

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

F. B. W.—“My Cousin” is respectfully declined.

ETHEL.—The Charade has already appeared in the “Reader;” much obliged for the other contributions, of which we will avail ourselves as opportunity offers.

N. D. B.—We would rather not offer an opinion upon the subject, as we do not consider our correspondents' column the proper place to discuss questions of the kind proposed.

A. R. B.—We will publish them with pleasure.

RUTH S.—The MS. must have miscarried, as we are quite sure that it never reached us.

INQUIRER.—We believe the following is an excellent receipt for restoring the colour of BLACK kid boots—Take a small quantity of good black ink, mix it well with the white of an egg, and apply it to the boots with a soft sponge.

A. A.—Unless you can secure the interest of persons who have influence with the government, we think your chances of obtaining an appointment are but slight. We would strongly advise you to choose a mercantile career in preference.

A CONSTANT READER.—We believe that freckles are produced by exposure to rapid changes of temperature. Sudden cold, checking perspiration, causes matter to accumulate beneath the epidermis, and no external applications will entirely remove it. Cooling lotions, such as Goulard's extract, will render freckles less apparent.

HILDA.—Please accept our thanks; shall be glad to hear from you again.

FREDERICK.—We do not think your last contributions are equal to those formerly received; but we retain both pieces, and if we decide to publish them, will do so shortly.

A. LECLERE.—Many thanks for your kind exertions to swell our subscription list. We shall insert part, if not the whole, of the paragraphs forwarded.

ARNOLD.—Washington Irving was the originator of the expression “Almighty Dollar.”

H. A. Y.—“The Black Assize” is a common designation of the sittings of the courts held in Oxford, in 1557, during which judges, jurymen and counsel were swept away by a violent epidemic. The plague that devastated Europe during the fourteenth century was called the “Black Death.”

ALMA.—“The Haunted House” is respectfully declined.

POLITICS.—Disraeli, the leader of the Conservatives in the House of Commons, is sixty-one years of age.

ROBERT M.—It is within our own knowledge that in a London Hospital, many cholera patients were successfully treated with Castor Oil, during the visitation of that scourge in 185-.

H. B.—The “Westminster Review” was formerly known among booksellers as the “Breeches Review,” from a Mr. Place, who was a great authority with the Westminister. This Mr. Place had at one time been a tailor and a leather breeches maker.

MEMO.—We also noticed that the Paris letter published in the New York Nation of the date you mention, was precisely the same as the letter “From our Paris Correspondent,” published in the Montreal Herald, some days later. The explanation probably is that the same gentleman is employed as correspondent by both papers.

ADA.—We think you have succeeded admirably.

F. W. C.—Much obliged for your suggestion, which shall receive our careful attention.

A WELL-WISHER.—Not at present.

MORNA MAGNOLIA.—We do not think the story quite suitable. As we have unfortunately mislaid your letter we shall be glad if you will forward your address, in order that we may return your MS., as promised.

MISCELLANEA.

A DANDY's occupation is to show his clothes; and, if they could but walk themselves, they would save him the labour and do his work as well as himself.

A BALL-CASTING machine has been constructed at Berlin, for the Tycoon of Japan. It is capable of manufacturing 12,000 rifle balls a day.

A ROMAN Catholic cathedral, 300 feet long and 150 broad, is about to be erected at Peking.

EVERY pound of cochineal contains 70,000 insects, boiled to death.

A SOCIETY, composed of members of the Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Jewish religion, has been formed in Paris for the purpose of executing a totally new translation of the Holy Scriptures.

INDIANA divorcees are not valid in Ohio.

THE death of a Mormon bishop is thus announced:—“He was thirty-seven years old, and leaves an interesting family of eleven wives and forty-seven small children to mourn his death.

THE EARLIEST HYDROPATHIST.—Antonius Musa is the earliest hydropathic doctor on record. Suetonius, the Roman historian, mentions that he cured Augustus with *frigida fomenta* (cold fomentations) when he was driven to desperation with liver complaint; and Pliny says that he rescued the emperor from great danger, though against the rules of medicine: so that hydropathy was considered irregular practice in those days.

It appears from a statement in some of the Russian papers that a mammoth has been discovered in the bay of Tazovskaia, in the government of Tomsk. The flesh, skin, and hair are said to be in a perfect state of preservation.

THE diving-bell has been abandoned on the Thames in favour of the diving-dress, principally because the men employed were found, while the Westminster Bridge was being built, to spend their time at the bottom playing cards, and there was, of course, no effectual means of keeping a check on them.

