

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Wolf.—We have read your manuscript, but cannot insert it in its present form. It is not without merit, but the story would read better if cut down to about half its present length, as too much prominence is given to details which are uninteresting to the reader. We throw out this hint for your guidance in the future contributions you promise us. Do you wish the MSS. returned?

Bella.—It is not pleasant to write disagreeable things to a lady, but editors are sometimes compelled to do so. "O'er the Glad Waters" is not suitable for the Reader.

Telegraph.—We believe that serious suspicions were entertained by several gentlemen on board the Great Eastern, that the injuries to the cable were not the result of accident, but design. It is stated that special care will be taken to guard against any malicious attempts to injure the cable about to be manufactured.

Martinez Scriblerus.—Don't you think "you was" would exercise the schoolmaster? The other is good but too generally known. Thanks.

John S.—If the statements in your paper are correct, perhaps some of our contemporaries across the lines, ready to do battle with the prevailing vices of the day, would publish it. We return the MSS. as we prefer to believe that none of our readers are amenable to the strictures it contains.

J. T. S.—Many thanks—shall be glad to hear from you again.

Soto.—As above.

D. P. D.—We are glad to find that our young friends are interested in the Reader. Keep on "trying a little," and please forward the "good one" you promise.

Con.—We do not care to publish articles of the style you forwarded. Our friends should emulate the healthy tone and vigorous style of the writers for the best English periodicals, rather than the insipid sentimentalism which is the stock in trade of so many journals published on this continent. You can if you choose forward the other article indicated, but we will not promise to insert it.

Geo. b.—The answers will be acknowledged in the proper place. We shall probably make use of "Soret" shortly.

X. Much obliged; such pages are very acceptable.

G. H. I.—We will look over the article again, but fear it is not sufficiently interesting for publication.

R. S.—We admit at once the importance of any suggestions which may lead men to greater earnestness in the examination of their own faith, rather than that of their neighbours; we also think that an enlightened liberality should be exercised in discussing the views of others, but it does not seem to us that these lessons are clearly brought out in the allegory sent. We confess, however to some difficulty in deciphering the MSS.

H. W., Guelph.—Probably in about six weeks.

Student.—Perseverance is all that is necessary.

Ellen T.—We must refer you to the notice respecting back numbers.

Masonic.—Yes. Please forward us the circulars regularly. The Secretaries of the various Lodges can aid us materially.

George H.—Advertise in the daily papers.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

A piece of cold charcoal laid upon a burn is said to instantly subdue the pain.

Another New Planet.—No. 84 has been discovered by Dr. Luther, director of the observatory at Bilk, near Düsseldorf. It was first seen at half-past nine on August 25th, on which day, at 10h. 46m. 28s. Bilk mean time its A. R. was 233° 37' 49.1", and its declination N.—14° 20' 47.1".

Gunpowder.—Captain Schultze, of the Prussian Artillery, has patented a new kind of gunpowder, which possesses some remarkable peculiarities. It consists principally of wood reduced by a very ingenious process to very minute cylinders or grains, deprived of all their constituents other

than cellulose, and steeped in a solution of nitrate of potash and nitrate of barytes. The explosive effect of this new powder is stated to be as great as that of gun-cotton, while it does not possess the great disadvantages of the latter substance.

A Dwarf Engine.—One of the most curious articles of an exhibition, now being held in England, is a steam-engine and boiler, in miniature, and described as the "smallest steam-engine in the world." It stands scarcely two inches in height, and is covered with a glass shade. The fly-wheel is made of gold, with steel arms, and makes seven thousand revolutions per minute. The engine and boiler are fastened together with thirty-eight miniature screws and bolts, the whole weighing fourteen grains, or under one quarter of an ounce. The manufacturer says that the evaporation of six drops of water will drive the engine eight minutes. This dwarf piece of mechanism is designed and made by a clock manufacturer in Horsforth, England.

Beetle Trap.—A correspondent has sent us the following:—"I have caught a thousand beetles by placing a common white ginger-beer bottle, with a small quantity of ginger-beer in it, against the wall, or in a corner of the kitchen, in a slanting direction."

To Improve the Quality of Tea.—A French chemist asserts that if tea be ground like coffee, before hot water is put upon it, it will yield double the amount of exhilarating qualities. Another writer says that "if a piece of lump sugar, the size of a walnut, is put into the teapot, you will make the tea infuse in one-half the time."

Mahmud Bey, astronomer to the Viceroy of Egypt, has issued an interesting treatise as to the date of the building of the Pyramids, tracing their connexion with Sirius, the dogstar. The late Viceroy, said Pasha, ordered him to work out this problem. He found the measurement of the largest to be 231 metres at the base, and 146.40 from the ground to the apex. Hence it follows, that the sides are at an angle 51° 45'. Mahmud Bey found that the angles of the other three pyramids, near Memphis, were on an average inclination of 52°. The fact that the sides of these monuments are placed exactly true to the four points of the compass, seemed to point to some connexion with the stars, and Mahmud Bey found Sirius send his rays nearly vertically upon the south side, when passing the meridian of Ghizeh. He then found on calculating back the exact positions the stars occupied in past centuries, that the rays of Sirius were exactly vertical to the south side of the Great Pyramid, 3,300 B.C. Sirius was dedicated to the god Sothis or Toth Anubis, and hence the astronomer deduces that the Pyramids were built about 3,300 B.C.

