light, with the witches and ghosts in semi-circle before him. About this time the lights began to fade and ghosts and witches vanished as silently and mysteriously as they came.

---

**The Optimist.**

Care came first and laid his siege,  
Laid his siege at my front door;  
Then the Wolf, the Lord and Liege  
Of all Trouble, brought his score.  
Well, I "sicked" the Wolf on Care—  
Wolf was hungry past all doubt;  
Chewed old Care up hide and hair,  
Left no sign of him about.

Then I took my faithful gun,  
Cheerfulness, from off the rack,  
Loaded it with wholesome fun,  
Let Wolf have it front and back.  
He was quite a hungry beast—  
And rest of him we fried  
For our glad Thanksgiving Feast.  
---Exchange.

---

**AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A BAKED IRISH POTATO.**

Although only an Irish potato, I will endeavor to relate my past history. My first experience, as well as I remember, began thus: Under the cold, dark world I lay for days and days, unable to see. However, this was not from the lack of eyes, with which I was plentifully supplied, but was due to the total darkness that surrounded me.

One day as I lay perfectly still and wondering what life had in store for me, I heard a commotion above that frightened me very much. A few moments later a soft furry foot brushed my side and the light of day burst on my sight. At the same time there appeared a four-footed animal with very long ears.

"Who is this?" I cried. "O, I'm Brother Rabbit," a rather gruff voice replied; "I am digging the burrow in which to spend the cold, cold winter."

Brother Rabbit told me of the beautiful world, of which I had never dreamed. This aroused my already adventurous spirit and I longed to see these wonders.

After meditating on these things, of which he told me, I proposed a plan that would enable me to escape. Brother Rabbit consented to dig me out carefully and place me on the surface. I was amazed at the beautiful sights and gazed around until all my eyes ached.

I fell asleep and was rudely awakened by farmer Jones, who appeared on the scene with a potato fork and began digging in the earth. Many of my brothers and sisters were hurled in the air, some falling near me and Brother Rabbit's winter home completely demolished. The last I saw of