

Wraith's Corner.

THE QUESTION SOLVED.

(See last Berean but one.)

The answers which I have had are correct so far as that Dick was wrong, and Tom was right. But the particular answer I looked for is not come. It was this: When Dick says, the fish is lighter than the water, he speaks of specific weight; when Tom says his lead will become heavier, he speaks of absolute weight. I will try to explain the two terms; but before doing so, I will just remind my friends of a common joke which probably they have heard used, and in which there is a puzzle of the same kind as that which caused Dick to find fault with Tom; it is sometimes asked: Which is lighter, a pound of lead, or a pound of feathers? The answer is often given in a hasty manner: The pound of feathers!—and then the poor answerer is laughed at. He imagines that the question is about specific weight; and feathers certainly are specifically lighter than lead; but one pound of feathers is absolute weight; and that is equal to the same absolute weight of lead.

I will now use the word gravity instead of weight; and explain to you that specific gravity is the weight of one substance compared with the weight of another substance precisely equal to the former in bulk. Take a cubic inch of gold, and it will weigh upwards of twice as much as a cubic inch of copper; a ball of fine silver will weigh full ten times as much as a ball of mahogany of exactly the same size. If you first weigh a cube made of copper, press it into soft wax so as to leave its exact model in it; then take it out and fill the cavity with water; afterwards weigh the water which exactly fills the cavity, and you will find that the copper weighs nine times as much as the water. I will now set down the specific gravity of several substances; the comparison is made with rain-water. If the weight of a certain bulk of such water is 1, then the weight of exactly the same bulk of

Table with 2 columns: Substance and Specific Gravity. Items include Fine gold (19.640), Lead (11.325), Fine Silver (11.091), Copper (9.000), Iron (7.645), Glass (3.000), Coal (1.250), Mahogany (1.063), Oil (0.920), Cork (0.240), Common air (0.112).

From this list you learn that mahogany has only just a little more specific gravity than rain-water; oil just a little less, hence it always rises to the top of the water; cork has much less specific gravity; hence it swims so very easily, and can help to float other substances which are much heavier.

I now stop for this time. If you like to have something to think of, till I resume the subject, take the task which Archimedes, the mathematician, had set him by Hiero, the King of Syracuse. The King had ordered a golden crown to be made, and when the goldsmith delivered it, a suspicion arose that he had kept back some of the pure gold and put base metal to make up the full weight again. Hiero required Archimedes to find out the truth of the matter; and he did, without interfering with the workmanship. The task led him to the discovery of this rule: A body, weighed in water, loses as much of its weight as is equal to that of the water it displaces. Take this rule in connection with the ascertained fact that gold is nineteen times as heavy as rain-water, and can you assign a way in which the goldsmith's fraud may have been detected?

HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

BURKE.—Edmund Burke was born in the city of Dublin on the 1st January, 1730. His father was an attorney who had first practised his profession in Limerick, but afterwards removed to the capital. His son commenced the study of the classics with a quaker of some reputation as a teacher, named Shackleton, and applied himself very faithfully while he remained with him. The young man had a great affection for his instructor, and in after life, whenever he used to visit Ireland, which he did almost annually for forty years, he never failed to pass a few days with his old master. After leaving the quaker, Edmund went to the University of Dublin, but did not distinguish himself there at all. Upon leaving this, he soon betook himself to London, and became a student at law in the Inner Temple. Here, while only preparing himself for the honourable profession which he had chosen, he was also compelled by his poverty to try and earn something by contributions to different publications of the day. After a time, he turned his attention to writings of a more substantial and lasting kind, and soon attracted attention from the elegance of his language no less than the energy and power of his style. In 1761 he returned to Ireland for a short time; soon after, through the influence of a friend, he obtained a seat in Parliament, where he may be said to have commenced his public career. Many questions of importance at that time engaged the attention of Parliament and the country, among which were the troubles just commencing in the American Colonies, which afterwards terminated in the declaration

