(For the Quebec Mercury.)

[some suppressed.

The Beatles and Wesps of former years
Were worthy and the Bull Baiterers;
Their work was done, and their steam was low,
And they never broke down or blew up we know.
Here abandoned these side and counting ways,
And having no much of a spice of the Times,
Their new engineering measure be called civil-
They got up the steam,
Too high it would seem,
And wanting the firmness and skill of the first,
They pushed at the fire till the boiler burst,
And the House was involved in under fate.
By the bad engineering of Beatles and Watt.
T. S.

* For an account of these old-fashioned men see Edinburgh Review for January, 1808.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Cæsar's Warfare of the Romans.—Joseph Scaliger asserted that the Romans had a cursive handwriting. Some doubted, but on the which each continued to be the creed of the learned down to our own time. Behold, some inscriptions of Athens years ago, the Austrians set about improving the channel of the Danube, to make it fit for steamboats, and the first point was to remove Trajan's towing-path, which other hands had cut out of the face of the cliff, and all but obliterated by the accidents of war and weather. One day, in hewing at this gallery, the workmen revealed the mouth of a cavern, probably natural, but widened by human skill, and which had sometimes contained men. Here the headquarters of a clerk of the works, or contracting engineer. In the subterranean relics were found the original day-books of Trajan's servant, namely, some of the familiar Roman tablets, eye over size of the familiar Roman tablets, boards of wood with hinges, each set inclosing two or four pages of quarryman's names and calculations of wages inscribed on wax, and to the names were set only in capitals, but others in running hand, actually finished with our own, though Trajan's clerk had to use no compendiums and accordingly the same letters have ever since (except when contracted into sedition) been at daggers-drawn among themselves about the decypherment of the great Emperor's masons and paviours. The moral is masonry. We are not now with discoveries. Not a fifth part of Pompeii has yet been discovered, and Herculaneum, and Constantinople, we cannot say revelations enough. The tradition of some vast deposit of ancient literature among the vaults of the Seraglio is coeval with the fall of the city.—Mohammed II. was as unlikely as any prince then or since to approve of destroying the private library of the Paleologi.—*Quarterly Review.*

By Hook or by Crook.—The destruction caused by the fire of London, A.D. 1666, during which some 13,200 houses, thirty-four churches burned down, in very many cases obliterated all the boundary marks requisite to determine the extent of land, and even the very sites occupied by buildings previously to this terrible visitation. When the rubbish was removed, and the land cleared, the disputes and entangled claims of those whose houses had been destroyed, both as to the position and extent of property, and as to the promised not only immediate consideration in the courts of law, but made the cure worse than evil by delaying the rebuilding of the city, until these disputes were settled amicably. Impelled by the necessity of coming to a more speedy settlement of their respective claims than could be hoped for from legal process, it was determined that the claims and interest of all persons concerned should be referred to the judgment and decision of two of the most experienced land surveyors of that day—men who had been thoroughly acquainted with London previous to the fire; and in order to escape from the numerous and vast evils which must delay must occasion, that the decision of these two arbitrators should be final and binding. The surveyors appointed to determine the rights of the various claimants were Mr. Hook and Mr. Crook, who, by the justice of their decisions, gave general satisfaction to the interested parties, and by their speedy determination of the different claims promoted the rebuilding of the city to a pitch of splendour without the least delay. Hence arose the saying above quoted, usually applied to the arbitration of persons or things from a difficulty. The above anecdote was told the other evening by an old citizen upwards of eighty, by no means of an imaginative temperament.—*Notes and Queries.*

Singular Circumstance.—A letter was dropped into the Paris Post Office, directed thus: "To my Mother, France." The distributors and subordinates not knowing what to make of so laconic an address, referred it to the Post Master General. "Now, is it possible that there is such a fool in France, I mean in that office? (if there is, he must come from Lois et Cher; for that's the department that produces all the fools, and there his mother must live.) So the letter was forwarded to the Lois et Cher. The clerks and postmaster being as much puzzled as their brethren in Paris. Handed the mission to the chief officer of the district. 'Now, Sir,' said the chief, 'if there is no such person; if there is, he must be a resident of the Commune of Sercaseon, where all the fools come from—the mother must live there.' The Postmaster of Sercaseon was as much puzzled as he of Paris, at the stupidity of the writer, but immediately concluded that if there was one fool in France, it could be no other than Jean Stainsapy whose mother lived in a little brown house on the corner. The letter was sent in Mrs. Brainsapy, and turned out to be in reality from her affectionate son Jean. The French postal revenue was increased five cents by this act of perseverance in tracing up 'My Mother.'

Should the Agriculturist be Educated.—It has been too often thought that little or no education was requisite to prepare the mind to perform the duties of a husbandman—that instinct, together with a little reading, and a little arithmetic, were sufficient to direct him in the performance of all his duties. And although this false view of human improvement is loosing ground, and the great mass of the people are beginning to learn the real object to be attained in Education, yet it is now far from being as absolute idea. A man should be educated—not because he is to follow a particular trade or occupation—not because he is to fill a particular place or position in society—not because he is to follow a certain profession, but because he is a man. The intellectual to mental cultivation are higher than to those whose business it is to labour for their support. More elevated than the mere gratification and skill of the first. And as to the latter, they are equally necessary to both. He is called upon to be educated by Education. He is to be educated because he may possess a mind whose energies, when developed, are capable of elevating him above the brutal nature of the untutored world. —multiplied infinitely his sources of enjoyment—prepares him to act his part upon the stage of life with dignity—to turn the talents with which he is given him to his use, to appear in the world as a man, a citizen, a friend, and finally to prove himself worthy to be ranked by civilization.

But if these objects be attainable to mental cultivation in the nature of the pursuit should still be other and more grounds for the support. They are in the nature of the farmer's occupation. They are in the nature of the farmer's occupation. They are in the nature of the farmer's occupation