

TO CORRESPONDENTS

ALPHA, STRATFORD.—Much obliged. We are always glad to receive contributions of the kind you have favoured us with.

L. N.—The answer appeared in No. 34; Your solution is not quite correct, as you will see by referring to that number.

ANXIOUS.—We are not aware that a single case of cholera had occurred in England up to the sailing of the last steamer. The overcrowding of the two vessels referred to was sufficient to breed disease of a malignant type. **ANXIOUS** must not be over-anxious, but whilst using the precautions suggested by Boards of Health and Sanitary Committees, endeavour to keep her mind calm and unruffled. Medical men are agreed as to the fact that over-anxiety and fear predispose the system to attacks of the terrible disease which may visit us ere many weeks have passed.

J. F. F.—We acknowledged the receipt of your several communications in our last issue, and beg to refer you to that notice.

R. HAMILTON.—The solution is correct, but was received too late to be acknowledged under the usual heading.

POLLY.—The satisfaction is by no means slight, for we are always glad to welcome new correspondents, especially those who feel an interest in the **READER**. Available contributions to our pastime column are always acceptable, and we hope to receive further favours from **POLLY**.

ONE INTERESTED.—We believe the *trichina spiralis* has not been discovered in Canadian pork, but a committee of the Chicago Academy of Sciences have been examining the flesh of swine slaughtered in that city. They report that over thirteen hundred hogs were examined and of these twenty-eight were found diseased. In some cases the number of worms in a cubic inch of meat was as high as 18,000. All pork should be thoroughly cooked, or well smoked before it is eaten.

R. J. W.—We are compelled to decline your proposition.

DILEMMA.—Caustic is the most effectual cure, but if you apply it you must be prepared to see your hands disfigured for a time. You will scarcely mind that, we suppose, if you can attain the end desired.

MARY H.—"Route" should be pronounced as if it were written "root." "Wind" in poetry may be pronounced to rhyme with "find," "mind," when the rhyme requires it.

W. S. L.—We really cannot discover the drift of your remarks.

YOUNG CANADA.—A member of Parliament cannot hold office under the crown, and retain his seat, consequently when a British M. P. is desirous of relinquishing his parliamentary honours he accepts the Stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds. The office is a sinecure, and is relinquished by a member as soon as it has enabled him to secure the end he had in view in accepting it. We should have stated that no member of the House of Commons can resign his seat unless he be disqualified in some way or other.

MAPP.—Consult the advertisement sheets of the *London Times* or *Telegraph*.

A. J. F.—We are sorry we cannot publish the verses forwarded.

Geo. B.—A constant routine of gymnastics will tend to render the body more supple, and remove the stiffness you complain of.

GERTRUDE.—"The Family Honour" will probably be completed in about six weeks.

H. A.—Should read an article in the last number of the "Trade Review." It is the opinion of Dr. Hunt that gold may be found, in paying quantities, in many districts of Lower Canada.

OLIVER TWIST.—We can only say that the MSS. will receive our careful attention if you decide to forward them.

J. M. D.—We are not acquainted with the ingredients used in the preparation of the varnish mentioned.

VIOLLET.—Respectfully declined.

PHILLIP H.—It is the old tale of Bullem and Boatem.

A SUBSCRIBER.—We stated in a late issue that

specimens of the Sewing Machines, to be awarded to those of our friends who procure ten annual subscribers to the **READER**, may be seen at the stores of the agents in Hamilton, London, Ottawa, Toronto and Quebec. They are very useful machines, and will prove invaluable additions to a household.

MISCELLANEA.

THERE is in England and Scotland an army of 378,000 men, all more or less effectively trained and armed, and ranged round a nucleus of 71,000 seasoned soldiers.

In the late civil war in America, 220 battles were fought: in Virginia, 89; in Tennessee, 87; in Missouri, 35; Georgia, 12; South Carolina, 16; North Carolina, 11; Alabama, 7; Florida, 5; Kentucky, 14; the Indian Territory and New Mexico, 1 each. There were 17 naval engagements.

The cost of the losses by the cattle plague in the county of Chester will be greater than that of all the other counties in England put together, excluding Yorkshire.

A Geelong paper says that ten couple of rabbits were introduced in the colony in 1859, and already 50,000 have been killed. The hares that have been introduced are rapidly multiplying.

DINNER TIME.—Until towards the middle of the seventeenth century people were in the practice of dining at ten and eleven o'clock in the forenoon. "With us," so reads the preface by Hollingshead, "the nobility, gentry, and students, do ordinarily go to dinner before noon, and to supper at five, or between five and afternoon. The merchants dine and sup seldom before twelve at noon and six in the afternoon, especially in London. The husbandmen dine, also at high noon, as they call it, and sup at seven or eight; but out of the town, in our universities, the scholars dine at ten."