of independence. Mr. Burke was a steady opponent of the harsh measures which were proposed against the Colonists, and, by his conduct upon this occasion as well as upon one or two others where he advocated the cause of political and religious liberty, no less than by his talents and eloquence, he acquired for himself a high character as a member of the House of Commons. In 1785, upon the return of Warren Hastings from being Governor General of the British East Indian possessions, Mr. Burke felt it his duty to call for a public investigation of the abuses which he charged upon the administration of this gentleman. A trial was granted, and lasted for seven years, and Mr. Burke as the accuser displayed great eloquence and power of language in his speeches, but the length and result of the trial disappointed his hopes. In addition to his laborious public duties, he published several works which display his usual ability. He died in 1797, in his 68th year.

CHARLES JAMES FOX.—The subject of this notice, unlike many others in the list of distinguished characters, was descended from a noble family, being the second son of Lord Holland, and was born on the 13th of January, 1749. He was also related, by his mother's side, to the unfortunate royal house of Stuart. He passed many years of his boyhood at the celebrated public school of Eton, from which he went to Oxford University. The record of his life at both these institutions is anything but satisfactory to "Bereans." Being the favourite child of his father, he was supplied by him with money in the most indiscreet manner which, of course, exposed him to many temptations; and though at Eton he showed some signs of the talents which he possessed, he was more remarkable, while there and at Oxford, for his extravagance and dissipation than for diligence and attention to his studies. Having left Oxford, Mr. Fox travelled for some time on the Continent of Europe, where he continued his extravagant style of living. To give some idea of the money wasted in this way, it is stated, that £100,000 were paid by Lord Holland for debts contracted by his son before he became of age! The dissolute habits, thus acquired in youth, became confirmed by advancing years; and though his talents were such as to raise him at once to public favour when he became a politician, justice compels the acknowledgment that his private life was neither conformable to the laws of morality nor of religion. The period when Mr. Fox commenced his public career by obtaining a seat in the House of Commons, which he did when only nineteen years old, was favourable for one of his character and qualifications, and he soon attracted the notice of the Government, by whom he was appointed to the office of Lord of the Treasury; but it was not long before he lost his office and became the opponent of Ministers. Subsequently Mr. Fox held office under two different administrations, but they did not continue long in power, and for twenty years he acted with the opposition. In the year 1780, the celebrated Wm. Pitt first took his seat in Parliament as a friend of the party which Mr. Fox opposed; so that these two distinguished individuals almost immediately came in contact, and continued to be rivals during their lives. During this eventful period of English History, many things occurred to draw forth Mr. Fox's abilities, and to display his eloquence and skill as a debater. After the death of his great rival in 1806, Fox once more was called to the Ministry. Having been always averse to the war then unhappily raging with France, he soon embraced an opportunity which presented itself for opening a correspondence with the French minister Talleyrand, and this subsequently led to negotiations, though unhappily they were fruitless at the time. One act of Mr. Fox's administration, entitles him to public distinction and gratitude for the share which he had in promoting it. The African slave-trade had not then been declared unlawful, but was carried on to a great extent. Mr. Fox had always contended for the abolishment of this cruel and un-Christian traffic, and he had the gratification of obtaining, after many disappointments, the full and final consent of Parliament to a bill for this purpose, which was brought in while he was Prime Minister. He did not long survive, but died on the 13th of September 1806, aged 57 years. GS.

THE CONTRAST. Not many weeks since, the Eclair steamer anchored in Funchal roads. The dread yellow flag drooped from her mast-head. A strange and deadly sickness had swept off two-thirds of her officers and men. Her captain and both her surgeons had perished. The wan, worn survivors sought relief from the inhabitants of Madeira. The governor of the island deemed it his painful duty to forbid any intercourse between the plague-ship and the shore. He sternly commanded them to weigh their anchor and depart. The scanty crew of the steamer, already insufficient to carry on the duty of the vessel, was daily becoming scantier under the attacks of the fever. The