THE enormous development lately given by ladies to their back hair was lately applied to smuggling purposes. A well-dressed woman was stopped when entering Belgium for concealing about 130 yards of Valenciennes lace in what is called the chignon. Since then any unusual dimension of that portion of the coiffure is strictly examined by the custom-house officials.

AT Sydney, in Australia, among other advertisements on the first floor of the printing-office, is a tablet, informing visitors that the editor cannot be spoken to unless paid for his valuable time. Accordingly, everybody, without exception, is invited to buy a ticket of admission at the door of the waiting-room—one hour costing ten shillings, half-an-hour six shillings, fifteen minutes three shillings.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

THE following mode of storing grain is pursued by the Russian farmer: A pit is dug in the ground, in a well-drained place, and the sides are hardened by a long exposure to fire. Before the grain is introduced, straw is ignited in the pit to purify and dry the air. The grain is thrown in and packed close. It is said to have been preserved in this way forty years without deterioration.

SOME French chemists have succeeded in obtaining oxalic acid from the waste of shoemakers' and saddlers' shops, and others where leather is used; also from woollen rags, horn, hair, &c. For this purpose these residues are treated with one part of sulphuric acid and four of water, and the mass thus obtained is subjected to the action of one part of nitric acid and three of water, at a temperature of about 80° Cent. From the digestion of this oxalic acid is easily extracted.

DR. RICHARDSON has discovered a new method of deadening the nerves of the body, or rendering them insensible to pain, so as to enable surgical operations to be painlessly performed.

This is effected by the intense cold produced by the application of pure ether directed in the form of fine spray on the spot desired. In less than a minute, all sense of local feeling is lost, and as the operation proceeds, the ether is continuously ejected into the incision.

PREVENTING IRON FROM RUSTING.—It is supposed that the great power of resisting oxidation possessed by the extremely thin sheets of iron which have recently been rolled, is due to a fused layer of magnetic oxide with which they are always covered; and the fact has been applied to the protection of articles of wrought-iron. The latter are embedded in a pulverised layer of native oxide of iron—hematite, for instance—and kept at a full red heat for several hours, after which they are allowed to cool gradually. Plates treated in this way are perfectly covered with the oxide, and are well suited for shipbuilding. A combination of the oxides of zinc and iron, formed by the use of oxide of zinc, also in the process, gives rise to a black coating, which is, perhaps, even more effective.

WITTY AND WHIMSICAL.

AN Irish paper advertises, “Wanted, an able-bodied man as a washerwoman.”

WHEN may a man be said to breakfast before he gets up?—When he takes a roll in bed.

BAD coffee can be converted into the best Mocha by drinking it in company with the girl you love.

It would be hard to convince the magnetic needle that a loadstone is not the most diverting thing in the world.

COUNSELLOR (afterwards Chief Justice) Bushe, being on one occasion asked which of a company of actors he most admired, maliciously replied, “The prompter, sir, for I have heard the most and seen the least of him.”

SECOND LOVE.—Do you believe in second love, Mister McQuader?—“Do I believe in second love, Humph! if a man buys a pound of sugar, isn't it sweet?—and when it has gone, don't he want another pound? and isn't that sweet, too? Troth, Murphy, I believe in a second love.”

This is evidently an age of refinement. The old adage that “you should not count your chickens before they are hatched,” has been thus rendered by a professor of etiquette: “The producers of poultry should postpone the census of their juvenile fowls till the period of incubation is fully accomplished.”

SAILORS' YARNS.—Two sailors, being in company together, were relating the most remarkable incidents that happened in their voyages. One said they found it so hot, going to Guinea, that they used no fire to boil their kettle, but dressed all their meat above deck, in the sunshine; and could bake, boil, fry, or stew, as well as at a large fire. The other said, “I never was in so hot a climate as that; but I've been many degrees to the northward, where it has been so cold it has frozen our words in our mouths, so that we could not hear one another speak, till we came into a warmer latitude to thaw them; and then all our discourses broke out together, like a clap of thunder; that there was never such a confusion of tongues heard at Babel.”

YANKEE SPEED.—An Englishman boasting of the superiority of the horses in his country, mentioned that the celebrated Eclipse had run a mile in a minute. “My good fellow,” exclaimed an American present, “that is less than the average rate of our common roadsters. I live in my country seat, near Philadelphia, and when I ride in a hurry to town of a morning, my own shadow can't keep up with me, but generally comes into the warehouse to find me from a minute to a minute and half after my arrival. One morning the beast was restless, and I rode him as hard as I could several times round a large factory, just to take the old Harry out of him. Well, sir, he went so fast that the whole time I saw my back directly before, and was twice in danger of riding over myself.”