

Answers to Correspondents.

- "U. S."—(1) The year of the discovery of America by Columbus was 1492. (2) The first newspaper published in New York was by William Bradford in 1725.
- "A. A. SPOTSMAN."—The phrase "The right divine of Kings to govern wrong" is from Pope's *Dunciad*, Book IV., Line 183.
- "T. D."—(1) The Declaration of Irish Rights was moved by Henry Grattan in the Irish House of Commons and carried unanimously on the 10th April, 1782. (2) Lord Edward Fitzgibbon died of his wounds in Newgate prison, Dublin, 3rd June 1793.
- "VINDEX."—You are correct. Cornelius O'Donovan, Bishop of Down and Connor, suffered martyrdom in his eightieth year, during the reign of James I. He was tried by a packed jury on a charge of high treason, and sentenced to death. On the day of his execution he was dragged through the streets of Dublin on a hurdle to the gibbet, where he was executed.
- "W. R. P."—The history of the "Plantation of Ulster" would be a long tale for the newspaper column. As an evidence of the spirit that guided the new possessors of the confiscated lands, we may refer to the fact that the English adventurers, calling themselves the Irish Society, on the 9th November, 1615, decreed, "in order that Harry might not, in future, be peopled with Irish," that the inhabitants should not keep Irish servants or Irish apprentices.
- "GIVIS."—There were seven Crusades or Holy Wars in which the warriors wore a cross and fought for the honor of Christianity. Each nation had its special color, thus: the Cross of England was yellow or gold; of France, white or silver; of Italy, blue or azure; of Spain, red or gules; of Scotland, a St. Andrew Cross, and of the King of Tempur, red on white. The first crusade (in 1096-1099) was preached up by "the Hermit," and led by Godfrey of Bouillon, who took Jerusalem.
- "ONE WHO KNOWS."—Is a bad punster.—He asks the origin of the ascribed portions of "bleeding at the nose" and "itching at the nose," and says that as "one who knows," he writes to "one who knows."—Itching at the nose is regarded as a sign that you shall see a stranger. Decker in an old play, with a not very polite little, has:—
"We shall ha' guests to-day—my nose itched so—"
Bleeding of the nose is regarded as a sign of love. In Boulster's "Lectures," p. 130, we have:—
"Did my nose ever bleed when I was in your company," and poor wretch, just as she spake this, to show her true heart, her nose fell a-bleeding."
- "BAL DEAR."—Our able contemporary the *Irish World*, in a late number, gives in concise form the information you seek:—The Scythians, who are mentioned by Keating, in the second part of his "History," as the progenitors of the Scots, Gaels, or Irish, are now recognized by German scholars as essentially Indo-European. Their very name—the same word as the common Latin word *scutum* (in *Irish Scyth*), "the shielded people"—shows this. The origin of the word *familia* has been traced to the language of these people. It comes from *thymele*, "the hearth" or centre of fire, round which the family, in every period of time, grouped itself. The root of this word, again, may be found in the Irish *tims*, "heat, warmth."
- "AMERICAN."—Do good by stealth and blunty to find it fame" is from Pope's Translation of Horace, (Epilogue to Satires' Dialogue), Line 130.
- "THOMASINE."—"The Faugh-a-Ballagh Boys" was the name given to the 87th Royal Irish Fusiliers who adopted this as their cry when making a charge during the Conventual wars at the beginning of this century. "Faugh-a-ballagh" is the vulgar spelling for "Fag-a-ben-lach," which means "clear the road."
- "AN ENGLISH CATHOLIC."—The date was 1780. At that time a few of the Penal Laws against Catholics were repealed, although they could not exercise their religion freely, and were disqualified from holding office. Even this slight relaxation, says a contemporary, served as an excuse for Lord George Gordon to raise forty thousand men, and form a Protestant Association. "No Popery" was again the cry, and riots and mischief were the consequence. A month or eight days was in possession of the churches, and who but the Catholic Churches and many public buildings, and committed every excess that the fanatical spirit of "No Popery" could suggest. The Government was at last obliged to send troops to put down the rioters, but six hundred lives were lost, and thousands of pounds worth of property was destroyed in the Gordon riots. Charles Dickens, in his novel of *Barnaby Rudge*, has given a description of this "Reign of Terror."
- "A TIPPERARY MAN."—Yes, Cromwell's last achievement in Ireland was at Clonmel. The town contained 2,000 foot and 120 horse from Ulster, commanded by Hugh O'Neill. Cromwell made an attack, but was repulsed with great loss; but on the 9th of May, 1650, he returned with reinforcements. A breach was effected in the walls, but the assailants were forced to retire. A furious contest then raged till the darkness of night compelled the inhabitants to desist, when it was found that Cromwell's men had suffered dreadfully from the obstinate valor of the men of Tyrone. The inhabitants offered to surrender on conditions, which were granted, but when Cromwell entered the city next morning, he found the garrison had retreated towards Waterford. Cromwell embarked at Youghal on May 29th, and on June 4th he received the hearty thanks of the House of Commons "for his great and faithful services unto the Parliament and the Commonwealth."
- "CATHOLICUS."—We find a paragraph to hand in our exchanges supplying the sought-for information. The whole number of Popes from St. Peter to Pius IX. is 257. Of these eighty-two are venerated as saints, fifty-three having been martyred. One hundred and four have been Romans, and 103 natives of other parts of Italy, fifteen Frenchmen, nine Greeks, seven Germans, five Asiatics, three Africans, three Spaniards, two Dalmatians, one Hebrew, one Thracian, one Dutchman, one Portuguese, one Candiot, and one Englishman. The name most commonly borne has been John; the twenty-third and last was a Neapolitan, raised to the throne in 1410. Nine Pontiffs reigned less than one month, thirty less than one year, and eleven more than twenty years. Only five have occupied the Pontifical chair over twenty-three years. These are: St. Peter, who was Supreme Pastor twenty-five years, two months, and seven days; Silvester I., twenty-three years, ten months, and twenty-seven days; Pius VI., twenty-four years, eight months, and fourteen days; Pius IX., who celebrated his twenty-ninth year in the Pontifical chair, June 16, 1875.