

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. M. T.—We regret very much that you have not received a note we posted as you requested, about six weeks since. Please inquire at the Post Office for a note addressed A. M. T., Montreal.

ARTIST.—It will be inserted as soon as we can find space.

BRAUN.—For a "new hand," we think you have succeeded pretty well, and would advise you to try again. First attempts are seldom worthy of type.

WYVANT.—The letter was received—quite right.

BAD TOM.—We think it unjust to the writer to select a single sentence from an article, and then claim that the isolated passage teaches "dangerous doctrine." Common fairness would indicate that it should be judged by the tenor of the whole article. The purpose of the writer was to show how differently the same sentiment may be expressed, and consequently the necessity of circumspection in clothing our thoughts with words. Even Holy Writ would not bear the test you have applied to the article in question.

POLLY.—We hope to have the pleasure of receiving further contributions from you, when you have the requisite leisure at your command.

MY SELF.—"Cable" poetry is plentiful as Fenian bonds, at Sweeny's head quarters, and much of it is equally worthless. There are some very good lines in the verses forwarded, but the composition as a whole is too unequal to admit of publication.

A. R.—Not only "difficult" but apparently impossible.

H. H.—We really do not know how to advise H. H., but if the little fluttering bird persistently refuses to be caught, perhaps it would be better to leave it severely alone for a while. It may grow tamer when frost and snow come. Try the influence of a sleigh drive then.

ALARM.—As we have escaped so long, we think we may, in view of the near approach of cool weather, indulge a strong hope, that Cholera will not visit Canada this season. At any rate, humanly speaking, it is improbable that it will become epidemic. Rum, in hot tea, is now the favourite specific in Europe.

LOOSE.—"What I saw at Tadousac," is respectfully declined;—altogether too loose.

A. W. S.—The Montreal Ocean S. S. Company are building two new vessels; one, we believe, is to be named "The Austrian," the other "The Sardinian."

FESTUS.—In March 1865, the United States' navy consisted of 684 vessels with 4,477 guns.

MISCELLANEA

LOW RENT.—The London residence of Baroness Truro, in Eaton Square, was sold by auction, recently, to Mrs. Mainwaring, of Oakley Hall, Shropshire, for the large sum of £19,600. The house is held under a lease direct from the Marquis of Westminster, which has fifty-five years to run, and is subject to the rent of a peppercorn only. The lady was strongly opposed to the bidding, in person, of Lord Lytton, of Knebworth, but he eventually gave way.

It is stated that a Lyons physician cures hydrophobia by placing his patient in a vapour bath of about 120 deg. Fahr.

THE OLDEST HOUSE IN AMERICA.—The oldest house in the United States now standing as originally built is the Rev. Dr. Whitfield's, at Guilford, Connecticut. It was built in 1639, and the stone walls and oak-work remain in good condition.

The locust is appearing in France in large quantities. That utilitarian people have begun to eat them, and you may have them in thirty-six different ways at the most fashionable restaurants. Frenchmen eat everything—snails, frogs, locusts, donkeys, and grass.

In parts of Australia the farmers are said to be making cider from peaches. They are so plentiful there.

The latest style of bonnet has turned up at Richmond, Indiana. It is described as consisting of two straws tied together with a blue ribbon, on the top of the head, and red tassels suspended at each of the four ends of the straws. Price nineteen dollars.

A LADY is about to appear as a *trapèze* performer in London.

The standing armies of Europe amount to about six millions of men.

During some military manoeuvres near Strasburg, recently, a pontoon bridge was thrown across the Rhine in twelve minutes.

A young Frenchwoman on her matrimonial trip, but a week old, was recently arrested by a vigilant officer of Prussia, as she was unable to pronounce her own name when she was asked for her passport, and suspicion was aroused as she could not explain, or would not. She was detained till the arrival of her husband, whose name was Baran de Vandienpendaëlbroeck.

TO CANDY FRUITS.—Take one pound of the best loaf sugar, dip each lump into a bowl of water, and put the sugar in a preserving kettle. Boil it down until clear, and in a candying state. When sufficiently boiled, have ready the fruits you wish to preserve. Large white grapes, oranges, separated into small pieces, or preserved fruits, taken out of their syrup and dried, are nice. Dip the fruits into the prepared sugar while it is hot; then put them in a cold place; they soon become hard.

A HANDKERCHIEF VANISHING WITH A FLASH.—At a recent lecture on gun-cotton by Professor Doremus, the lecturer stated that he had treated a linen handkerchief with nitric acid, and having thus converted it into gun-linen, he had sent it to the wash with other clothes. The washerwoman washed and dried the handkerchief without perceiving any difference in its character; but when she came to iron it, at the very first touch of the hot iron the handkerchief vanished with a light flash leaving no trace behind.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

MR. WILDE'S electric lamp casts shadows from the street lamps a quarter of a mile distant.

