

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ALPHA.—We shall be glad to receive the contributions referred to, and trust the "spare time" may be found to prepare them.

J. S.—Thanks.

FREDERICK.—The indebtedness is on our side, as we consider your contributions indicate the possession of a true poetic vein. Our columns will always be open to you.

LUCIUS.—Respectfully declined. Permit us to add that we wish our young friends would endeavour to throw a little more vigorous life into the sketches they forward for publication. We are in danger of being flooded with sentiment.

YOUNG CANADA.—The possibility of navigating the Lower St. Lawrence in winter is a question of so much interest to Canada that we think our merchants and public men should earnestly press the subject upon the attention of the government until the experiment has been fairly and fully tried. You have probably noticed the resolution passed by the Quebec Board of Trade; we trust it may bear fruit, for a matter of so much importance should not be permitted to remain undetermined.

WET FEET.—Your question comes a little late in the season, as the snow, at least in this locality, has almost entirely disappeared. The best way to prevent snow-water penetrating to your feet is to wear a good pair of rubbers. Failing this, thoroughly saturate your boots with a mixture of melted bees-wax and mutton suet, not forgetting to well rub the edges of the soles where the stitches are.

JULIA S.—The covered passage-way which connects the Doge's palace at Venice with the state prisons is popularly called the "Bridge of Sighs." The title originated from the fact that condemned criminals were conducted over this bridge from the Hall of Judgment to the place of execution.

ARTIST.—It is pleasant to learn that good results have followed the course we adopted. We have not forgotten our promise, and will not trespass much further upon your patience.

C. R. B.—We fear we cannot at present accede to your request, but may be in a position to do so at some future time.

W. Y.—The city of Rochester in the State of New York is sometimes called the "Flour City." There are a number of large Flour Mills in the neighbourhood.

ELLA C.—If you were born in England, you are an Englishwoman, although your parents may be Scotch.

LATTO.—Declined with thanks.

ANGELBURGH.—"A thing of beauty is a joy for ever" is the first line of Keat's celebrated poem "Endymion."

AUGUSTUS.—Forward the MSS., and we will look over them, and decide in a few days.

FLORA W.—The twenty-fifth of March is the Feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary, hence it is called Lady Day.

JAMES PORTER.—Many thanks! Will write you shortly.

MISCELLANEA.

MONUMENT TO LORD PALMERSTON.—In reply to an address of the House of Commons, Her Majesty has commanded the erection of a monument to Lord Palmerston in Westminster Abbey.

A REPORT is current at Paris that an agent from some great capitalists and contractors, who propose to establish a tunnel under the sea from Dover to Calais, has arrived in Paris, commissioned to apply to the Emperor for permission to make borings on French soil, to ascertain the practicability of the scheme.

AMERICAN DEAD LETTERS.—At Washington, last year, 4,500,000 of letters went to the dead letter office, 58,000 of which contained money.

PRINCE SATSUMA, as a wise Japanese ruler, is turning his attention to the manufacture of silks for the English and American markets. The English language is now being taught publicly in Japan, under the sanction of the Government.

"MOTHER," exclaimed a little poet of four summers, "listen to the wind making music for the leaves to dance by."

In Paris, the average sale per week of eyes intended for the human head amounts to 400. One of the leading oculists "receives" in a magnificent saloon, resplendent with gilding and mirrors.

A poor Irish gentleman has, very much to his surprise, become Earl of Harrington, being heir male of the late young Earl, who died in his minority. When the great Earl of Chesterfield died, the inheritance passed to a cousin of very remote degree. The same thing has now happened in the line of the younger brother of the first Earl of Chesterfield, of whom Lord Harrington is the representative. The new Earl of Harrington's son, now Vicount Petersham, is an engineer, by profession and education, and highly esteemed by those who have had occasion to seek professional service from him.

The loyal town of Wareham has a town-hall with a cupola in a tottering state, the estimated repairs of which will cost some 7*l.* or 8*l.* Wareham, if not a wealthy town, is a *cheeky* one. The Mayor sent a begging-letter to the Prince of Wales to prevail upon him to incur the cost, and the Prince, as might have been expected, refers them to the good feeling of the inhabitants of Wareham to raise the paltry sum amongst themselves.

HOW TO GET ON IN THE WORLD.—There is a "world of wisdom" in the following quotation, brief as it is:—"Every schoolboy knows that a kite would not fly unless it had a string tying it down. It is just so in life. The man who is tied down by half a dozen blooming responsibilities and their mother will make a higher and a stronger flight than the bachelor who, having nothing to keep him steady, is always floundering in the mud. If you want to ascend in the world tie yourself to somebody."

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

The velocity of the sound-wave in air of the freezing temperature is 1,000 feet a second.

