THE CANADIAN SPECTATOR.

CORRESPONDENCE.

No notice whatever will be taken of anonymous letters, nor can we undertake to return letters that are rejected.

All communications to contain the name and address of the sender.

Letters should be brief, and written on one side of the paper only. Those intended for insertion should be addressed to the Editor, 162 St. James Street, Montreal; those on matters of business to the Manager, at the same address.

WHAT IS RELIGION ?

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR.

SIR,—I was pleased to see "Laicus" quoting a text before he came to the end of his sincerely transcendental discourse. Readers who live without God in the world a narrow or thoughtless mental life do not often quarrel with Platonic aspirations, while there are texts of Scripture that frequently offend them deeply. Will "Laicus" kindly say what he thinks of the following also: The words of our Lord, emphasised with the preface "Verily, verily, I say unto thee," when He says to Nicodemus, "Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." And the words of faithful Paul when he writes to the Ephesians—the same truth being reiterated to several churches with slight alterations of form—"By grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God."

When we avow an interest in such texts as these, the world—comprising that life and those principles which Christ says he is not of—commonly begins the preparation of its weapons of slander and lies; but whosoever has been the subject of a change of heart, as some like to express it, or the recipient of grace, as others say (and we may here, if we choose, compare the views of Hammond and Baldwin, both holding the essential principle of divine interposition), has rejoiced in hope from the time that he found and applied in his own case this vital and cternal truth in its essential apprehension and meaning. Yours truly, Critic.

dirs truty,

A WORD ABOUT SERMONS.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR :

SIR,—With your permission I desire to say a word about some modern sermons; at times they are theological opiates—sometimes religious discourses, attended by many who do not attend to them, and when published, purchased by many who do not read them. It is in vain to expect much eloquence or originality in these productions; first, because most clergymen have a horror of novelty, lest it should be deemed unorthodox; and, secondly, because they want all motive for the bold and full development of their talents. To rise above the regular routine of the pulpit will neither improve their present position nor add to their chances of future preferment; for the ruling church powers, jealous of all enthusiasts, and still more so of original thinkers, had much rather promote a weak, respectable man, who will submit to be led, than a strong-minded zealous divine who might aspire to lead—and, perhaps, to innovate !

"How comes it," demanded a clergyman of Garrick—" that I, in expounding divine doctrines, produce so little effect upon my congregation, while you can so easily arouse the passions of your auditors by the representation of fiction?" The answer was short and pithy,—"Because I recite falsehoods as if they were true, while you deliver truths as if they were false."

A word or two about congregations may be in place; they may be regarded as public assemblages in a spiritual theatre, where all the performers are professors, but where very few of the professors are performers.

"Taking them one with another, said Sydney Smith, "I believe my congregation to be most exemplary observers of the religious ordinances—for the poor kcep all the fasts, and the rich all the feasts." This fortunate flock might be matched with the crew of the frigate, whose commander told a friend that he had just left them the happiest set of fellows in the world. Knowing the captain's extreme severity, his friend expressed some surprise at this statement, and demanded an explanation. "Why," said the disciplinarian, "I have just had nineteen of the rascals flogged, and they are happy that it is over, while all the rest are happy they have escaped."

May not some modern instances be found of these wise old saws.

A Layman.

ISSUE OF BANK OF ENGLAND NOTES.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR :

SIR,—Your correspondent "Critic" shares a common misapprehension with regard to the powers of the Bank of England to issue notes for circulation. The Bank of England is authorized by its charter to issue to the extent of the Government securities it may carry. It is only the notes issued beyond this limit that require to be covered pound for pound in gold.

We have received a letter signed "Jessie Feeble," containing some stringent censures on one of our contemporaries. If we published it, should we not be subjecting the SPECTATOR to the very same censure?—[ED. SPECTATOR.]