It is stated that lemons may be preserved by the very simple process of varnishing them with a solution of shellac in spirit of wine. Fresh lemon juice is thus obtainable at all seasons.

THERE was lately exhibited in Lloyds' Captains' Room a model of Skinners' patent vertical steering apparatus. The advantages which this invention is said to possess over every other means of steering are mainly comprised in its strength, compactness, simplicity, and power.

GUN-COTTON often explodes from spontaneous decomposition. If it is slightly acid, fumes will be generated by the reaction of the acid; and if these fumes are not allowed to escape, especially if the heat is retained by means of non-conducting bodies, the temperature will become high enough to cause explosion.

HEMPEL'S ELLIPTICAL COMPASSES.—This instrument has been for a long time past reported on favourably by geometricians in Paris; the simplicity of its construction, the facility with which it is handled, and the accuracy with which it traces the ellipsis, give it great value.

PURIFICATION OF PETROLEUM.—In the refining of petroleum, or of oils obtained from the distillation of coal, &c., at low temperatures, it is usual to add sulphuric acid as a preliminary process of refining; and Mr. Fordred, of Blackheath, has proposed to substitute a preliminary alkaline process, and the alkaline foots obtained are treated with steam and an oil separated, which will be found needful in the arts. The oils thus obtained possess valuable drying properties, and may be advantageously employed in conjunction with boiled oil, and with such resinous gums and resins as may be soluble therein, and they may be used with paints and varnishes.

WITTY AND WHIMSICAL.

THE news from the minor German States is given in the journals of Fatherland under the following simple heading, "Mitteleuropaisches-taetengruppe."

A POLITICAL QUESTION.—Has the "tide of events" anything to do with the "current of public opinion" that is flowing.

AN AMERICAN STORY.—Mosquitoes are large and somewhat ferocious in the Mississippi country. A man who went out one day to look for his cow, found her skeleton on the ground, and a large mosquito on an adjacent tree picking its teeth with one of her horns!

A FIERY BEVERAGE.—The editor of a Yankee contemporary, speaking of a drink he once had occasion to indulge in, says he couldn't tell whether it was brandy or a torch-light procession that was going down his throat.

"If you beat me, I'll call out the soldiers," as the drum said.

CHEMISTRY OF THE COMPLEXION.—The product of pale brandy is often a red nose.

TAXIDERMY FOR PARENTS.—If you want to preserve your children, do not stuff them.

AN INSTANTANEOUS METHOD FOR PRODUCING VINEGAR.—Praise one young lady to another.

The inhabitants of a noted fever and ague district in Illinois are said to turn their "shakes" to some account: they climb into the top of a "shell bark" just as the chill comes on, and by the time the "personal earthquake" leaves them, there is not a hickory nut left on the tree.

SLEEPING LIKE A TOP.—Two knights of the angle having sought the shelter of a sorry ale-house for the night, one questioned the other the next morning as to how he had slept, observing that, for his part, "he had slept like a top,"—"So did I," replied his companion, "for I was turning round all night.

Why is England the richest country in the world?—Because it has a Deal more than any other country.

A WICKED old bachelor says that every woman is in the wrong until she cries, and then she is in the right instantly.

WE notice an advertisement of "milliners' feathers" for sale. The milliners from whom these feathers were plucked must have been little ducks.

"HAVE you ever broken a horse?" inquired a horse-jockey of a reckless-looking young man. "No, not exactly," replied the young man; "but I have broken three or four dog-carts."

WHAT is the difference between a volunteer who shoots wide of the target, and a husband who blackens his wife's eyes?—The one misses his mark, and the other marks his missis.

A COUNTRYMAN who was charged with ten gallons of whiskey, which a publican put in an eight-gallon keg, said he "didn't mind the money over-charged, so much as he did the strain on the keg."

PROFESSOR de Morgan went to hear an organ played by a performer who seemed very desirous to exhibit one particular stop. "What do you think of that stop?" he was asked. "That depends upon the name of it," said he. "Oh! what can the name have to do with the sound?" "That with which we call a rose," &c.—"The name has everything to do with it," said he; "if it be a flute-stop, I think it very harsh; but if it be a railway-whistle stop, I think it very sweet."

MOTTOES.—For a provision merchant: "If parts allure thee, see how Bacon shined."—A nobleman's gardener: "What hoe, my lord?"—A successful foxhunter: "Heads I win, tails you lose."—A projected silk-mill: "Looming in the distance."—A travelling draper: "Tally-owe!"—A trio of vegetarians: "When shall we three meet again?"

"Oh, Mr. Grubbles!" exclaimed a young mother, "shouldn't you like to have a family of rosy children about your knee?" "No, ma'am," said the disagreeable old bachelor. "I'd rather have a lot of yellow boys in my pocket."