

TO CORRESPONDENTS

LIZZIE.—"Picnic" was formerly used to imply an entertainment at which each person contributed some dish or article for the general table. Lizzie is aware that the term is now applied to an entertainment carried by a party on an excursion of pleasure into the country, also to the party itself.

OLIVIA.—Your question is answered in the present number. We believe "Brought to Light" will be quite as popular with our readers as "Half a Million of Money."

WYVANT.—We are painfully aware of the fact, but must decline to establish a precedent, we should be expected, we fear, to follow too frequently. A letter has been mailed to your address.

OTAC.—We candidly confess, that we do not consider you very successful as a writer of verses. There is much virtue, however, in perseverance.

FRED BENGOUGH.—Please acknowledge receipt of letter mailed to you this week.

A GRATIFIED READER, CHATHAM.—Will please receive the thanks of a gratified Editor.

SRD.—In olden times "gossip" was understood as an affectionate term of close intimacy, and was used to denote an intimate friend whose society was preferred to others. It is a pity that the good old Saxon word should have degenerated into a term of opprobrium.

S. S.—Perhaps it will be as well to let the Doctors and Lawyers die a natural death. We shall feel obliged if you will act upon C's suggestion without any reference to the penalty or proviso.

FRANK H.—Brigadier General Charles H. Winder was killed at the battle of Slaughter Mountain, whilst leading a charge of the old "Stonewall Brigade." He was struck by a shell which tore him nearly in two.

ALPHA.—"The Fatal Volley" is respectfully declined.

R. H.—Your letter is perfectly unintelligible to us. Please repeat the questions in a more definite form.

G. C. G. AND M. J.—Will oblige by acknowledging receipt of letters mailed to their respective addresses.

L. T. R.—Luther F. Beecher, D.D., is principal of the "Temple Grove Institute," Saratoga Springs.

LEO, Toronto.—We will publish your communication in an early issue.

C. H. S.—Received.

MISCELLANEA.

He who travels through life in the hope of jumping into the shoes of another, mostly goes on a bootless errand.

THE OWNERS OF ONE-FOURTH OF SCOTLAND.—Five noblemen, the Earl of Breadalbane, the Dukes of Argyll, Athole, Sutherland, and Buccleuch, are said to own one-fourth of the land in all Scotland.

GOOD HUMOUR.—One thoroughly good-humoured person in a house will do more to preserve both the moral and physical health of the inmates than a fashionable physician and a popular preacher together.

AN INDUSTRIOUS GERMAN.—A German once undertook to count the hairs of four women's heads of different complexions. The blonde had 140,419; the brown-haired, 109,440; the black-haired, 102,992; and the red-haired, 83,740.

A PENNYWEIGHT.—"Twenty-four grains make one pennyweight," says the troy weight table. This was the weight of the silver penny of the reign of Edward the First, and it has ever since remained one of the units of weights for precious metals.

The leading natives of Bengal, the learned pundits, the wealthy zemindars, the old aristocracy, and the orthodox Brahmans, have all

united, to the number of 21,000, in praying Government to put down polygamy.

THE RAG BUSINESS IN NEW YORK.—Mr. McKnight, a prominent rag-dealer, has asserted that the rag business in New York city amounts to 50,000,000 dollars annually. There are 10,000 persons employed in the business.

He who sets up a carriage at the suggestion of his vanity, generally sets it down at the suggestion of his creditors.

ALUMINIUM ARMOUR.—A trial has just been made at Florence of a cuirass in aluminium, which is as light as an ordinary waistcoat, nearly as flexible, and capable of turning a musket-ball fired at the distance of thirty-eight paces, and of resisting a bayonet thrust from the heaviest hand. Each cuirass costs only 25 francs. Two regiments are, it is said, to be immediately provided with them.

A list of the Irish kings from 1300 B.C. to the days when Henry II. annexed that island, just published, points out the curious historical and ethnological fact that out of some 140 monarchs about 120 of them were either slain by their successors or killed fighting, leaving the small residue to be killed by thunderbolts, drowning, and in a few instances to die of plague or grief.

A STRANGE illness, which has resulted in the sudden death of several people in Norway, has been traced to the oysters—largely eaten by all classes in the country—which are said to be just now suffering from a species of oyster plague.

LIFE.—Life is a book, in which we every day read a page. We ought to note down every instructive incident that passes. A crowd of useful thoughts cannot but flow from self-converse. Hold every day a solitary conversation with yourself. This is the way in which to attain the highest relish of existence; and, if we may so say, to cast anchor in the river of life.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

A NEW textile plant has been discovered in Mexico. Its fibres are extremely long, having the appearance of those of hemp, but are much finer. By chemical means it may be reduced to perfect whiteness, and the waste may be worked into a pulp for paper.