A good cement for chemical and electrical apparatus may be prepared by mixing five pounds of resin, one pound of wax, one pound of red ochre, and two ounces of plaster of Paris, and melting the whole with moderate heat.

FALLING ASLEEP.—The human body falls asleep by degrees, according to M. Cabinis, a French physiologist. The muscles of the legs and arms loose their power before those which support the head, and these last sooner than the muscles which support the back; and he illustrates this by the case of persons who sleep on horseback, or while they are standing or walking. He conceives that the sense of light sleeps first, then the sense of taste, next smell, and, lastly, that of touch.

The artificial oil of bitter almonds used in confectionery, &c., is prepared by the action of nitric acid on the *fixed* oils of gas tar. The essential ingredients of eau de millefleurs is derived from the drainage of cow-houses. The oil of pine-apples is obtained from a product of the action of putrid cheese on sugar.

REMEDY FOR DAMP WALLS.—The following is said, on good authority, to be an excellent remedy against damp in walls:—Three quarters of a pound of mottled soap to one gallon of water. This composition to be laid over the brickwork steadily and carefully with a large flat brush, so as not to form a froth or lather on the surface. The wash to remain twenty-four hours, to become dry. Mix half a pound of alum with four gallons of water, leave it to stand for twenty-four hours, and apply it similarly over the coating of soap. Let this be done in dry weather.

COHESION.—The cohesive force of the best red sealing wax has been proved to be equal to 1,500 lb. per square inch, and that of the black sealing wax rather more than 1,000 lb. to the square inch; the deficiency in the latter is attributed to the diminished quantity of lac used in the compo-

sition. The cohesive force of solid glue was found to be 4,000 lb. per square inch; that of cast iron is 25,000 lb.

WITTY AND WHIMSICAL.

A SAD ACCIDENT.—The lady who was nearly killed by the accidental discharge of her duty, is slowly recovering.

ENTERTAINING KNOWLEDGE.—Ascertaining the cost of a dinner-party.

GOOD AUDIENCE FOR AN AUCTIONEER.—Buy-standers.

FACT FOR THE CURIOUS.—Every bear should be taught to dance, for what is the use of bruin without hops?

INFIRM.—"That decrepit man going along there reminds me, doctor, of that tooth of mine which you had so much trouble to extract."—"How so?"—"Because he's *in-firm*."

A SPANISH gentleman studying English, being, at the tea-table, and desiring to be helped to some sliced tongue, in doubt as to the term, hesitated a moment, and then said, "I will thank you, *mis.*, to pass me that language."

If you and your sweetheart vote upon the marriage question, you for it and she against it, don't flatter yourself as to its being a *tie*.

Most men are perfectly willing to lend you money at all times, except when you happen to want to borrow.

The height of politeness is, passing around on the opposite side of a lady to avoid stepping on her shadow.

WHEN a boy gets to think himself above parental authority, his parents should try to *shake* him in his belief.

WHAT London publishing firm do Chang, the Chinese giant, and his *suite* resemble?—Longman and Co.

FEATHERS.—"Husband, I wish you would buy me some pretty feathers."—"Indeed, my dear little wife, you look better without them."—"Oh, no," said she, coaxingly, "you always call me your little bird, and how does a bird look without feathers?"—"Why, dressed to be sure," said he.

BINDING A SOLE.—"My friend," said the Rev. Sidney Smith to a cobbler who was mending his shoe, when the great wit was a poor curate in Gloucestershire, "you remind me of the sacred ordinance of matrimony."—"How so?" quoth the cobbler.—"Because you bind two soles together in unity!"

HALLOWED.—One day Freddie's little sister, Carrie, hearing her mother talk about a name for a new little baby brother that had been given to them a short time before, said:—"Mamma, why don't you name him Hallowed? It says in my prayer 'Hallowed be thy name,' and I think it is a pretty name, too."

BRINGING HIS MAN DOWN.—Rogers used to relate this story:—An Englishman and a Frenchman fought a duel, in summer time; and not to make the act public, and the better to satisfy their consciences in case of the result proving fatal, they agreed to fight in a darkened room. The Englishman, unwilling to take his antagonist's life, generously fired up the chimney, and brought down the Frenchman. "When I tell this story in France," pleasantly added the narrator, "I make the Englishman go up the chimney."

WHO'S THE FOOL?—Some merchants went to an Eastern sovereign and exhibited for sale several very fine horses. The king admired them, and bought them; he, moreover, gave the merchants a lac of rupees to purchase more horses for him. The king one day, in a sportive humour, ordered the vizier to make out a list of all the fools in his dominions. He did so, and put his majesty's name at the head of them. The king asked why. He replied, "Because you entrusted a lac of rupees to men you don't know, and who will never come back."—"Ay, but suppose they should come back?"—"Then I shall erase your name and insert theirs."