equinox was at hand. In this pitiable plight, without medical aid, they were on the point of being compelled to put to sea, and cross the Bay of Biscay. There chanced, however, to be at Madeira, Sidney Bernard, an English surgeon. This man and seven seamen, volunteers from English merchantmen, came forward and offered their services in taking the Eclair home. It is needless to waste words in praising their noble conduct. A more signal act of cool, disinterested heroism is not on record. The Eclair reached the Motherbank. The fever still raged between her decks. Many had died on the passage from Madeira, the pilot who boarded her in the channel died, and the heroic Sidney Bernard, having accomplished the humane task he had assigned himself, died also. A merchant at York speculated boldly and successfully in railroads. He bought in as low as he could, he sold out as high as he could; and when he made a permanent investment, he took the best care he could that the concern in which he had placed his capital should be well managed. He was a clear-headed, energetic man. His gains were enormous. He is now an M.P., a large landed proprietor, and, as for his possessions in railway shares, he and the Income-tax Commissioners can alone guess at their amount. His name is George Hudson. Many people have closely watched his operations in the share-market, and have imitated them. Many people have sought his advice and followed it; and many people, by so doing, have made much money, and hope to make more by the same means. So, in order to evince their gratitude for past and future favours, the British public have got up a subscription for a testimonial to the most successful speculator of the day. In the list are to be seen the names of the noblest, the wisest, the fairest in the land. Nearly £20,000 has already been collected for the Hudson Testimonial, and money still pours in. Alas for Sidney Bernard and the gallant volunteers of the Eclair; alas for their widows and orphans! No testimonial is proposed to record their daring humanity; no subscription is raised to provide for the families of the dead, and to reward the unselfish courage of the survivors. Our nobility and gentry crowd forward in hundreds to do homage in purse and person to the Railway King, but not a single individual has appeared desirous of rewarding, or even noticing, the high deserts and melancholy fate of Sidney Bernard and his companions in danger and in death. Nov. 19. M. S. II.

REBUKE TO RAILWAY SPECULATORS. At the Birmingham District Court of Bankruptcy, on the 21st of November last, Mr. Commissioner Balguy delivered his sentiments upon the case of a Bankrupt, J. H. Suckling, in the following terms: "I think the present case is one of so much importance, as it is the first of the kind which has occurred before me, that I shall not now deliver judgment upon it, or say how far I may be disposed to exercise the power which is vested in my hands. I quite agree with Mr. Smith, that in the exercise of my power I should look into all the circumstances by which the case is surrounded. It appears that the bankrupt in the present case commenced business in 1843 with no other capital than £100. of his own, and a further sum of £300. which he had borrowed from his father. In this state of things the bankrupt thought fit, in the spring of 1845, to embark those means in speculation which he ought to have retained in his own hands for the legitimate purposes of trade. Now I must say that any one in the situation of a trader who acts in this manner, greatly misconducts himself. Perhaps, however, this palliation might be pleaded for the bankrupt—that he was but following the example of those whom he might reasonably look upon as his superiors. When he finds the magistrate, the clergyman, and others of station and education, rushing with impatient and importunate eagerness into

these gambling adventures, I can well understand how easily a person in his situation might fall before such temptation. With respect to the examples of those of the clergy who have lent themselves to such transactions, I cannot express myself too strongly—men who, with great semblance of piety and zeal, in their holy temples fulminate the loudest denunciations against the selfishness and wickedness of mankind, are nevertheless to be seen rushing with a zeal as ardent, and perhaps more sincere, to the temples of Mammon to gratify their cupidity. Wealth is power, and a power which most of us are anxious to possess; but it must be sought and acquired by honest and honourable means—by the display of talents—by the exertion of industry. The mania that has so long prevailed could furnish cases which, morally speaking, deserve the greatest punishment, and might probably be made the subject of criminal prosecution. Whether the defrauded and plundered victims who have been thus injured will have spirit and energy enough to expose the frauds by which they have suffered, or to bring the perpetrators to that punishment they so well deserve, I know not. It is possible these bad men may escape with apparent impunity, but there is a tribunal from which there is no retreat—the jurisdiction of conscience, that principle of the mind whose prerogative it is to prescribe to every other, and to pronounce that sentence from which there is no appeal, and which admits of no mitigation. That the time will come when we shall see these frauds exposed, I do most heartily and sincerely hope. I have expressed myself thus upon the subject, as it is one upon which I have thought with much anxiety. I should be gratified if anything I have said would serve to reclaim one adventurer, or deter others from plunging into transactions which present the chance of such fearful consequences. The case before me, though it is not upon a great scale, furnishes a perfect and striking illustration. If the bankrupt had abstained from the speculations, he would not have been called upon by his father to repay him that money which he had advanced for the purposes of trade. The bankrupt might have progressed slowly but surely, and at this moment he might have been not only a solvent, but a prosperous man. I conclude, therefore, as I began, that as regards the certificate, the case is of too much importance to permit me to decide immediately upon it." Reported by the London Times.