TRADE-FINANCE-STATISTICS.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

COMPANY		18	80.		1879.	Week's	Traffic.	Aggregate.		
COMPANY.	Period.	Pass. Mails & Express		Total.	Total.	Incr'se	Decr'se	Period.	Incr'se	Decr's
	Week	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$
*Grand Trunk		52,507	1.48,750	201,257	152,554	48.703		12 w'kş	207,991	
Great Western	12	31,416	60,318	91,374	85,358	6,376		10 ''	63,677	
Northern & H. & N.W	0	6,173	14,019	20,192	15,958	4,234		9 "	15,268	
Toronto & Nipissing.		1,589	1,994	3,583	2,854	729	• • • •	9 "	5,821	
Midland		1,766	2,511	4,277	3,169	1,108		. 9	5,513	
Whitby, Pt Perry & L		1,395	1,369	2,764	3.078			fm Jan. 1	1,993	• • • •
Canada Central	. 13	563 2,190	1,238 2,883	1,801	1,331	470	• • • •	10 w'ks	3,815	••••
Toronto Grev&Bruce	* 14	2,427		5,073 5,869	4,560 5,695		• • • •	10 W KS	6,218	• • • •
O.M.O.&O. West. D.	" 8	3,895	3,442	7,599	6,501	174	••••	° "	9,151	• • • •
" " East, D.)	11 7	3,173	4,218	7,399			••••	-	5,852	• • • •
	Month	3,-75	4,	7539-		Month	Month			• • • •
Intercolonial	Feb.	9,000	23,559	32,559	19.535			2 m'nths	46,071	

BANKS.

BANK.	Shares par value.	Capital Subscribe I,	Capital Paid up	Rest.	Price per \$100 March 24, 1880.	Price per \$100 March 24, 1879.	Two last ½-yearly Dividends.	Equivalent of Dividend, based on price of Stock.
Montreal	\$200	\$12 000,000	\$11,009,200	\$5,000,000	\$13834	\$136	10	71/
Ontario	40	3,000,000	2,006,000	100,000		55	6	7 ¹ /4
Molsons	50	2,000,000	1,999,095	100,000	75	75	6	
Toronto	100	2,000,000	2,000,000	500,000	12434	113	7	7 ³ /4 5 ¹ /3
			1 .,,	*250,000			· ·	5/2
Jacques Cartier	25	500,000	500,000	55,000	681/2	311/2	5 5	8
] Merchants	100	5,798,267	5,511,040	475,000	94		5%	61/4
Eastern Townships	50	1,469,600	1,381,989	200,000	100	79 98		7
Quebec.	100	2,500,000	2,500,000	425,000			76	
Commerce	50	6,000,000	6,000,000	1,400,000	118	1021/2	8	61/4
				*75,000		1		1
Exchange	100	1,000,000	1,000,000				1	1
MISCELLANEOUS.		-,,	-,,					
Montreal Telegraph Co	40	2,000,000	2,000,000	171,432		103	. 7	7%
R. & O. N. Co	100	1,565,000	1,565.000	171,432	93 40	39	41/2	111/4
City Passenger Railway	50	1,503,000	600,000	+63,000	93	741/4	2/2	
New City Gas Co	40	2,000,000	1,880,000		1201/4	100	10	514 814
	40	-,	1,000,000		1.00/4	.09	-0	074
		,						,

*Contingent Fund. †Reconstruction Reserve Fund.

