

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

OTAWA.—Yes, if really good. We like the ring of the first stanza, and were the rest equally good, we should be glad to publish your communication.

BOGGY WALLAH.—The MS. is laid aside for publication as soon as we can make room for it.

IONA, BELLEVILLE.—We do not make the slightest distinction, and shall be glad to receive any papers you may think proper to forward.

JANE.—Respectfully declined.

H. E. C.—We have not yet found time to read your article; if accepted, it will appear in our next issue.

ARDA DEBRYN.—Certainly, whenever you feel disposed to do so. Much oblige

ROBIN.—Quite acceptable.

X. Y., STRATFORD.—Your letter is laden with good things, and we shall not be slow to place them before the lovers of our Pastime Column.

S. J. C., OTTAWA.—Will you please explain your propositions respecting the parliamentary gentlemen.

CANADA.—Will give your communication our careful attention.

S. B. R., HAMILTON.—We are exceedingly obliged to you, both for your good wishes and the trouble you have taken, but do not think we could consistently publish your contribution.

S. G., QUESBEC.—Much obliged.—Will you be good enough to forward an explanation of the "letter?"

DUNCES.—It was held in Coventry, Warwickshire, in the reign of Henry IV, and called the "Parliament of Dunces" because lawyers were excluded from it. Judging from the complexion of our Legislative Assembly, one would think that the lawyers had determined that we shall not be blessed with a "Parliament of Dunces" in Canada.

T. H., OTTAWA.—Your contribution will appear in an early issue.

SCOTIA.—Respectfully declined.

W. O., CONROCK.—Messrs. Robert Hendery & Co., 590 Craig Street, are manufacturing silver-smiths of long standing, and would, we have no doubt, execute any orders you may give them to your satisfaction.

F. B. D.—The piece is longer than we care to publish, unless there are special inducements as to style or subject; but we will keep it near us, and if we find, upon further examination that we can insert it, we shall be happy to do so.

JAMES PROCTOR.—Please accept our thanks. The O. D's. were specially acceptable, and we shall be very glad to receive more. We answer your question in the affirmative—there is sometimes a sublimity in impertinence, is there not?

H. H. V.—Welcome as an old friend.

JAS. H.—Yes, if you wish us to do so.

## HOUSEHOLD RECEIPTS.

GLUE IMPERVIOUS TO WATER.—If a coating of glue or size be brushed over with a decoction of one part powdered nutgalls in twelve of water, reduced to eight parts, and strained, it becomes hard and solid. It makes a good coat for ceilings to whitewash on, and for lining walls for paper hangings.

HOW TO CURE SCALDS FROM STEAM.—Apply ordinary white lead, mixed to a thick cream with linseed oil. No danger exists from lead-poisoning, and if it did, sulphuric acid lemonade, which we take to mean water slightly acidulated with oil of vitriol, would be the only prophylactic needed.

CLARIFYING LIQUORS WITH BURNED CLAY.—Burnt clay is a very effective means of clarifying wine, liquors, beer, vinegar, and cider. You may use broken flower-pots, or any unglazed pottery-ware free from lime. These materials must be finely powdered in a mortar, and washed with water, let them rest for one hour, and decant the water containing the finely distributed dust-like particles of clay. Repeat the same operation with another portion of pure water, and afterwards dry the burnt clay. Two or three pounds of this material should be used for one

barrel; shake the fluid thoroughly with the clay, and allow it to rest. If necessary, the fluid should be finely filtered.

CLEANING RIBBONS.—Wet the ribbon in alcohol, and fasten one end of it to something that will hold it firm; hold the other in your hand, keeping the ribbon out straight and smooth; rub it with a piece of Castile soap until it looks decidedly soapy; then rub hard with a sponge, or, if much soiled, with the back of a knife, keeping the ribbon dripping wet with alcohol. When you have exhausted your patience, and think it clean, rinse thoroughly in alcohol, fold between cloths, and iron with a hot iron. Don't wring the ribbon; if you do, it will get creases in it that you cannot get out.

## SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL

Dr. Murchison believes, and the London *Lancet* endorses the belief, that rinderpest is virulent small-pox, shows that all the symptoms are identical, suspects that herds which have had the cow-pox are exempt and suggests the vaccination of all cattle.

RELATIVE WEIGHT. A weight which could only be three ounces on the moon would be one pound on the earth, and the same force would throw a body six and a half times farther or higher on the former body.

M. Gaudin, the eminent French chemist, has recently made a valuable discovery in the manufacture of iron. He finds that by adding to it, when in a state of fusion, peroxide of manganese and phosphate of iron, a degree of excessive hardness is acquired, which makes the metal especially valuable when used in machinery.

ELECTRICITY AS A MEANS OF TAKING CORRECT SOUNDINGS IN DEEP WATERS.—In taking deep-sea soundings, the great difficulty is to determine the exact moment at which the lead touches the bottom. It is now proposed that the sounding-line should be a kind of light telegraph cable, which, by means of the electric current, could be made either simply to give warning, by ringing a bell or otherwise, of the lead having touched the bottom, or to put in action an automatic brake, and so prevent any more line passing into the water.

