

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

T. A.—All honour to the sentiments; we are sorry that the versification is too incorrect to permit the insertion of the lines.

H. PATTON.—Will give them a place in an early number.

ERA.—"The Family Honour" will be completed in our next number.

JAS. H.—It is impossible to remove the marks caused by small-pox; but they will gradually become less perceptible.

J. E. M.—The *Great Eastern* is engaged to lay down the third cable. We believe the expedition is to sail from Ireland either towards the end of this month or the beginning of July.

ALMA MATER.—Do not use spectacles until you find them absolutely necessary; for they neither preserve nor strengthen the sight.

G. J. B.—The transpositions of Canadian towns are all incorrect.

Y. N.—We believe that lemon-juice, or a solution of salts of lemon, will erase writing from paper.

ADA G.—Make up your mind to conquer the habit; a firm resolution earnestly persisted in is all that is necessary.

Y. R.—The MS. you refer to never reached us.

MAGGIE R.—A considerable number of females are employed in the English telegraph offices; and we can see no good reason why the larger Canadian offices should not be equally open to the gentler sex.

J. C.—The handwriting is tolerably good, but there are too many flourishes to suit our taste.

G. J. A.—We are not aware that the messengers of the Legislative Council or the House of Assembly have other duties to perform beyond these which their name indicates.

FLORA.—The lines "To my Niece," are respectfully declined.

JULIA.—We are sorry that we are quite unable to assist Julia in the task she has undertaken.

ARTHUR S.—It is less a question of theory than practical experiment. In our opinion the risks are too great.

FLORA L.—We would recommend to our correspondent a judicious exercise of the two "bears"—bear and forbear.

ISABEL.—Will insert your contribution in an early issue.

We are compelled to defer replies to a number of correspondents until our next issue.

MISCELLANEA.

In the works going on for levelling the hill of the Trocadero at Paris, four mines are fired at once by means of an electric battery, and a surface of more than two acres is raised by each explosion.

THE late Dr. Seymour was asked if he considered tight lacing bad for consumption? "Not at all; it is what it lives on." A wise and witty reply.

AT Manchester, an infant, two years old, was so horribly mutilated by a ferocious pig that it died soon after.

AN incurable old bachelor, and who seemingly rejoices in his infirmity, describes marriage as "a female despotism, tempered by puddings."

A CHINESE mission, charged by the Government of the Celestial Empire to visit Europe, has arrived at Marseilles, on its way to Paris.

STREAM omnibuses on common roads are about to be run in Paris from the Champs de Mars, halting at the Champs Elysées, the Madeleine, near the Opera on the Boulevard des Capucines, near the Theatre of the Gymnase, at the Porte St. Martin, and at the Chateau d'Eau, and proceeding thence to the Terminus at the Bastille.

A STRANGE PASSENGER.—One of the passengers that left Southampton for London, per rail, the other day, was a live alligator nearly fifteen

feet long. It came to England from Greytown, and was conveyed to London in a canoe half-filled with water, partly covered over with boarding. The canoe was fastened upon a railway truck, and was destined for a gentleman residing in the north.

A MILK-SELLER, at Manchester, has recovered six pounds one shilling damages against a farmer for having supplied him with milk which was adulterated with water.

FRENCH GIRLS.—M. Thevenin, speaking of French girls, declares that he had rather turn Fakir, and pass his whole life in contemplation, than espouse one of those empty, stupid, proud, and pretentious women, who believe themselves musicians because they can get through a polka, distinguished because they are draped with cashmere, and well-born because they do not know the price of butter.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

A NEW dye, which promises to be of much commercial value, has just been procured from theine, the principle of tea. Of course, if theine were only procurable from tea, the new discovery would not be of much importance, but inasmuch as the principle exists largely in other plants, it will prove of considerable importance.

"REVOLUTION IN STEAM NAVIGATION."—Such is the heading of an article in the *Liverpool Post*, describing the launch of the *Sleigh of the Wave*, at Birkenhead. This vessel is a splendid steel yacht of first-rate model, finish, and workmanship; and the machinery constructed for her is of an entirely novel character, the motive power being water under pressure, which, it is expected, will entirely supersede steam.

PRESERVATION OF LEECHES.—Among the various means for the preservation of this useful animal, M. Stanislas Martin states that there is nothing so good as the deposit of a bed of silice, formed of pieces of various forms, but not exceeding a nut in size. The leech delights in remaining in the cavities formed by these, and while penetrating into them rubs its body against their asperities, thus effectually cleansing its surface from the filamentous mucus which adheres to it, and which, if not removed, leads to the destruction of the animal.

