

THE BEECH TREE—A NON-CONDUCTOR
OF LIGHTNING.

DR. BEETON, in a letter to Dr. Mitchell of New York, dated 19th of July, 1824, states, that the beech tree (that is, the broad leaved or American variety of *Fagus sylvatica*,) is never known to be assailed by atmospheric electricity. So notorious, he says, is this fact, that in Tennessee, it is considered almost an impossibility to be struck by lightning, if protection be sought under the branches of a beech tree. Whenever the sky puts on a threatening aspect, and the thunder begins to roll, the Indians leave their pursuit, and betake themselves to the shelter of the nearest beech tree, till the storm pass over; observation having taught these sagacious children of nature, that, while other trees are often shivered to splinters, the electric fluid is not attracted by the beech. Should farther observation establish the fact of the non-conducting quality of the American beech, great advantage may evidently be derived from planting hedge rows of such trees around the extensive barn yards in which cattle are kept, and also in disposing groups and single trees in ornamental plantations in the neighbourhood of the dwelling houses of the owners.

INDIAN ANSWER TO A CHALLENGE.

I HAVE two objections to this duel affair. The one is, lest I should hurt you, and the other is, lest you should hurt me. I do not see any good it would do me to put a bullet through any part (the least danger-

ous part) of your body. I could make no use of you when dead, for any culinary purpose, as I should of a rabbit or a turkey. I am no cannibal, to feed on the flesh of men, why, then, shoot down a human creature of whom I could make no use? A buffalo would be better meat; for though your flesh might be delicate and tender, yet it wants that firmness and consistency which makes and retains salt. At any rate it would not be fit for long voyages.—You might make a good English stew or an American barbacue, it is true, being of the nature of a racoon or an opossum; but people are not in the habit of barbacuing anything human in these enlightened times. As to your hide, it is not worth taking off, being little better than a year colt. As to myself, I don't like to stand in the way of anything harmful. I am under great apprehension you might hit me! that being the case, I think it most advisable to stay at a distance. If you want to try your pistols, take some object, a tree or a barn door, about my dimensions; and if you hit that, send me word, and I shall acknowledge that had I been in the same place you might have also hit me.

AN ignoient young spendthrift wishing to borrow some money as privately as possible, was startled at reading the beginning of the bond, "Be it known to all men," and declared his unwillingness to sign, as it must certainly come to his father's ears.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. N. No. 2, is received.

We regret that we cannot admit Flora's communication.

The "VERSES ON WINTER" are under consideration.

Our Friend R. S—t, is requested to accept our best thanks, for his valuable communications, under the head of "EASTERN SCENES."

We are afraid Telemachus' lengthy Extract, would not interest our readers.

A Subscriber is received, but we cannot admit any personal remarks.

ERRATA.

No XVII. page 185, right hand column, 10th line, for "two parts," read "ten parts." do. 13th ,, for "the truths," read "the tenths,"