*THE FARMERS' DELIVERIES of home-grown Grain in the 150 towns in England and Wales for the weck ended February 28th, 1880, and for the corresponding weeks of the previous nine years and the weekly average prices :--

		~~~~WHEAT				ARLEY-			OATS	
		Qrs.	Pri	ce.	Qrs.		ice.	Qrs.		ice.
1880			435	od	33,665	35S	2d	4,312	225	3d
1879			38s	$\mathbf{od}$	35,594	33s	ıod	5,196	195	7d
τ878	• • · · • • • • • • • •	42,327	50S	rod	40,813	43\$	6d	8,159	235	10d
1877		46,268	50S	ııd	41,052	405	od	6,882	265	-3d
1876		38,921	<b>4</b> 38	od	39,558	325	7d	3,351	255	- 4d
1875			41S	ıd	33,311	428	od	4,877	29S	8 <b>d</b>
1874	• • • • • • • • • • • • • •	40,681	615	6d	43,035	48s	5đ	3,795	285	лıd
1873			56s	zd	40,825	40S	5d	6,800	225	8đ
1872	• • • • • • • • • • • •	57,644	555	lod	47,422	375	roq	7,644	235	6d
1871	•••••••••	70,090	535		44,594	355	-	7,024	245	7d
Average 10 years And the deliveries from-		47,504	495		39,936		IId	5,804	245	8d
				,	Wheat, grs.		Barley	. ars.	Oats,	ars.
September 1, 1879, to February 28,	, 1880	• • • • • • • •			815,925		1,328	8,730	,	3.997
September 1, 1878, to February 28,	, 18 ₇ 9	· · · · · · · · · ·			1,438,656		1,420		-	2,927
Decrease in 150 towns					622 521					
Decrease in 150 towns Decrease in the Kingdom					622,731 2,490,924		-	,786 ,144		7,070
							-	<i>,</i> <b>.</b>		
Decrease in the Kingdom	•••••	••••	••••	I 3th	2,490,924		-	<i>,</i> <b>.</b>		
Decrease in the Kingdom	r week en Flour, brls,	••••	arch	Č	2,490,924	Oats, bush.	367	<i>,</i> <b>.</b>	*28 Pe	
Decrease in the Kingdom *Increase. *Summary of exports fo From New York*	r week en Flour, brls. - 39,465	ding M Whea bush 693,9	arch at, 1.	b b	2,490,924 1, 1880 : Corn,	Oats,	367	,144 Rye,	*28 Pe b	3,280
Decrease in the Kingdom *Increase. *Summary of exports fo From New York*	r week en Flour, brls. 39,465 17,706	Unding M Whea bush 693,9 17,5	arch at, 1. 1900 182	С b 37	2,490,924 1, 1880 : Corn, ush.	Oats, bush.	367	Rye, bush.	*28 Pe b: 20	ase, ush,
Decrease in the Kingdom	r week en Flour, brls. . 39,465 . 17,706 . 3,300	ding M Whea bush 693,9	arch at, 1. 1900 182	С b 37	2,490,924 1, 1880 : Corn, ush. 7,422	Oats, bush. 3,3 ⁸ 9	367	Rye, bush. 37,121	*28 Pe b: 20	ase, ush.
Decrease in the Kingdom *Increase. *Summary of exports fo From New York*	r week en Flour, brls. 39,465 17,706 3.305	whea bush 693,9 17,5 10,8	arch at, 1. 1900 182	С b 37	2,490,924 , 1880 : Corn, ush. 7,422 0,462	Oats, bush. 3,389	367	Rye, bush. 37,121	*28 Pe b: 20 8	ase, ush.
Decrease in the Kingdom *Increase, *Summary of exports fo From	r week en Flour, brls. 39,465 17,706 3,300  6,275	whea bush 693,9 17,5 10,8	arch at, 1. 1. 1900 182 1900 1900	0 b 37 21	2,490,924 1, 1880 : Corn, ush. 7,422 0,462 	Oats, bush. 3,3 ⁸ 9 	367	Rye, bush. 37,121	*28 Pe bi 20	ase, ush. ,130
Decrease in the Kingdom *Increase, *Summary of exports fo From	r week en Flour, brls. 39,465 17,706 3,300  6,275	uding M Whea bush 693,9 17,5 10,8	arch at, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10	0 5 37 21 47-	2,490,924 1, 1880 : Corn, ush, 7,422 0,462 	Oats, bush. 3,389  5,600	367	Rye, bush. 37,121	*28 Pe bi 20 8	ase, ush. ,130
Decrease in the Kingdom *Increase. *Summary of exports fo From New York* Boston Portland† Montreal	r week en Flour, brls. 39,465 17,706 3,300  6,275 17,020	nding M: Whea bush 693,9 17,5 10,8  34,0	arch at, 1. 1000 182 1000 111	47- 810	2,490,924 1, 1880 : Corn, ush. 7,422 0,462  4.9 ² 3	Oats, bush. 3,389 5,600	367	Rye, bush. 37,121	*28 Pe bi 20 8	ase, ush. ,130

*72,395 bushels Barley. †10,000 bushels Barley,

* The receipts of Live Stock at 1	New York	for the	last four	weeks have	been as
follows :				•	
	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves,	Sheep.	Swine.
March 15		227	1,341	29,237	32,057
March 8		265	1,000	25,366	32,465
March 1		158	822	22,302	29,522
February 23	0,592	166	770	22,636	25,626
Total 4 weeks	0720	816	3,392	99,541	119,670
Corresponding 4 weeks 1879	32,664	367	3,969	81,129	123,695
Corresponding week 1879	4.672	90	1,222	18,847	29,879
Weekly average, 1879	10,933	142	2,998	29,005	33,080
Corresponding week 1878,	9,127	72	952	21,132	26,046

We have received a copy of "The Financial Register," a manual showing the statistics of all our Banks and other public corporations, compiled from the annual published statements and records for the last seven years, by Messrs. Oswald Brothers of this city. A more useful guide could not be; and as a specimen of neatness and care in the printing, from the office of Mr. J. Theo. Robinson, it is exceptionally fine.

*From New York Produce Exchange,