WITTY AND WHIMSICAL.

Why does a soldier wear a red coat?—To keep him warm.

The young lady who was fired with indignation, had her feelings damped by disappointment, and was afterwards put out about a trifle.

Wanted to Know.—If the ministerial organs in this city resemble those built by Warren?

If the man who threw light on a dark subject was fatigued by the exercise?

Of what kind of food the German Diet consists?

If the Diet of Worms is often served up at Dolly's?

MODERN DICTIONARY.

Ad-age.—To grow old.

A-diew.—A Hebrew.

Ad-mirc.—To get dirtier.

Al-lot.—A great deal.

Bagg-age.—The age of a bag.

Break-fast.—To break quickly.

Brig-ade.—Success for a brig.

The Advantage of Long Hair.—"No one would take you for what you are," said an old-fashioned gentleman to a dandy who had more hair than brains. "Why?" was immediately asked. "Because they cannot see your ears."

A Signer Seer, on horseback meeting a lad not far from Edinburgh, asked him, "Am I half way to Edinburgh?" "Please sir," said the boy, "I dinna ken where ye cam' frae."

An old bachelor gives the following as a toast:—"The ladies, the only endurable aristocracy, who rule without laws, judge without jury, decide without appeal, and are never in the wrong."

At an evening party a very elderly lady was dancing with a young partner. A stranger approached Jerrold, who was looking on, and said, "Pray, sir, can you tell me who is the young gentleman dancing with that elderly lady?" "One of the humane society, I should think," replied Jerrold.

On the door of the parish church, not a hundred miles from Montreal, was recently affixed the following notice:—"The churchwardens will hold their quarterly meeting every six weeks, instead of half-yearly, as formerly."

"I have lost my appetite," said a gigantic Irish gentleman, and an eminent performer on the treacher, to Mark Supple. "I hope," said Supple, "no poor man has found it; for it would ruin him in a week."

A Guarded Answer.—In the Registration Court, Cupar Fife, a man was called on to appear as a witness, and could not be found. On the sheriff asking where he was, a grave, elderly gentleman rose up, and, with much emphasis, said, "My Lord, he's gone."—"Gone! gone!" said the sheriff, "where is he gone?"—"That I cannot inform you," replied the communicative gentleman; "but he's dead."

The Freedmen's Bureau.—An aged female darkey is said to have presented herself at a certain office, when the following dialogue took place:—

Old Woman.—"Is dis de Freedmen's Bureau place?"

Answer.—"It is. What will you have?"

Old Woman.—"I wants my bureau, too. Ise told that all the freed folks is 'titled to one. I don't want to be put off with a little washstand, but I wants a big bureau, and a looking-glass tu it."

Our informant left without learning the result.

Admiral Lord Howe, when a captain was once hastily awakened in the middle of the night by the lieutenant of the watch, who informed him with great agitation that the ship was on fire near the magazine. "If that be the case," said he, rising leisurely to put on his clothes, "we shall soon know it." The lieutenant flew back to the scene of danger, and almost instantly returning, exclaimed, "You need not, sir, be afraid, the fire is extinguished."—"Afraid!" exclaimed Howe, "what do you mean by that, sir! I never was afraid in my life;" and looking the lieutenant full in the face, he added, "Pray, how does a man feel, sir, when he is afraid? I need not ask how he looks."

Woman's Voice.—"The voice of women, gentlemen," said a swaggering individual, in an argument, "the voice of woman, no matter how much some of you may be inclined to sneer at the sentiment, exercises a soothing, an inspiring, a hallowing influence upon the ear of man; comforts him in affliction, encourages him in dismay, and banishes from his mind all these troubles which, when she is absent, conspire to sink him into the depths of despondency."—"Tom! you rascal!" exclaimed his wife, at this instant bursting into the room, "come home, you loitering scamp, and leave these worthless fellows to themselves. Oh! when I get you at home, won't you catch it!"

Many proverbs admit of contradiction, as witness the following:—"The more the merrier." Not so—one hand is enough in a purse. "It is a long way to the bottom of the sea." Not so—it is but a stone's cast. "Nothing but what has an end." Not so—a ring has none, for it is round.

A Jew called on to justify bail in the Court of Common Pleas, the opening counsel thus examined him:—"What is your name?"—"Jacob." "What are you?"—"General dealer." "Do you keep a shop?"—"No." "How, then, do you dispose of your goods?"—"To the best advantage, my good fellow."