

Curious Calculation of Chances.

Reader, it is easy to show, says somebody, that five hundred years ago the chances were ten thousand to one that you and I would never exist. If we look at the chances as exhibited in only two or three generations, we shall be astonished and horrified at seeing how narrowly we have missed having no being. For instance, my grandfather was a soldier in the Revolutionary army for six years, and repeatedly exposed to death. On one occasion, when his company were engaged by platoons, he was the only survivor of two different attacks. Now, if he had fallen in any of these attacks, he would not have married, my father would not have been born, and consequently, I myself would have had no being. Again, my father paid his addresses to a certain young lady, and was engaged to her. Just before the time appointed for the marriage, a misunderstanding arose between them, all ties were dissolved, and my father married another woman—the same woman who has since done me the honor of being my mother. Now if my father had married the first mentioned lady, I should never have been born, as she could not have possibly borne my mother's children and my mother might not have had any children at all. You see, therefore, that a mere lover's quarrel may change the whole line of a family for thousands of years. In fact, if Miss Smith is courted by both Jones and Jenkins, it is for Miss Smith to decide (as she certainly has the power of doing) whether she will be the ancestress of ten thousand Jones, or ten thousand Jenkins; for on her choice depends the very existence, or non-existence of these possible descendants. The whole subject is so full of fatality, that the only thing we can do, after once getting into existence, is to shout with the Arabs: "Allah is Allah!—What is to be will be."

COULDN'T SET NO LONGER.—A young Connecticut clergyman had just buried his wife. In the early freshness of his grief he was waited upon by one of his deacons, with the announcement that Brother Smith had left his church and gone to the Methodist, and Brother Smith does say that you, his own minister, have hurt his feelings so that he never can get over it. The tender-hearted shepherd was touched by this imputation, and eager to atone to the aggrieved shepherd for any unintentional wrong he might have done him.

"So up he took his little croak. Determined for to find him," which he did, sulking over some job of his trade of house carpentry. After an expenditure of much affectionate entreaty and skillful cross-questioning, the minister elicited the following:

"Well, the fact is, I knew there wasn't much chance of your wife's getting well, and so I went to work two or three weeks before she died, so as to have it all ready, and made just the greatest coffin for her that was ever turned out in this town. I'd took her measure a hundred times sitting right back of the person's pew, you know. I didn't say nothing about it to you beforehand, 'cause my woman had a notion it would sort of cut you up. I don't know why, but when I heard that you'd telegraphed to Boston for one of them new-fangled burying concerns, I must say I felt as if I couldn't set under your preaching no longer."

"And 'set' he didn't."

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A FATHER.—A smitten young female, who writes for Home Journal, over the non de plume of "Adelaide Bayre," and who evidently has "some one to love," thus sighingly calls upon her Adolphus to "come and see her."

MUSICAL CHAIR.—Chill is a country of music makers. The love and instinct of music are diffused through every order of people, from the highest to the lowest.

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THE YOUNG MAN IS CERTAINLY EXCUSABLE FOR "PRESSING" UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. "DIDN'T FOSTER NO SUCH FEELING"—Deacon Shines was an austere man, who followed oystering, and was of the hard-shell persuasion.

SECRETARY SEWARD HAS AT LENGTH FOUND A FOEMAN WORTHY OF HIS STEEL IN THE EMPEROR OF CHINA, who writes a letter to our government covering twenty feet in length by two feet in width of royal parchment.

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