

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

G. M., MONTREAL.—Your contribution will appear in an early issue.

JOHN S.—The Duke of Wellington was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral on the 18th November, 1852.

W. H. O.—Will forward per mail at your request.

AUNT EUNICE.—Many thanks for your good opinion and kind wishes. We intend to devote a corner, occasionally, to the little ones, in order that each member of a household may feel that he or she has a special interest in the *Reader*. Much obliged for your contributions, which we will publish in an early number.

ASTOR.—We respectfully decline your article, not deeming it suitable for our columns.

OLD TOM.—The first is too well known; problems very similar to the second and third have already appeared. Many thanks nevertheless.

C. J., QUEBEC.—Shall be happy to hear from you at your earliest convenience.

JAS. R.—We have already stated that the postage on the *READER* is twenty-six cents for the year, when paid in advance; when not so paid, it is one cent per number.

CLOD.—Copernicus was born at Thorn in Prussia in 1472. His principal work is entitled "The Revolutions of the Celestial Orbs."

IMPATIENT.—Half a Million of Money will be completed in our next issue.

FRONTENAC.—We are sorry to be obliged to decline your last contribution.

T. McF., AGRON VALE.—We will publish the translation, but as it is somewhat lengthy, it may be some little time before we can find room for it.

C. H. S.—We wrote you nearly three weeks since, but find through some neglect, that the letter was never forwarded. Do not send the article you refer to unless the previous one is published.

ONE INTERESTED.—The Reciprocity Treaty will terminate on the seventeenth March, unless previously renewed.

H. H. V.—Very welcome; please accept our thanks.

JOHN R.—You are evidently mistaken—we certainly never made the statement to which you refer.

## HOUSEHOLD RECEIPTS.

POTATO AND FLOUR STARCH.—Wash and pare as many potatoes as needed; wash again and grate them in clean cold water. The starch is immediately precipitated to the bottom. Separate the grated potato, and wash again, turning the water off before anything that may soil the starch shall have time to settle.

For wheaten starch, tie up a lump of flour dough in a clean coarse cloth, knead this in cold water so long as the water coming from it is clouded or discolored; then wash as for potato starch.

PORK CAKE.—On 1 pound fat chopped pork, turn 1 cup boiling coffee. Add 3 cups sugar, 1 cup molasses, in which dissolve 2 teaspoonfuls soda. Stir in 8 cups flour. Seed and chop 1 pound of raisins, and flour them well before stirring in. Bake in a slow oven at least one hour. The above rule will make four loaves of cake, which will improve with age. The raisins are not indispensable.

FRUIT CAKE.—Take 2 teacups sour dried apples; slice them fine; cover with cold water, and let them soak all night. In the morning add 1 cup molasses, and steep slowly away till it is thick. Then add 1 cup sugar, 1 cup butter, 1 cup sour milk, 2 teaspoonfuls soda, 2 eggs, salt and spice to taste; and 5 cups flour.

TO STRENGTHEN THE HAIR.—Sweet olive oil, three ounces; oil of lavender, one drachm. Apply morning and evening to those parts where the hair is thin, in consequence of a deficiency of moisture in the skin.

SHOULDER OF MUTTON.—A shoulder of mutton, weighing six pounds, requires one hour to roast; if stuffed, half an hour longer. Before cooking it,

take out the bone, and fill the space with a dressing of bread-crumbs, pepper, salt, sweet marjoram, one egg, and a small piece of butter.

MUTTON CHOPS, if broiled on a gridiron, should be wrapped in paper. They require about ten minutes to cook. When they are taken out of the papers to be dished, season them with pepper, salt, and a little butter.

## SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

Iron improved with titanium has been tested for tensile strength, and has stood a strain equal to 47 tons per square inch; and, in puddling furnaces felled with the ore, the setting has in some instances lasted a month without renewal, the iron produced being of uniform good quality. These are extreme cases, but indicate the value of the use of the ore.

Fossil Spider.—Professor Roemer has announced the discovery of a fossil spider, which resembles the recent genus *Lycosa*, in the coal measures of Upper Silesia. The interest of this discovery lies in the fact that hitherto spiders have not been known from any rocks older than the jurassic, and that now the existence of them in the palaeozoic period is proved.

A very simple and perfect form of filter has been devised by the *Appareteur* of the College of France, and deserves attention. It is made by placing in a tank of impure water a vessel so arranged that a sponge which it contains shall lap over its edge and dip into the water of the tank. The sponge gradually sucks up and purifies the water in the reservoir, and allows it to drop into the smaller vessel or receiver, from which it may be drawn off by a tube. By placing a few lumps of charcoal in the bottom of the receiver, filtration of the most perfect kind is effected.