In a paper recently presented to the French Academy of Sciences, Dr. Chauveau examines the causes of cow-pox and virulent diseases generally, with great minuteness. His conclusion is that there are no spontaneous virulent affections, and that those which appear to be so are merely produced by a virulent germ, the origin of which is concealed from us.

Mr. Hay, American, has discovered that ozone always exists in abundance in the telegraph offices, and to this fact he attributes the immunity from cholera and contagious fevers which the clerks of those offices enjoy, as he himself remarked while professionally engaged on the telegraphic lines west of the Ohio, in 1849-54, when cholera overran nearly the whole of the American continent.

A NEW CURE FOR CONSUMPTION.—M. Fuster proposes to cure all cases of consumption by the administration of raw meat and spirits. Although his method of treatment has not been long employed by Continental physicians, considerable testimony has been borne to the great success which has attended its employment. The new treatment has now been tried satisfactorily in two thousand cases of phthisis. The raw meat is reduced to a pulp, mixed with sugar to conceal its unpleasant flavour, and administered in doses of 100 to 300 grammes per diem. The alcohol of the strength of 20° Baume is given in doses of 100 grammes a day.

It has been proved, by repeated experiments, that straw, saturated with a solution of lime or common whitewash, is incombustible. The fact is of great importance, especially as thatch is not only rendered fireproof, but more durable. A solution of alum has been tried, but being soluble the rain destroys its virtues.

WITTY AND WHIMSICAL.

COUNTER-ATTRACTION.—A pretty saleswoman. A "FANCY" FARE.—A prize-fighter in an omnibus.

BULLETS can sing and whistle, but they are not pleasant musicians.

WHY is a selfish friend like the letter P?—Because, though the first in pity, he is the last in help.

OUT of what kind of vessel ought an angry man to take his drink?—Out of a cooler.

IF a man snores loudly, can he be said to be sound asleep?

THE NEW DEFINITION FOR EVENING DRESSES.—Dresses of Eve.

THE man who made a shoe for the foot of a mountain is now engaged on a hat for the head of a discourse—after which he will manufacture a plume for General Intelligence.

A DELICATE QUESTION.—"Why is the letter d like a ring?" said a young lady to her accepted one day. The gentleman, like the generality of his sex in such a situation, was as dull as a hammer. "Because," added the lady, with a very modest look, we can't be wed without it."

WHAT is the difference between a Columbine flower and a Punch cartoon?—Why, one is perennial, the other is per Tennis.

WHEN is a sick man a contradiction? When he is an impatient patient.

A SWEET but unrefined young woman should be sent to a sugar refinery.

NEARLY all our silver, judging from the difficulty of holding it in one's grasp, must be quicksilver.

A COXCOMB told a lady that he knew her thoughts by her eyes. "Do you?" said she; "then I am sure you will keep them a secret, for they are by no means to your advantage."

LORD DUNDREARY has expressed himself favorable to marriage with a deceased wife's sister, on this ground:—"It is economical, because when a fellow marries his deceased wife's sister he has only one mother-in-law!"

SOLUTION OF HAUNTED HOUSES.—A haunted house is a tenement of any number of ordinary stories, to which is added an extra-ordinary one, in the form of a Ghost Story.

"FIRST class in geography, come up," said a country schoolmaster. "Bill Toots, what is a cape?"—"A thing that mother wears over her shoulders."—"What's a plain?"—"A tool used by carpenters for smoothing off boards."—"What's a desert?"—"It's gooseberries after dinner."—"That'll do, Bill," said the pedagogue, "I'll give you gooseberries after school."

ECCENTRIC PERSONAGE.—The individual who tried to clear his conscience with an egg is now endeavouring to raise his spirits with yeast. If he fails in this, it is his deliberate intention to blow out his brains with a bellows, and sink calmly into the arms of a young lady.

A YOUNG officer of the British House of Commons wore a tremendous pair of moustaches, on which one of the members said—"My dear fellow, now the war is over, why don't you put your moustaches on the peace establishment?" "Had you not better put your tongue on the civil list?" was the prompt and happy retort.

THE mayor of a country town was questioning the boys at the ragged-school, and he asked them what were the pomps and vanities of this wicked world. He asked them one by one, but they could not tell him. At last, a little boy near the bottom said, "I know, sir. The mayor and corporation going to church, sir."

WOMAN'S WILL.—Dip the Atlantic Ocean dry with a tea-spoon; twist your heel into the toe of your boot; send up fishing-hooks with balloons, and fish for stars; get astride a gossamer, and chase a comet; choke a mosquito with a brickbat—in short, prove all things hitherto considered impossible to be possible, but never attempt to coax a woman to say she will, when she has made up her mind to say she won't.