A NEWLY-INVENTED harpoon contains a pound of powder with a ten-second fuse, and is instant death to a whale, and sure to hold him afterward. It is to be used in the sulphur-bottom whales, which are very large and plentiful in the Iceland and Spitzbergen seas, and have hitherto been neglected because they sink as soon as killed.

It is stated that the system of ventilation adopted in the English House of Parliament is that of exhaustion, the air being put in motion by means of heat, applied by coke fires in great upcast shafts, the two chief being in the Victoria Tower and the Clock Tower.

HOW PLANTS GROW.—Plants breathe carbonic acid instead of oxygen. Deprive a plant of carbonic acid, and it would sicken and die. Over the surface of leaves are countless numbers of pores or open mouths, which take in the carbonic acid. Thus the leaves of plants are like the lungs of animals. It escapes whenever fermentation takes place, and whenever bodies are decomposed. Such are some of the properties of carbonic acid—a substance deadly poisonous when breathed, yet absolutely necessary for our very existence.

THE London Stereoscopic Company have invented a new toy in photography. It is called "a new wonder—instantaneous photography in the drawing-room." Some bits of paper are given to a child, with instruction to slip one of them in water, lay it on another, and press the two bits gently together. A photographic portrait is immediately developed. There is no magic in it; but the effect is a very pretty surprise.

INCOMBUSTIBLE articles of attire have been manufactured suitable for smiths, iron-puddlers, glass-blowers, and others carrying on their ope-

rations in the presence of fire. The result is partly accomplished by the incorporation of asbestos, commonly known as mineral wool, and partly by impregnation with incombustible chemical salts.

WITTY AND WHIMSICAL.

BASE COIN.—Money placed in a foundation stone.

AFFECTIONATE TIMES.—Everything is about as dear as it can be.

A PARADOX.—When a shoemaker is going to make a boot, the first thing he uses is the last.

WANTED.—A pin to fasten the tie of friendship; the tongue of a speaking eye; a leg from the stool of repentance; a link from the chain of evidence; and a feather from fancy's wing.

A COUNTRY boy who had read of sailors heaving up anchors, wanted to know if it was sea-sickness that made them do it.

THE gentleman who borrowed an oyster-knife with which to open an account at a banker's, is anxious to meet with a patent corkscrew to draw a cheque.

A PARADOX.

As William drew his Susy near,

He whispered to his bride,

"Though queer it sounds, I love my dear,
To live by Suey's side."

DURING the autumn sales the volume of nature is full of fly-leaves.

THE bachelor has to look out for number *one*—the married man for number *two*.

"VERY good, but rather too pointed," as the fish said when it swallowed the bait.

LIGHT LITERATURE.—The books of a gas company.

LIGHT LITERATURE FOR RAILWAY READING.—Our young friends will thank us for directing attention to some Sanscrit books which we find announced. If the works are as charming as their titles, we have a rich treat in store. Here are a few of them:—"Swapanclaksharimahamantrastotra;" "Trigunatmikakalikastotra;" "Upagalalitvatratodyapana;" "Sankashtachaturthivratodyapana;" and "Anantachaturdasi-vratokatha." They will relieve the tedium of a journey, especially if the train jolts a little, and can be recommended for birthday presents.

WHEN Dante was at the court of Sigmore della Scala, then sovereign of Verona, that prince said to him, one day, "I wonder, Signor Dante, that a man so learned as you are should be hated by all my court, and that this fool (pointing to his buffoon who stood by him) should be beloved." Highly piqued at this comparison, Dante replied, "Your excellency would wonder less, if you considered that we like those best who most resemble ourselves."

AN old literary trial was recently brought in England, the plaintiff being one Strous with several initials, the writer of a novel entitled "The Old Ledger," and the defendants the owners and editors of the *Athenæum*, who some months since criticised the work in question, pronouncing it "the very worst attempt at a novel that has ever been perpetrated." Strous employed a Bow Street lawyer, who threw up the case when the attorney for the defendants succeeded in reading extracts from "The Old Ledger," a juror withdrawing for the purpose. The *Athenæum* is, of course, jubilant, though in a quiet and mysterious way.

CONS., VEGETARIAN, ARBOREOUS, AND FLORICULTURAL.—What tree most requires consolation?—The weeping willow. What plant requires a styptic remedy?—Love lies bleeding. What fruit should be sent to a reformatory?—The black-heart cherry. What vegetable induces asphyxia?—The artichoke. What flower does a pretty Quakeress resemble?—The primrose. For what flower is the desire apt to make you lazy?—When you feel lack-a-daisy-call. What is the flower for a teacher?—Verbena. What is the flower for the poor?—Any money. What is the flower for a Chinese woman?—Pick her tea.