

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Letters intended for the Editor, should be addressed "Editor Saturday Reader, Drawer 401," and communications on business to "R. Worthington, publisher."

VIC.—The contract for building the volunteer drill shed at Quebec was for six thousand dollars; but as the building progressed some alterations were made in the original plans, which increased the cost from four to six hundred dollars. In round figures, the building—which is of wood, with stone foundations—may be said to have cost, as it now stands, six thousand five hundred dollars, of which amount Government paid four thousand dollars.

U. L. X.—The index to the second volume was issued with the first number of the third volume. It is out of print at present; but a further supply will be ready in a short time, as also of covers for binding the volume. A notice will appear in the Reader when they are ready for delivery.

ALBINS.—The lines were misquoted. They should read:

"Manners with fortune, humours turn with climes,
Tenets with books, and principles with times."

CEPHAS.—Much obliged for your prompt replies, but we still think the solution incorrect. Taking the investment as \$1800, the interest on the full amount should be calculated for three months. At the expiration of that time six of the shares were sold for \$1050, leaving only \$750 of the amount invested at interest. The total interest calculated in this way would be \$51, and the profit in the transaction \$69, or exactly 3½ per cent. To the question contained in your first note, we reply: "we hope you will do so frequently as your leisure will permit."

Dew.—Writes "Every number of the London Times contains the following paragraph immediately above the editorial heading: 'The publication of the Times was commenced this morning at 5 o'clock (the time varies), and finished at 7.' Please explain." The earlier hour, we presume, refers to the time the first deliveries of the journal were made up for dispatch by the morning trains, and the later to the time the delivery of the whole edition was completed. We may add, that from a very early hour in the morning Printing House Square is blocked with vans waiting to convey immense packages of the Times to the several railway stations for dispatch by earliest trains to the towns in the interior. When the last van is loaded, delivery to the city news agents begins, and with marvellous celerity the Thunderer is scattered throughout the metropolis. From the extreme east to the extreme west the well-to-do Londoner's breakfast is incomplete without his copy of *The Times*.

J. V., HALIFAX, N.S.—Will reply to your question in our next issue.

POPPIE.—The editor will probably have something to say to "Poppie" next week.

BERNICE.—We feel much indebted to you for the interest you manifest in our enterprise.

NAVAL.—The rank of Commodore is intermediate between that of Captain and Admiral. It is not permanent, but is bestowed for a time on a captain. Usually, a Commodore commands more ships than one detached from a fleet on special service, and he is privileged to have a commander in his ship in the same way an Admiral is privileged to have a captain. In matters of etiquette, a Commodore ranks on a level with a Brigadier General in the army.

MONTREAL, February 9, 1867.—*Mr. Editor,*—In confirmation of your reply to your correspondent "George A." about negroes having been held in slavery in Canada: in the centenary number of the *Quebec Gazette*, published in 1864, may be found, as "elegant extracts" from their first number, several advertisements for runaway negroes; and in Boyd's Summary of Canadian History, page 73, it is recorded:

"In 1803, Chief Justice Osgood declared slavery inconsistent with the laws of the coun-

try, and all negroes held as slaves, over 300 in number, consequently received a grant of freedom."

In these matter-of-fact times, this noble decision of the Chief Justice might be forgotten, therefore I thought it worth while to ask you to find space for it, on the principle of

Palnam qui meruit ferat.

I am, Mr. Editor, yours, &c.,
JACOB DRYDUST.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

MAGNETISED WIRE.—If an iron wire be twisted during or even after the passage of a voltaic current through it, the wire becomes magnetic. When the wire is twisted in the manner of a right-handed-screw, the point at which the current enters becomes a south pole; in the opposite case it becomes a north pole. If, during the passage of the current, the wire be twisted in different directions, the polarity changes with the direction of the twist.

LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE.—An intelligent Christian once said to me: "I had a brother who was regarded, and regarded himself, as firmly established in infidelity. Being afterwards converted, he made this acknowledgment: 'In the midst of my apparent infidelity, I never doubted that Mr. — was a Christian; and so deeply did I feel it, that I would at any time cross the street sooner than meet him.'"

PUNCHING GLASS AND ENAMEL.—The modelling and cutting-out of many objects in glass and enamel have hitherto been effected by instruments only admitting of the production of one piece at a time, and consequently the conditions of economy, which require that duplicates should not only be exact counterparts one of another, but also be produced one after the other in a continued stream, as it were, has been very inadequately fulfilled. The object of an invention of M. Couéat, an ingenious mechanic of Paris, is to provide a method for cutting out, with that rapidity only obtainable by the aid of machinery, a number of articles consecutively. The peculiarity which distinguishes this apparatus from those which have been constructed on a larger scale for more refractory and obdurate materials than enamel and glass, consists in the circumstance that the frame which holds the matrices is movable upon a hinge joint, thus permitting the finished piece to be removed with greater facility.

