corrugated and galvanized sheets are now being introduced in Germany, for the transport of liquids which are liable to expand considerably with a rise of temperature. Messrs. Stein, Lehmann & Co., of Berlin, who are makers of corrugated sheets, have added the manufacture of casks to their business. These casks are lighter than wooden ones, and last much longer. The corrugations of the sheets run parallel with the hoops, which are either iron bands lined with wood or iron tubing. All joints are double riveted and soldered, whilst the bung and spigot holes are provided with screwed plugs. These casks, which can stand an internal pressure of 30 lbs to the square inch, are now being used for the transport of oil, petroleum, benzine, spirits, and quite recently also for beer.—*Industries*.

MUNICIPAL PARKS IN MEXICO.—The parks of the City of Mexico are really a novel as well as a beautiful sight. Comfortable seats shaded by venerable trees, winding walks encircling large beds of flowers and fine fountains form a picture of perpetual springtime. They are the breathing spots for those who reside near them, as well as for those whose poverty causes them to live in narrow, stifling streets. The student can be seen in them at an early hour buried in his books, the invalid in carriage or on horseback, or perhaps being carried in a chair upon the back of a stalwart porter. Every one is out for an airing on Sunday morning. Poons and pelados, wrapped in blankets, are to be seen in sunny places thawing out; water carriers passing to and fro from the markets with their morning supply of water; men in shirts and pantaloons, straw hats and sandaled feet; women in silks and in rags and children with barely enough to cover their nakedness are to be seen on every side. Almost every nation is represented in this city of surprises.—*City of Mexico Cor. San Francisco Chronicle*.

SHE TOLD HIM HOW.—A Circassian was walking along one road, and a woman along another. The roads finally unite into one, and as they reached the point of junction at the same time, they walked on together. The man was carrying a large iron kettle on his back; in one hand he held the leg of a live chicken, in the other a cane, and he was leading a goat. They neared a dark ravine. Said the woman: "I am afraid to go through that ravine with you; it is a lonely place, and you might overpower me and kiss me by force." Said the man: "How can I possibly overpower you and kiss you by force, when I have this great iron kettle on my back, a cane in one hand, and a live chicken in the other, and am leading this goat? I might as well be tied hand and foot." "Yes," replied the woman; "but if you should stick your cane in the ground and tie your goat to it, and turn the kettle bottom up, and put the chicken under it, then you might wickedly kiss me in spite of my resistance." "Success to thy ingenuity, O woman!" said the rejoicing man to himself; "I should never have thought of this or similar expedients." And when they came to the ravine he stuck his cane into the ground and tied the goat to it, and gave the chicken to the woman, saying: "Hold it while I cut some grass for the goat;" and then—so runs the legend—lowering the kettle from his shoulders, he puts the fowl under it, and wickedly kissed the woman, as she was afraid he would.

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