COD-LIVER oil has become such a universal remedy for all species of scrofulous disease, and is such a disgustingly unpalatable compound, that the public is glad to find that new preparations have removed much of its nauseousness. But what if these new preparations not only remove the flavour, but also remove the valuable properties of the drug? This is a question which is just now forced upon our attention by a paper published in the *Pharmaceutical Journal* by Dr. Attfield. In this article the writer details the results of his analysis of a production sold as "saccharide of cod-liver," and makes some startling discoveries. He has found that this preparation contains not the faintest trace of the elements of cod-liver oil. This is what Dr. Attfield writes of it:—"It is nothing but powdered milk-sugar. A considerable quantity of this sugar is now extracted from milk, chiefly for use in the manufacture of homeopathic globules, and certain varieties of infants' food. It can therefore be had readily and cheaply. A quantity, costing a few pence, is placed in a box labelled, so as to induce the public to believe that it is cod-liver oil in a concentrated, convenient, and palatable form, and forthwith sold for five shillings."

SRA-SOUNDINGS.—The Baltic Sea, between Germany and Sweden, is only 120 feet deep, and the Adriatic, between Venice and Trieste, 130. The greatest depth of the channel between France and England does not exceed 300, whilst to the southwest of Ireland, where the sea is open, the depth is more than 3,000 feet. The seas to the south of Europe are much deeper than those in the interior. In the narrowest part of the Strait of Gibraltar, the depth is only 1,000 feet, while a little more to the east it is 3,000. On the coast of Spain the depth is nearly 6,000 feet. At 250 miles south of Nantucket (south of Cape Cod) no bottom was found at 7,800 feet. The greatest depths of all are to be met with in the Southern ocean. To the west of the Cape of Good Hope 16,000 feet have been measured and to the west of St. Helena 28,000. Dr. Young estimates the average depth of the Atlantic at 26,000 feet, and that of the Pacific at 20,000.

## WITTY AND WHIMSICAL.

The countess — once put forth a pun that would have done honour to Fox himself. Being asked by Mori, the violinist, to accept the dedication of a new song, she replied, "Willingly, Mr. Mori, and it will be the prettiest and most agreeable *memento Mori* I ever received."

HIGH FAMILY.—A person was boasting that he was sprung from a *high* family in Ireland.—"Yes," said a bystander, "I have seen some of the same family *so high* that their feet could not touch the ground."

"Well George," asked a friend of a young lawyer "how do you like your profession?"—"Alas, sir, my profession is better than my practice."

WANTED.—A pair of scissors to cut a caper; the pot in which a patriot's blood boiled; the address of the confectioner who makes "trifles light as air;" and a short club broken off the square root.

A PRETTY COMPLIMENT.—Washington visiting a lady in his neighbourhood, on leaving the house, a little girl was directed to open the door. He turned to the child and said, "I am sorry, my little dear, to put you to so much trouble."—"I wish, sir," she replied, "it was to let you in."

GIVE AND TAKE.—Jerrold met a personal enemy in the street one day, who refused to give him half the pavement, saying that he never turned out for a rascal. "I do!" said Jerrold, stepping aside, and politely raising his hat; "pass on, sir—pass on, sir!"

PRONUNCIATION OF "OUGH"—The following lines in *Notes and Queries* illustrate the five different modes of pronouncing the syllable *ough* in different words:—

"By dint of plough in sweat of brow,  
He falls through with much ado,  
Hodge learns enough of this world's stuff,  
To make good dough for high and low,  
While from his trough feed swine well off."

REASON FOR FENCING IN A PLOT.—One of the readiest replies that we ever heard was made by an Irishman. A gentleman travelling on horseback came upon an Irishman who was fencing in a most barren and desolate piece of land. "What are you fencing in that lot of land for, Pat?" said he. "A herd of cows would starve to death on the land!"—"And sure, your honour, wasn't I fencing it in to keep the poor bastes out iv it?"

NEW MODES OF DIVORCE.—The *Pall Mall Gazette* says:—"In a case tried before the Judge Ordinary, in London, a wife gives evidence that her husband put her into an omnibus on the 15th of October, 1863, saying that he "should be home to dinner," and that he had not returned. This reminds us of a bit of dialogue in a new novel now in course of publication in *Le Siècle*. "Where is your husband?" says a gentleman. "He went out to buy a cigar," replies the lady. "Has he been gone long?" asks the gentleman. "Eighteen years," replies the lady. "He is quite right," remarks the gentleman, philosophically; "he wants to choose a good one."

The late Bishop of London had a good story of an old woman, who, having adopted a little girl from the workhouse, and brought her up till she was midway in her teens, was then forsaken by her charge, whom a neighbour enticed away to "better herself." On being consoled with on this ungrateful abandonment by sympathizing friends, the poor old woman meekly answered that Scripture warned us that such things must happen. "You know it is said there, "Train up a child, and away he do go."

A school in Massachusetts was under examination, when one of the examiners said:—"If I had a mince-pie, and should give three-twelfths to John, three-twelfths to Isaac, and should keep half the pie myself, what would there be left?" There was a profound study among the scholars; but finally one lad held up his hand as a signal that he was ready to answer. "Well, sir, what would there be left? Speak up loud, so that all can hear," said the examiner.—"The plate," shouted the hopeful fellow.