NAPOLEONIC COMPLIMENT.—The Emperor, notwithstanding the eccentricity of the Marquis de Boissy, is very good friends with him, and he exclaimed the other day, "Ah! marquis, we meet again, *enfant terrible*."—"Not terrible, your majesty," was the reply, "but devoted. I wish, sire, you had many such."—"No, no, marquis," answered his majesty; "one, I feel, is enough."—A compliment, or the reverse, but capitally put, as leaving such an equivocal interpretation.

INFALLIBLE RECIPE.—For Preserving the Complexion—Temperance. For Whitening the Hands—Honesty. To Remove Stains—Repentance. For Improving the Sight—Observation. A Beautiful Ring—The Home Circle. For Improving the Voice—Civility. The Best Companion to the Toilet—A Wife.

ONE OF THE OLDEST VESSELS AFLOAT.—The barque "Truelove," a ship of the old school, recently sailed from Hull, being the only vessel despatched this year from Hull to Davis Straits whale fisheries. The Truelove is one of the oldest vessels afloat. She was built at Philadelphia, United States, in 1764, and is consequently 102 years old. At that time the spot on which she was built was one of the plantations from which much wood was taken for the building of British vessels.

It is said that the ivy will not cling to a poisonous tree, or other substance. What a pity that the tendrils of a woman's heart have not the same whole some and salutary instinct.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL

NEW TEST FOR POTASH.—Biting taste of soda is recommended by M. Plun Reit as a precipitant of potash. The solution is made by dissolving tartaric acid in water, dividing the solution into two parts, saturating one of these with carbonate of soda, and then mixing the remaining acid solution. The liquor containing potash must be slightly acidulated before the re-agent is added.

ARTIFICIAL ALABASTER.—Magnesia obtained by calcination from chloride of magnesium will when exposed to the action of water for some months, acquire considerable consistency, and become

hard enough to cut marble. A lamina of this magnesia of moderate thickness is translucent as alabaster. With this substance casts may be taken as if with plaster of Paris, only the former sets under water. A mixture of chalk and magnesia in powder, made up into a paste with water, is good for moulding, and will become exceedingly hard under water.

PURIFYING SMOKE.—The invention of Messrs. Bourgeois and Mathieu, communicated to Mr. Henry, patent agent, Fleet Street, has for its object to purify smoke from soot, and is also applicable to other purposes in which gas or vapour is to be separated from matters held in suspension therein. For this purpose the smoke, gas or vapour, is led into a passage, and caused to pass down through it, and while descending, is subjected to the action of water or other liquid driven through it in showers or jets, so as drop more quickly than the smoke, gas, or vapour descends. The soot or impurities are thus driven off, and may be collected in order to be utilized.

WITTY AND WHIMSICAL

"FATHER, I was reading to-day about illuminated manuscripts: what were they lighted with?" "With the light of other days, my son."

THE RIGHT ORGAN.—Spurzheim was lecturing on phrenology. "What is to be conceived the organ of drunkenness?" said the professor.—"The barrel-organ," interrupted Bannister.

WHEN a young lady hems handkerchiefs for a rich bachelor, she probably sews, in order that she may reap.

"Did any of you ever see an elephant's skin?" asked the master of an infant school. "I have!" shouted a six-year-old at the foot of the class. "Where?" inquired the teacher, amused by his earnestness. "On the elephant!" was the reply.

It is said "the hare is one of the most timid animals, yet it always dies game." Why shouldn't it, when it is made game of?

EASY REMEDY.—"I like to hear a child cry," jocosely said the Abbé Morold.—"Why?"—"Because then there is some hope of his being sent away."

A WESTERN paper, describing the *début* of a young orator, says that "he broke the ice felicitously with his opening sentence and was almost immediately drowned with applause."

"Isn't it pleasant to be surrounded by such a crowd of ladies," said a pretty woman to a popular lecturer. "Yes," said he; but it would be pleasanter to be surrounded by one."

A PUNNING SERMON IN THE REIGN OF JAMES I.—This dial shows that we must die all; nevertheless, all (pronounced ail) houses are turned into ale houses; our cares into cates; our paradise into a pair o' dice; matrimony into a matter o' money; and marriage into a merry age. Our divines have become dry vines. But ah, no, it was not so in the days of No-ah. Ah, no!

LOW WATER.—The water in some of the mill streams must be quite low, judging by the story told of a man who stopped to get a pail water for his horse, when he was requested by the miller to get it below rather than above the mill, as he had kept his wife melting snow all day to furnish water enough to keep the machinery in motion.

An ingenious person has discovered that the three most forcible letters in our alphabet are N R G; that the two which contain nothing are M T; that four express great corpulence, O B C T; that two are in a decline, D K; that four indicate exalted station, X L N C; and three excite our tears, yet when pronounced together, are necessary to a good understanding—L E G

SCARCITY OF WIVES.—It is said that in New South Wales an old maid is a much rarer animal than a black swan. It is asserted that the fair emigrants receive offers of marriage through speaking-trumpets, before they land from the ship; and if one accepts the proposal she signifies it by holding up the finger on which she expects the wedding-ring to be placed.