

CURIOUS AND SCIENTIFIC.

Printers' Errors.

In reading the daily newspapers one sometimes meets with most ludicrous errors, which are clearly the fault of the printer rather than the author. The small papers published at some of our offices often contain very many such mistakes in a single number. But even our first-class periodicals are sometimes in fault.

At the time of the Crimean War it was one day announced by a leading paper that in a recent attack the enemy had been 'repulsed with great laughter.' Obviously, it should have stood 'great slaughter.' The omission of a single letter makes a great difference. This was very clear when another paper announced that a certain officer had been found dead on the field of battle with a long word in his mouth. The 'word' must have been a 'sword.' A pick-pocket, who had robbed a lady in an omnibus, was stated by the constable who captured him to have had (according to one newspaper) 'a small oz in his waistcoat pocket.' But it must surely have been a 'box.' A sportsman was said to have shot fifty *peasants* in a certain wood, when he had only been bagging pheasants. The agony of writers must sometimes be great on seeing the printer's handiwork. To find 'freshly-blown roses' converted into 'fleshy-brown noses,' and that 'in some parts of France the people collect and eat snails' reads 'collect and eat *nails*,' must be very trying. But such things do happen.—A. R. H.

Paper Plates.

The latest application of paper is said to be the adoption of plates by some of the great restaurants, and *cafes* in Berlin. The innovation was first introduced during the summer of last year by the enterprising landlord of a much-frequented open-air restaurant. Every customer who ordered bread and butter, rolls, cakes, buns, or similar articles, had them served to him upon a little paper plate, made of light papier-mache, adorned with a pretty border in relief, and having at the first glance a great similarity to porcelain. Guests, waiters, and host were pleased with the novelty; it saved the waiters many a deduction from their wages on account of breakages, which the deftest and cleverest can scarcely avoid when he handles hundreds of pieces of crockery during a single afternoon and evening. The paper plates were so cheap that the landlord did not care to assert his ownership over them, and his customers were allowed to carry them away, like the pretty serviettes of thin paper used in so many restaurants in Holland.

Writing with Lemon-juice.

Father John Gerard, of the Society of Jesus, who was confined and cruelly tortured in the Tower of London at the end of Queen Elizabeth's reign, was in the habit of writing letters in orange or lemon juice to his friends. The manner in which he thus baffled the vigilance of his jailers is described in detail in his highly interesting autobiography, published a few years ago by the Rev. Father John Morris. Father Gerard says:

"Now lemon-juice has this property, that what is written in it can be read in water quite as well as by fire, and when the paper is dried the writing disappears again till it is steeped afresh, or again held to the fire. But anything written with orange-juice is at once washed out by water and cannot be read at all in that way; and if held to the fire, though the characters are thus made to appear, they will not disappear; so that a letter of this sort, once read, can never be delivered to any one as if it had not been read. The party will see at once that it has been read, and will certainly refuse and disown it if should contain anything dangerous."

One result of Father Gerard's orange-juice correspondence was that, with the aid of zealous friends outside, he effected his escape from the Tower in 1597. The last ten years of his life were spent in the English College at Rome, where he closed a long, arduous, and meritorious career on July 27, 1630, aged seventy-three.—*The Budget*.

A company can be amused by the balancing of an egg on its end. To do this simply break the yolk by shaking the egg, and a steady hand is required.

OUR YOUNG FOLKS.

To be young is to be one of the immortals.—HAZLITT.

OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

More interest than ever has been shown this month by our young friends, and the competition was close indeed. Several have answered all the puzzles correctly, but some have been somewhat careless about the form and general appearance of their letters, which, together with correct spelling, was all that we could award the prize for. Hartley J. Doane, Thornton, has been successful and deserves credit for excellence in literary style.

A prize of a beautifully bound story book, full of interest, will be given for the best set of answers to this month's puzzles, and a similar prize will be given to every boy and girl who sends us three new subscribers with \$1.50.

All letters must be in before the 8th of August.

Correct answers have been received from

- Laura Tretheway, Stratford.
- Richard L. Eedy, London.
- C. M. Stewart, St. Catharines.
- Constance H. Stiff, Hamilton.
- Mary Sheppard, Berlin.
- W. Cunningham, London East.
- John E. Gow, Windsor.
- H. L. Johnson, Toronto.
- Maggie Hewitt, Kippen.
- "Bertie," Brooklyn, N.Y.
- James A. Wilson, Walkerton.
- Henry Edmunds, Montreal.
- Bertha Miller, Windsor.
- George H., Toronto.
- S. Morton, Kars.
- W. Wilson, Ottawa.

Charles Walton, Hamilton, and another correspondent, who forgot either to date his letter or sign his name.

JULY PUZZLES.

I.

DECAPITATIONS.

I

Whole I mean to begin; behead me I mean acid; behead again and I show men's designs.

II

I am to be found in the dairy; behead me and I am a parcel of paper; transpose and I am an animal; behead now and I am part of the verb to be.

2.

REBUS.

M
E

3.

EASY SQUARE WORDS.

I

- To strike.
- Wrath.
- A number.
- II
- A quarrel.
- A product of mines.
- Not dry.

4

Two drovers, A and B, were going to market with sheep. A said to B, give me one of your sheep and I will have three times as many as you have. But B says no; you give me one and we will be even. How many had each? R. L. Eedy.

ANSWERS TO JUNE PUZZLES

- 1. Square Word:— D O M E
O M E N
M E N D
E N D S

2. Riddle:—Jonah.

3. Enigma:—Condense.

- 4. Easy square Words:— I
L O G
O R E
G E T
II
M A N
A L E
N E T