

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. C. T., GUELPH.—The MS. is to hand, but we fear we shall not be able to use it, as we have already accepted an original tale on the same subject and bearing precisely the same title as yours. We should like to see the other articles; please forward the MSS., and if we are not able to publish them, we will return them to you.

ARTIST.—Your last article is in type; but crowded out of the present issue. We have not forgotten our promise, and are sorry we have trespassed so long upon your patience.

S. G., QUEBEC.—We will take an early opportunity of placing your letter before our young friends. Thanks!

M. B.—The lines are not quite suitable for one column.

A. IRVING, JR.—We cannot account for the detention. The numbers for your town are all mailed at the same time, and should reach your post office by the same mail. The missing number shall be forwarded.

MAC.—We have read your letter carefully, and in reply to some of your remarks beg to refer you to our first article. The postage on the READER is twenty-six cents per annum, if paid in advance, but should you succeed in getting up a club, we will forward the paper free of postage. Shall be glad to hear from you whenever you can make it convenient to write.

TURENIS.—Not to our own knowledge—certainly not to the same degree.

W. R. G.—The letters were received. Will write you shortly.

C. R. B.—Please accept our thanks. Shall be pleased to hear from you frequently.

S. S.—You are already convinced that your fears were groundless. We have reserved your last contribution for publication.

SCOTIA.—We hope you will meet with better success in any further efforts. Write us whenever you feel any inclination to do so.

AUNT EUNICE.—The note of interrogation is probably deserved, but still we have not lost sight of your contributions. Both the former and the latter shall appear as soon as we can make room for them.

DOUBLE YOU.—We have not yet found time to verify your solution. Please excuse our re-opening the question especially as we have no means of communicating with the propounder.

FREDERICK.—We are in receipt of your letter and are obliged to you for your good wishes. The verses will probably appear.

WILLIAM O.—Yes, if accepted.

P. D. B.—Respectfully declined.

J. P. T., BELLEVILLE.—Our invitation to the Brotherhood did not meet with the general response we expected, we have consequently given up our original idea. It would give us much pleasure to visit you, if in your neighbourhood.

HOUSEHOLD RECEIPTS.

PIE CRUST.—An excellent pie crust may be made by taking about a quart of bread sponge in the morning before you bake, add thereto one beaten egg, nearly a teacup of melted butter, some flour; knead a little and set in a warm place to rise. When light it may be kneaded over, and does not need to be very stiff; then roll out like any pie crust. A little butter spread on the upper crust, that folded down and rolled again, makes it flaky. If the pies are made of uncooked apples, the crust will be much lighter to stand a half hour or so after being made, before putting in the oven. Less butter will do very well.

BAKED BEANS.—Pick over and put to soak over night, a quart of white beans. In the morning boil slowly in plenty of water; when so soft that you can squeeze one between thumb and finger, drain through a colander. Have a stone jar or other deep dish, place in the bottom thereof a little salt, a piece of butter the size of a walnut,

a teaspoon of sugar, a little black pepper; pour in the beans, cover with water, *place a cover* on the dish, and bake three or four hours. Should the water dry away, add more from time to time. This is good for those that don't like pork.

BEEF OR OLD FOWLS.—Are most excellent cooked in a similar way. Cut up in pieces, season to taste, with a little water in the jar; *cover tight*, set in a moderate oven after breakfast, and when you take it out for dinner, you will find the meat tender and very nutritious.

WHITE CAKE.—Three cups sifted flour, one and a half cups of sugar, one cup of rich sweet milk, one egg, two tablespoonfuls of butter, two teaspoonfuls cream-tartar, one teaspoonful soda, dissolved in the milk, one teaspoonful essence of lemon. Beat the butter and sugar to a cream; then add the milk, the egg, well beaten, and the essence; mix with the above two cups of the flour, and lastly, add the third cup, in which the cream-tartar has been stirred. Bake immediately in cake pans, lined with buttered paper, in a quick oven.

RECIPE FOR JOHNNY CAKE.—Five rounding cups Indian meal—two level cups flour—one cup sour cream—half cup sugar—five cups sour milk or buttermilk—three eggs—a little salt, and two teaspoons soda or saleratus.

Some judgment must be used in the use of the latter ingredient, as its proper quantity, of course, depends somewhat upon the sourness of the milk. Bake in a quick but not too hot oven, 40 minutes. This will make a breakfast for about ten persons.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL

WINDOW FOR THE ILLUMINATION OF A PHOTOGRAPHER'S DARK ROOM.—Obernerter mixes an acid solution of sulphate of quinine with some gum or dextrine, and paints the mixture over a thin sheet of white paper. With this he covers the window panes, and he states that on the brightest day a window so prepared will allow no actinic light to pass.

A FOSSIL spider has been found in a shale from the "coal measures" of Upper Silesia. Hitherto spiders have not been found in any rocks older than the Jurassic.