PROFITABLE FORGETFULNESS.—The reason why the men of the world think so little of Christ is, that they do not look at him. Their backs being turned to the sun, they can see only their own shadows; and are therefore wholly taken up with themselves. While the true disciple looks only upwards, sees nothing but his Saviour, and learns to forget himself.—PAYSON. AFFLICTIONS CONTROLLED BY GOD.—His mercy hath set a period and appointed a place how far and no farther the sea of affliction shall flow; and where the waves thereof shall be stayed.—RETHEFORD.

F. H. ANDREWS, ORGAN & PIANO-FORTE TUNER. NATIONAL SCHOOL, Nov. 1845. NOTICE. THE undersigned has been appointed Agent for the AETNA INSURANCE COMPANY, of Hartford, Ct., and is now prepared to take risks against Fire.—This office has now an Agency in Montreal, which has been in operation for the last 20 years, has been always prompt and liberal in settlement of losses. Such being its character, the undersigned looks for a portion of the public confidence and patronage. DANIEL MCGIE, Quebec, 7th July, 1845. HUNT'S WHARF.

PHOENIX FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF LONDON. THIS Company, which established its Agency in Canada in 1804, continues to assure against fire. Office, Gillespie's Wharf, open from 10, A. M. to 4 P. M. GILLESPIE, GREENSHIELDS & Co. Quebec, 7th July, 1845.

Mutual Life Assurance SCOTTISH AMicable LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, HEAD OFFICE, 141, BUCHANAN-STREET, GLASGOW. THE Constitution and Regulations of this Society insure to its Members the full benefits which can be derived from such sums as they are willing to devote to the important duty of LIFE INSURANCE. The whole profits are secured to the Policy holders by the Mutual System on which the Society is established, and their allocation to the Members is made on fair, simple, and popular principles. It is provided by the Rules, that the whole Directors, Ordinary and Extraordinary, shall be Members of the Society, by holding Policies of Insurance for Life with it, of more than three years' standing. This rule secures to the Public that those Noblemen and Gentlemen who appear as Directors of the Society, have practically approved of its principles. For further particulars, with tables of Premiums, apply to R. M. HARRISON, Agent for Canada, Quebec, August, 1845.

