

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.

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 eternal truth in its essential apprehension and meaning.

Yours truly, Critic.

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.

"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?"

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 keep 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.

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.

Your obedient servant, A. B. C.

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.

Table with columns for COMPANY, 1880 (Pass. Mails & Express, Freight, Total), 1879 (Total), Week's Traffic (Incr'se, Decr'se), and Aggregate (Period, Incr'se, Decr'se). Rows include Grand Trunk, Great Western, Northern & H. & N.W., Toronto & Nipissing, Midland, St. Lawrence & Ottawa, Whitby, Pt Perry & L., Canada Central, Toronto Grey & Bruce, Q. M. O. & West. D., and Intercolonial.

*NOTE TO GRAND TRUNK.—The River du Loup receipts are included in 1879, not in 1880; omitting them the week's increase is \$52,993, aggregate increase \$257,591 for 12 weeks.

BANKS.

Table with columns for BANK, Shares par value, Capital (Subscribed, Paid up), Rest, Price per \$100 (March 24, 1880, March 24, 1879), Two last 1/2-yearly Dividends, and Equivalent of Dividend based on price of Stock. Rows include Montreal, Ontario, Molsons, Toronto, Jacques Cartier, Merchants, Eastern Townships, Quebec, Commerce, Exchange, and MISCELLANEOUS (Montreal Telegraph Co., R. & O. N. Co., City Passenger Railway, New City Gas Co.).

*Contingent Fund. †Reconstruction Reserve Fund.

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

Table with columns for WHEAT, BARLEY, OATS (Qrs., Price). Rows show data for years 1880, 1879, 1878, 1877, 1876, 1875, 1874, 1873, 1872, 1871, and Average 10 years.

Table with columns for Wheat, qrs., Barley, qrs., Oats, qrs. Rows show data for September 1, 1879, to February 28, 1880, and September 1, 1878, to February 28, 1879.

*Increase.

*Summary of exports for week ending March 13th, 1880:—

Table with columns for From, Flour, brls., Wheat, bush., Corn, bush., Oats, bush., Rye, bush., Pease, bush. Rows include New York, Boston, Portland, Montreal, Philadelphia, and Baltimore.

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

* The receipts of Live Stock at New York for the last four weeks have been as follows:—

Table with columns for Beeves, Cows, Calves, Sheep, Swine. Rows show data for March 15, March 8, March 1, February 23, Total 4 weeks, Corresponding 4 weeks 1879, Corresponding week 1879, Weekly average, 1879, and Corresponding week 1878.

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.

*From New York Produce Exchange.