M. FRANZ, a metallurgist, and M. Henri Faure, editor of the France Médicale, have just announced to the learned world that they have discovered a method for transmuting silver, copper and mercury into gold, "which," they say, "are only one and the same metal in different dynamic states."

CHURNING.—The night before churning, put the cream in a tin to stand in a furnace of warm water, which should gradually reach boiling heat, until the cream is scalding hot, stirring it occasionally while it is heating. Then take the tin out of the water, pour the cream into another vessel, and let as much as possible of the steam from it escape. Stir it also once or twice while cooling; keep it in a warmer temperature than in the dairy until churned next morning. This removes all disagreeable taste from any kind of food taken by the cows, and was never known to fail in making good butter come in twenty or forty minutes' churning.

HOW ICE-CRYSTALS ARE FORMED.—Water, in solidifying by cold, viz., in freezing, forms itself into crystals, whose facets are hexagons, and incline to each other at a constant angle of sixty degrees. The little globule of water, then, that would ordinarily constitute a rain-drop, in falling through an atmosphere of a lower temperature than the freezing point, passes to the solid state, and its particles, piling themselves into their appointed hexagonal forms with geometrical precision, produce those exquisite crystalline flowers; thus obeying that supreme order of the universe which ordains that even ice shall put forth its blossoms. But why these blossoms should assume the complicated and varied forms in which we find them—whether these variations are due to electrical conditions of the atmosphere, or to the chemical constitution of the water from which they are formed—are questions yet to be solved.

WITTY AND WHIMSICAL.

SHAME!—The meanest reason for getting married that we ever heard was from a man who said he wanted some one to part his back hair for him.

"Oh, you old buffer!" as the old woman exclaimed, when an engine knocked her down.

It is quite a mistake, with respect to certain heavenly bodies moving in a brilliant circle, to suppose that in direct proportion to their circumference is their power of attraction.

A SHREWD confectioner has taught his parrot to say "pretty creature" to every lady who enters the shop, and his business is rapidly increasing.

LORD William Lennox mentions a joke attributed to a wit of the day, when he was asked, on the failure of Sir John Paul's bank, "Were you not upset?"—"No," he replied. "I only lost my balance."

AUTOGRAPHS.—Josh Billings expresses four views on the subject of his autographs. He thus replies to an anxious correspondent who asked for his autographs.—We never furnish ortographs in less quantities than bi the packidge. It is a bizness that grate men have got into; but it don't strike uz as being profitable nor amusing. We furnished a near and very dear friend our ortograff a few years ago, for 90 days, and it got into the hands ov one ov the banks, and it kost us £100 tew get it back. We went out ov the bizness then, and have not hankered for it since."

ONE cold night an auctioneer was holding forth on the merits of the articles on the board. "May I bid, sir?" said a gentleman who had just entered. "Oh, certainly," said the auctioneer, with alacrity. "I shall be most happy to hear you bid." "Then, sir," said the stranger, "I beg to bid you a very good evening," and he retired amidst a roar of laughter at the auctioneer.

AWFUL QUERY.—The Duphingberry Debating Society, having dismissed the question, "Where does fire go to when it goes out?" have got a new and more exciting one up. "When a house is destroyed by fire, does it burn up, or does it burn down?" There will probably be a warm debate on this question.

NO PLOT.—In King Wiliam III.'s time a Mr. Tredenham was taken before the Earl of Nottingham, on suspicion of having treasonable papers in his possession. "I am only a poet," said the captive, "and those papers are only my roughly-sketched play. The earl, however, examined the papers, and then returned them, saying "I have heard your statement and read your play, and as I can find no traces of a plot in either, you may go free."

JONES buys wheat at a railroad station not a hundred miles away. He is sharp, but did over-reach himself once. In buying a load, he placed a heavy plank upon the scales for convenience in weighing. After he had paid, he whispered to a crony, "Say nothin'; I shaved that fellow: I never deducted the plank but once—keep steady!" It took some time to convince him, but he finally *did* see that he had bought thirty pounds of plank twenty-one times. Jones don't like to be asked the price of pine plank by his best friends.

SIR Isaac Newton once went a wooing, and had the greatest attention and indulgence paid to the peculiarities which were known to distinguish him. He was fond of smoking, and his lady-love provided him with a pipe. Sir Isaac smoked a few whiffs, and seemed at a loss for something, whiffed again, and at last drew his chair nearer to the lady. A pause of some minutes ensued, and Sir Isaac seemed more and more uneasy. The lady thought he was bashful. The philosopher whiffed with redoubled vigour, and seizing the hand of the lady, drew it caressingly toward him. There was no opposition to what seemed the prelude to a declaration; but, horror of horrors, the fair forefinger was incontinently thrust into the bowl of the pipe. The astronomer had absently used it as a tobacco stopper. The lady disengaged her hand, uttering a cry of pain, and he courtship was brought to a sudden close.