Electro-telegraphy owes much to Prof. Wheatstone; but his latest achievement excels all we have yet heard of. With his improved automatic instrument, properly manipulated, he can transmit six hundred distinctly legible signs or letters in a minute.

At a recent meeting of the Astronomical Society, Mr. De La Rue, the President, stated that his hopes with regard to the use of photography in astronomical observations had been confirmed, and that the Lunar Committee of the British Association had resolved to make use of photographs to prepare an accurate outline map of the moon. Sections of these photographs are to be distributed among observers, who will occupy themselves with filling in the details of the several parts of the lunar surface. A series of zones being agreed on, each observer will have a zone assigned him, at which he will be expected to work whenever it may be visible. Amateur astronomers, willing to take part in this good work, should make known their willingness to the Secretary of the Astronomical Society.

In one of the French scientific journals a new method has been given for the preparation of modelling clay for sculptors. The clay at present employed dries very quickly, and is on that account objectionable. It is suggested to employ glycerine in moistening it. The product thus obtained will possess all the good qualities of wax, but will be considerably less expensive, and will be superior to it in retaining the same consistency whatever the temperature to which it is exposed. Before the glycerine is added to the clay, the latter must be well dried and pulverized. Any water left in it would subsequently destroy the plasticity, as it would pass off by evaporation, and thus leave the clay without the necessary amount of liquid for the preservation of its elasticity.

## WITTY AND WHIMSICAL.

Why is electricity like the police when they are wanted?—Because it is an invisible force.

Mrs Partington is horrified to hear that French dancing girls execute their *grand pas* on the stage, with the people all looking at 'em, and applauding of 'em too.

A blind man, having walked the streets with a lighted lantern, an acquaintance met him, and exclaimed, in some surprise, "what is the use of that light to you? You know every street and turning—it does you no good. You can't see a bit the better." "No," replied the old man, "I don't carry the light to make me see, but to prevent fools from running against me."

Dr. Kitchener, who prided himself on his orderly dinner parties, had the following words written over his mantelpiece:—"Come at seven, go at eleven." The young Coleman, being one day the doctor's guest, inserted the word "it" in the last line, and made it read "go it at eleven."

When Henry Erskine was appointed to succeed Dundas as Lord Advocate, the latter offered him the loan of his silk gown, saying, "For the short time you'll want it, you had better borrow mine." "I have no doubt," replied Erskine, "that your gown is made 'to fit any party;' but however short my time may be in office, it shall never be said that Henry Erskine put on the 'abandoned habits' of his predecessor."

RESPECTABLE HUSBANDS WANTED.—An attorney who wished to show his smartness by quizzing an old farmer, began by asking him if there were many girls in his neighbourhood. "Yes," replied the old man, "there's a dreadful sight of 'em—so many that there ain't half enough respectable husbands for 'em all, and so some of 'em are beginning to take up with lawyers!"

An Irish gentleman entered a bookseller's shop in Dublin the other day, with a valuable work, which, he said, was to be bound in a superior style. "And how will you have it done?" said the bookbinder; "in Russia?"—"in Russia? certainly not!" was the reply.—"in Morocco, then?" continued the shopkeeper.—"No! neither in Russia nor Morocco," rejoined the patriot; "if you can't do it here, I'll take it to the bookbinder over the way!"

A MAN advertises for competent persons to undertake the sale of a new medicine, and adds "that it will be profitable to the undertaker!" No doubt of it.

There is a lady who has so entirely renounced the male sex that she will not wear a mantle, have a *boyler* in the kitchen grate; calls herself a good *womanager*, and scarcely thinks it right to use a *ladle*.

A CHINESE STORY. There were two short-sighted men who were always quarrelling as to which of them could see best; and, as they heard there was to be a tablet erected at the gate of a neighbouring temple, they determined they would visit it together on a given day, and put the visual powers to the test. But, each desiring to take advantage of the other, Ching went immediately to the temple, and, looking quite close to the tablet, saw an inscription with the words, "To the great man of the past and the future." Chang also went prying yet closer, and in addition to the inscription "To the great man of the past and the future," he read from smaller characters, "This tablet was raised by the family of Ling, in honour of the great man."

On the day appointed, standing at a distance from which neither could read, Ching exclaimed, "The inscription is, 'To the great man of the past and the future.'"

"True," said Chang: "but you have left out a part of the inscription, which I can read, but you cannot, and which is written in small characters—'Erected by the family of Ling, in honour of the great man.'"

"There is no such inscription," said Ching.

"There is," said Chang.

So they waxed wroth, and, after abusing one another, agreed to refer the matter to the high priest of the temple.

After he heard their story, he quietly said, "Gentlemen, there is no tablet to read: it was taken into the interior of the temple yesterday."