

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

**Dot.**—We will endeavour to give you the information you ask for in our next issue. Thanks!

**R. M. B.**—Will appear in an early issue.

**A. B. C.**—An old friend with a new name, or initials rather. Are we not right? We will find a place for your contribution.

**B. B., HAMILTON.**—There is a paper published in New Brunswick which we believe will afford you the information you require. We think it is called the "Stamp Collector's Guide" but are not quite sure. Address a letter to the Editor, George Stewart, jr., box 67 P. O., St. Johns, N. B., and he will forward you a copy of the paper.

**M. M.**—Please forward one of the MSS., and we will write you if accepted.

**E. H.**—We are sorry to be obliged to say that we cannot give you the information asked for. We only know the lady under the *nom de plume* you quote. To the other point we reply "not now," but if you will take the trouble to forward us something else we will try, and make room for it.

**UMPH.**—Not suited to the columns of the READER.

**W. O.**—Respectfully declined.

**G. C. G.**—We have not at present been able to look through the M.S., but we note your request and will carefully attend to it. Many thanks for your kindness, of which we will not hesitate to avail ourselves, should opportunity offer.

**A. D., KINGSTON.**—Perhaps not exactly the same, but we have met with a number of similar paragraphs. "Wich Street," near the Strand, London, is said to have been the occasion of a notable blunder of the kind referred to.

**G.**—The ideas are prettily expressed, but the incorrectness of the versification compels us to decline publishing the lines as we have them at present. Will not G. take the trouble to rewrite them?

**G. H. H.**—We are glad to have heard from you again, and will give your contribution a place in an early issue.

**LOYALIST.**—Should the Prince of Wales die before he becomes king, his eldest son would be the next heir to the throne.

**ELLEN.**—"Dieu et mon droit," was selected by Richard Cœur de Lion as the pass-word, at one of the battles fought by him in Palestine; the words have since been continued as the royal motto of England.

**JOHN S.**—Much obliged for your good wishes.

**H. C. C.**—We did not forward the numbers for the purpose you suggest, but supposed you would like a few extra copies of that issue. Many thanks, nevertheless, for your efforts to promote the circulation of the READER. We have not at present been able to give our attention to your last contribution.

**ONE INTERESTED.**—Until some special act be passed by Congress, animals will be admitted into the United States, free, notwithstanding the repeal of the Reciprocity Treaty.

**G. W.**—We are sorry that we cannot use your contribution.

## MISCELLANEA.

A TERRIBLE illustration of the necessity for making the doors of all places where large assemblies are gathered to open outwards has just been afforded by the destruction, by fire, of fifty-four men in a wooden building at Cronstadt, of which the only means of egress opened inwards, so that when the imprisoned and imperilled creatures strove to escape, their own terror gathered them *en masse* against the door, and their weight kept it firmly closed.

A SCRAP of news received from the working party who are erecting the telegraph in Russian America makes known that large tracts of gold-bearing strata have been discovered in a high Northern latitude, better in quality than the auriferous deposits of California. Are we to hear of a rush to these bleak diggings? Russia already extracts gold from her Siberian provinces to the value of twenty-two million roubles annually.

THE eminent Sicilian archæologist, Signor Cavallari, is superintending the excavations which have been recommenced on the site of the old Phœnician town of Solunt. Three streets of the town, one of which appears to have been the principal street, have already been discovered. The glass utensils found during these excavations, many of which have Greek inscriptions, are now in the museum at Palermo.

THE SILENT COAL-SCUTTLE.—A very simple remedy has been suggested for the annoyance caused to invalids by the act of putting coals on the fire. It consists in rapping the coals in paper bags, and placing them quietly on the fire with the hand, when the bags quickly ignite, and leave the coals to be distributed noiselessly over the fire.

THERE has been a discovery of closely packed human remains at Milcote, near Stratford-on-Avon. It is supposed that altogether there are some 3,000 skeletons, and that the spot must have been a battle-field.

THE Emperor of the French will personally take part in the Universal Exhibition of 1867. His Majesty will appear in the list of exhibitors whose productions will specially interest the working classes, and intends sending specimens of habitations for artisans and mechanics, which will unite cheapness of construction with sanitary comfort. These houses are to be erected within the park of the Exhibition.

## SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

WHEN ink is faded, the iron still remains in the paper, and the ink can be reproduced by the application of a solution containing tannic or gallic acid.

LIEBIG suggests that in close rooms and on ship-board deficient ventilation may be compensated for by the use of hydrate of lime. Eighteen or twenty pounds of slaked lime will absorb thirty-eight or thirty-nine cubic feet of carbonic acid gas, which would be immediately replaced by an equal volume of fresh air entering through the crevices.