NEWCASTLE, Wallsend, Grate & Smith's Coals, for Sale by H. H. Porter & Co. Porter & Co's Wharf, Late Irvine's, Quebec, 29th May, 1845. THE Girls' department of the British and Canadian School will re-open on Monday, the 6th instant, in a room in the Military Asylum. JEFFERY HALE, Quebec, 2nd Oct. 1845. EDUCATION. MISS EVANS begs to inform her friends and the public, that she proposes opening a FRENCH and ENGLISH SEMINARY at No. 1 Des Grisons Street, Cape, on MONDAY, 5th MAY NEXT. Reference can be given to most respectable families in this city, where she has instructed as visiting Governess for some years past. For terms (which are moderate) apply at the School. An early application is requested, as the number of pupils will be limited.—Particular attention will be paid to Biblical instruction. Quebec, 15th April, 1845. QUEBEC HIGH SCHOOL. REVD. E. J. SENKLER, A. M. Of the University of Cambridge, B. A. & D. D. CLASSICS, MATHEMATICS, AND NATURAL PHILOSOPHY. REVD. E. J. SENKLER. CLASSICS.....W. S. SMITH. ENGLISH.....LEWIS SLEEPER. ARITHMETIC.....DANIEL WILKIE. FRENCH AND DRAWING.....H. D. THIELCKE. PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT.....REVEREND J. MEMORINE. DIRECTORS. REVD. DR. COOK. REVD. G. MACKIE. REVD. J. CLUGSTON. ANDREW PATERSON, Esq. JAMES DEAN, Esq. JOHN BONNER, Esq. JAS. GIBB, Esq. W. S. SEWELL, Esq. REVD. D. WILKIE, LL. D. JOHN THOMSON, Esq. NOAH FREER, Esq. ROBERT SHAW, Esq. H. GOWEN, Esq. HON. F. W. PRIMROSE, JOHN McLEOD, Esq. Secretary, JAMES DEAN, Esq. Treasurer, JOHN THOMSON, Esq. Charges for boys under 10 years of age, £10 above 10 years of age, £12 10 per annum,—payable quarterly, in advance. French and Drawing, a separate charge. Hours from 9 to 12, and from 1 to 3. PREPARATORY DEPART.—Terms, £7 10s. per an. The branches taught in this department will be English Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, English Grammar, Geography, and the elements of the French Language. The moral, as well as intellectual, training of the pupils, and their religious instruction will be special objects of the Teacher. High School, 22d January, 1845. MONTREAL TYPE FOUNDRY. TO THE PRINTERS AND PROPRIETORS OF NEWSPAPERS IN CANADA, NOVA SCOTIA, &c. &c. THE Undersigned having purchased the above Establishment, begs to solicit a continuance of the Patronage which has been heretofore so liberally bestowed upon him as Agent to the Foundry. Having revised and greatly added to the material, he can confidently recommend the Type now manufactured by him as equal to any manufactured on this Continent. The services of an experienced practical man, from New York, have been engaged in the mechanical department, and the Printers, in this City are confidently appealed to as to the beauty and quality of the Type cast in this Foundry. A specimen will be shortly issued, when the Proprietor will do himself the pleasure of waiting upon the Trade; in the meantime, he will be happy to see or hear from those inclined to give him their support. Old Type taken in Exchange at 6d. per Pound. Printers' Materials, and any article not manufactured in Montreal, brought in from New York at 20 per cent. in advance. CHAS. T. PALSGRAVE, June 12th, 1845. PRINTING WORK, OF EVERY DESCRIPTION, BEING EXECUTED BY THE OFFICE OF THE BEREAN; On the most reasonable terms. THE BEREAN, EDITED BY A CLERGYMAN OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND, Is published every THURSDAY Morning BY G. S. T. & S. L. B. W., Printer, Bookseller and Stationer, 4, ANN-STREET. TERMS:—Fifteen Shillings a-Year, or Twelve Shillings and Six Pence if paid in advance. The Rev. MARK WILLOUGHBY, (Montreal, " " CHARLES BANCROFT, " " W. THOMPSON, Christeville, Mr. BENJ. BURLAND, St. John's, " SAMUEL MUCKLESTON, Kingston, are so kind as to act for the Berean. Terms in Great Britain:—Ten Shillings Sterling in advance. Subscriptions will be received by Mr. JOHN HENRY JACKSON, Bookseller, Islington Green, Islington, London. Terms in the United States, including postage to the lines:—33 Dollars a-year, or 34 Dollars if paid in advance; AGENTS AT New York at 75 Nassau-street, Mr. F. G. FISB. Brooklyn at 41 Front-street, Boston: Mr. CHARLES STRIMSON, Washington-St. ADVERTISEMENTS, delivered in the evening before the day of publication, inserted according to order, at 2s. 6d. for six lines and under, first insertion, and 7d. for each subsequent insertion; for ten lines and above six lines 3s. 4d. first insertion and, 10d. each subsequent insertion; above ten lines 4d. per line first insertion, and 1d. per line each subsequent insertion. Advertising by the year or for a considerable time as may be agreed upon.