BURNS, SCALDS AND THEIR TREATMENT.—Mix common kitchen whitening with sweet oil, or, if sweet oil is not at hand, with water. Plaster the whole of the burn and some inches beyond it, all round, with the above, after mixing it to the consistency of common paste, and lay it on, an eighth, or rather more, of an inch in thickness. It acts like a charm: the most agonising pain is in a few minutes stilled. Take care to keep the mixture moist by the application, from time to time, of fresh oil or fresh water, and at night wrap the whole part affected in gutta-percha or flannel, to keep the moisture from evaporating. The patient will in all probability, unless the flesh be much injured and the burn a very bad one, sleep soundly.

HARD ON THE DOCTOR.—A person who was recently called into court for the purpose of proving the correctness of a doctor's bill, was asked by the lawyer whether "the doctor did not make several visits after the patient was out of danger?" "No," replied the witness, "I considered the patient in danger as long as the doctor continued his visits."

WANTED.—Some feathers from the right wing of an army—A coffin to bury the Dead Sea—The saucer into which the cup of misery overflowed—A night-cap to fit the head of the Mississippi river—The match which kindled the fire of love—A pair of spectacles to suit the eyes of Justice—A remedy to cure the deafness in the ears of corn—The broom with which the storm swept over the sea—A chip from the North Pole.

WITTY AND WHIMSICAL.

Advice is the only sort of vice that some people don't follow.

Is there any perceptible improvement in a caterpillar when he turns over a new leaf.

Don't take too much interest in the affairs of your neighbours. Six per cent will do.

An unbound book might appropriately say to a calf or a sheep, "I wish I were in your skin."

We often read of "the economy of health." No doubt there is real economy in it, for sickness is expensive, especially if you call in a doctor.

"You are writing my bill on very rough paper," said a client to his solicitor.—"Never mind," said the lawyer, "it has to be filed before it comes into court."

A MAN being asked, as he lay sunning himself on the grass, what was the height of his ambition, replied, "To marry a rich widow with a bad cough."

"I say, Pat, what are you about; sweeping out the room?"—"No," answered Pat, "I'm sweeping out the dirt and leaving the room."

HARRY TURN recently married his cousin, of the same name. When interrogated as to why he did so, he replied that it had always been a maxim of his, that "one good Turn deserves another."

"I AM surprised, my dear, that I have never seen you blush."—"The fact is, husband, I was born to blush unseen."

The young man who recently went on a bridal tour, with an angel in muslin, has returned with a termagant in hoops.

ONE would think a glutton must be very mad at his dinner from the way he bites at it.

WHY is a sawyer like a lawyer?—Because, whichever way he goes, down comes the dust.

If a young woman's disposition is gunpowder, the sparks should be kept away from her.

ONE of the hands on the face of a clock may be new, but the other is always second-hand.

PHILOSOPHERS tell us that Nature never errs. They certainly cannot mean human nature.

MINUTE.—A traveller who was detained an hour by some mischance shortened his stay by "making a 'minute' of it." There's philosophy for you.

SOLE IDEA.—An auctioneer put up Drew's "Essay on Souls" for sale, which was bid off by a shoemaker, who gravely asked if he had "any more articles on shoemaking to sell."

FALSETTO.—A singer in the opera chorus, who formerly had a very good chest voice, sings now altogether in falsetto. He ascribes it entirely to the dentist, who, he says, gave him a false set of teeth.

DOUBTFUL ABOUT ITS EFFICACY.—A woman being enjoined to try the effect of kindness on her husband, and being told that it would heap coals of fire on his head, replied that she had tried "bilin' water," and it didn't do a bit of good. She was rather doubtful about the efficacy of "coals."

ARITHMETIC FOR THE MILLION.—If twenty grains make a scruple, how many will make a doubt?—If seven days make one week, how many will make one strong?—If five and a half yards make a pole, how many will make a Turk?—If three miles make a league, how many will make a confederacy?—If three feet make a yard, how many will make a garden?

A YOUNG LADY of eighteen, Miss B., was engaged to be married to a gentleman of thirty-six. Her mother having noticed her low spirits for some time, inquired the reason. "Oh, dear mamma," replied the young lady, "I was thinking about my husband being twice my age."—"That's very true; but he's only thirty-six."—"He's only thirty-six now, dear mamma but when I'm sixty—"—"Well?"—"Oh, dear! why, then he'll be a hundred and twenty!"