FOSSIL REMAINS IN IRELAND.—Dr. E. P. Wright recently read a paper at the meeting of the Royal Irish Academy, by Professor Huxley and himself, on the fossil remains of some large Batrachian reptiles from the Irish coal measures. It was stated that these fossil remains rested on the very bottom of the coal basin at Castlecomer, 1,850 feet below the sea level. The reptiles were six Batrachians; there was one fossil fish and one fossil insect. Professor Haughton said he had Professor Huxley's authority for stating that the coalpit at Castlecomer had, within a few months, afforded more important discoveries than all the other coalpits of Europe.

A NEW propeller has been tried in the port of Algiers on a brig of 400 tons with complete success. It works under water, and by it a ship may be brought round almost instantly without the aid of wind or steam. This apparatus is, moreover, a valuable addition to the double screw.

STONE is now sawn in France with great rapidity and economy by means of a perforated disc of iron on which a coating of lead has been cast, the perforations serving to connect and bind the plates of lead thus formed on the two sides of the disc. The lead is kept well covered with emery, which falls on it from a reservoir above.

M. F. PLATEAU has been making some new experiments upon the muscular force exerted by insects. By attaching a wire to the legs of insects he ascertains the weight they draw on a given surface, and finds that a beetle, *dromica nymphaea*, can pull 42.7 of its own weight. If a horse were equally powerful he would be able to draw more than 50,000 lb. weight.

BRONZING TIN CASTINGS.—When clean, wash them with a mixture of one part each of sulphate of copper and sulphate of iron in twenty parts of water; dry and wash again with distilled vinegar eleven parts, and verdigris four parts. When dry, polish with colcothar.

## WITTY AND WHIMSICAL.

If your neighbour's offence is rank, don't let yours be rancour.

THE HEIGHT OF ABSURDITY.—A vegetarian attending a cattle show.

A MISNOMER.—Calling a certain nether garment between four and five feet in diameter, "a pettycoat."

WOMAN'S MISSION.—Sub-mission.

In the window of a shop, in an obscure part of London, is this announcement:—"Goods removed, messages taken, carpets beaten, and poetry composed on any subject."

An accident which occurred on one of the railroads, caused by the axle of a tender giving way, detained the train several hours. A lady inquired of a gentleman passenger why it was so delayed; he gravely replied, "Madam, it was occasioned by what is often followed by serious consequences—the sudden breaking of a tender attachment."

BETTER THAN NOTHING.—A hungry friend said at Brummell's table, after the beau had fallen in fortune, that nothing was better than cold beef. "I beg your pardon," returned Brummell, "cold beef is better than nothing."

LIKELY TO LAST.—"I've raised a new pair of boots," said A to B, putting forward one as a sample; "a handsome fit? I bought them to wear in genteel society?"—"They will be likely to last your lifetime, then," rejoined B, "and be worth something to your heirs."

A GENTLEMAN whose attention at breakfast was apt to be monopolized by reading the morning papers, remonstrated with his wife for coming down to breakfast in curl papers, when the lady replied, "If you indulge in your papers, I don't see why I shouldn't enjoy mine."

It is said that Napoleon, when asked by Dr. O'Meara if he really thought he could have invaded England at the time he threatened to do so, replied in the following ingenious anagram:—"Able was I ere I saw Elba." The reader will observe that it reads the same backward or forward.

AN AWAKENING SERMON.—The late Bishop Bloomfield and been preaching himself morning and afternoon, and was rather drowsy during a lengthy evening discourse from another divine. A companion seeing the Bishop nodding, and fearing it was about to be succeeded by unepiscopal snoring, gave him an occasional nudge; and when the discourse was finished the Bishop shook his neighbour warmly by the hand, and said, "One of the most awakening sermons I ever heard."—Lord William Lennox.

ARMY CONTRACT.—A dragoon was accosted by one of the tribe with the usual salutation: "Black your boots, sir? make 'em shine?" Looking at his unpolished "gunboats" in a contemplative way, the war-worn veteran replied: "Well, I don't care if you do—fall in properly, though!" The urchin gazed a moment at the soldier, surveying him from his leathers upwards, and then, turning to a comrade near by, shouted out: "I say, Bill, lend us a hand, won't you, I've got an army contract!"

QUERIES.—Will any of our readers inform us whether a Bachelor of Music can be wedded to his art? Whether the author of "There and Back Again" returned by the same route that he went? And lastly, if they can tell us whether half the correspondents of Journals have the slightest idea what they are asking about when they write to "Dear Mr. Editor?"

IN THE MILKY WAY.—We know that Irishmen can make bulls; but we were not aware that Englishmen could make cows. And yet they must be able to do so; for the Bristol milkmen style themselves *milk-producers*. As Sambo would say, "Dey must be *udder* persons."

COLLIDE.—Josh Billings says, "I could never find the meaning of the word 'collide' in Webster. But riding the other day on the New York Central Railway I saw it all. It is the attempt of two trains to pass each other on a single track. If I remember correctly, it was a shocking failure."