

BEECHER ON CHIPMONKS.

Did you ever assist in removing an old stone wall? Did you ever stand by in a musing mood while rougher hands and stronger arms than yours wrought at the task?

It is an old, old wall. Twenty years have parties been at work at it, yes, forty years or more. In those days, and on the farm that I am thinking of, a wall was built as much to get rid of the stone as to form a partition.

Great flat slabs at the bottom were quite buried under the soil which had gradually sifted its way upon them. Then came the great round boulders and stones of every mould, worn smooth by the weather, or rather stones which would have been smooth if nature had not chosen them to practice her pencil on.

re-er" went the squirrel as he dived down, laughing into a hole.

Well, I've seen many a minister do the same thing with a sermon, and feel as satisfied as I did. To be sure I had not hit anything, but I had made a splendid noise.

Yes, sir, I did know all that you ask, and a few things besides, which I will save up to you in writing another letter, and I have nothing left to say. Thank you for the letter. I will thank anybody for letters rehashing what they have found out by their own wits, and with their own senses.

But away goes a part of the wall to the prying of the crow-bar. Stand from under! Here comes the heap—rolling, sliding, pitching headlong, and behold! I am uncoversed.

What joy is this wall to Trip and to Trip's young master! Trip has chased a woodchuck into the wall, and every day he lives in hope of catching him.

of course you know it burrows in the ground, but do you know anything of the subterranean labyrinthine ways of this little critter?

Let me ask some questions of our Bradford friend, who will accept our thanks for a letter which shows that he has eyes and a habit of using them.

Did you know that after retiring to their subterranean apartments, when cold sets in, they do not come out again, not once, until spring returns, and yet they do not, like the dormouse, go to sleep, but maintain a life like Dr. Kane, in his ship, in the long Arctic night?

Especially, did you know that the first time that ever I fired a gun, it was at a "chippy," and that I did not hit him? My father it was that let me trot behind him, a seven or eight-year-old, while he hunted through the fields.

I shut up one eye in a manner that carried the other with it. I opened both. The tears came. The squirrel seemed six or seven squirrels whirling round in the air.

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