

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. O., LYNDEN.—The postage on the *Reader* is twenty-six cents for the year, if paid in advance; when not paid in advance, it is one cent per number. Messrs. Oowler & Stevenson published the "Montreal Bank Note Reporter" for some time, but it is now discontinued, owing, we presume, to the fact that the American national currency is rapidly replacing the circulation of the old States banks.

HATTIE.—Received, and will have our early attention.

HAMILTON.—The changes are remarkable. Will insert in an early issue.

H.—Received. Thanks!

A. LeC.—The question referred to the use of the word "Homœopathics" in one of the "Scarlet Fever" letters. We never intended to recommend "Homœopathiser" in place of "Homœopathist," the term generally applied to the disciples of Hahnemann. The exigency of rhyme, we suspect, induced Mr. T. to use "Homœopathics." We shall be happy to hear frequently from A. LeC, but must express our belief that he would not have written the last paragraph of his letter were he in possession of the facts respecting the points to which he refers.

ARTIST.—It is well enough to "try," but we scarcely think we can recommend you to "Try, try again." You would find it difficult to emulate the marvellous inconsistencies of the person referred to. Please forward the MS.

L. P. C.—The answers are all correct.

Y. K. E.—Respectfully declined.

F. B. D.—We receive subscriptions for the half year, and should you leave the country at the expiration of six months, as you anticipate, will return one-half of the amount sent. We must have overlooked that part of your letter containing the answers. Will insert your communication in an early issue.

ELLEN P.—Declined. You have probably copied the article correctly.

R. W. S., TORONTO.—The anecdote is new to us, and will probably be inserted.

JAS. T.—We do not, as a rule undertake to return rejected MSS., but will make an exception in your case, should we not publish the article.

VICTOR.—We found the idea impracticable; and, further, the circulars requesting information, which we addressed to secretaries of the various Lodges, were replied to in but very few instances.

PHILIP.—We have handed your note to the Chess Editor, who will reply to your query in a short time.

AGOST.—Previous to the reign of Cæsar Augustus, the month was called "Sextilis."

B. S.—We make it a rule to avoid all comment on questions of the character you refer to us.

W. G.—Yes, to your first question; No, to the second.

J. H.—If you do not obtain the *Reader* regularly through the agent, you had better have it mailed to your address from the office direct.

PARLOUR MAGIC.

TO SUSPEND A RING BY A BURNT THREAD.—The thread having been previously soaked two or three times in common salt and water, tie it to a ring not larger than a wedding-ring. When you apply the flame of a candle to it, though the thread burn to ashes, it will yet sustain the ring.

TO PRODUCE A COLOUR WHICH SHALL APPEAR AND DISAPPEAR.—Put into a decanter some volatile spirit, in which copper filings have been dissolved, and it will produce a fine blue tincture; if the bottle be stopped, the colour will immediately disappear, but when it is unstopped the colour soon returns. This experiment may be repeated frequently.

TO MAKE WATER FREEZE BY THE FIRESIDE.—This curious feat can only be performed in winter. Set a quart pot upon a stool before the

fire, throwing a little water upon the stool first. Then put a handful of snow into the pot, having privately conveyed into it a handful of salt. Stir it about for eight or nine minutes with a short stick, and the congelation will be effected.

TO PRODUCE AN ELECTRIC SPARK FROM A PIECE OF BROWN PAPER.—Thoroughly dry before the fire a quarter of a sheet of rather strong brown paper, place it on your thigh, holding it at the edge with one hand, while with the cuff of the sleeve of the other you rub it smartly back and forwards for ten or fifteen minutes; if the knuckle be then placed near the paper it will emit a brilliant spark accompanied with a snapping noise; the prongs of a fork similarly placed will produce three distinct streams of light. The experiment must, of course, be performed in the dark, and the trouser, and coat be of woollen cloth.

TO MAKE A CONE OR PYRAMID MOVE UPON A TABLE.—Roll up a piece of paper, or any other light substance, and put a lady beetle, or some such small insect, privately under it: then, as the insect will naturally endeavour to free itself from its captivity, it will move the cone towards the edge of the table, and as soon as it comes there will immediately return, for fear of falling; and by thus moving to and fro, will occasion much sport to those who are unacquainted with the cause.

THE MYSTERIOUS BOTTLE.—Pierce a few holes, with a glazier's diamond, in a common black bottle; place it in a vase or jug of water, so that the neck is only above the surface, then with a funnel fill the bottle: and cork it well while it is in the jug or vase. Take it out, and notwithstanding the holes in the bottom, it will not leak; wipe it dry, and give it to some person to uncork. The moment the cork is drawn, to the party's astonishment, the water will begin to run out of the bottom of the bottle.

A SIMPLE DECEPTION.—Stick a little wax upon your thumb, take a by-stander by the fingers, show him a sixpence, and tell him you will put the same into his hand; then ring it down hard with your waxed thumb, and, using many words, look him in the face; suddenly take away your thumb, and the coin will adhere to it; then close his hand, and it will seem to him that the sixpence remains; now tell him to open his hand, and if you perform the feat cleverly, to his great astonishment he will find nothing in it.

TO MAKE ARTIFICIAL FIRE-BALLS.—Put thirty grains of phosphorus into a Florence flask, with three or four ounces of water. Place the vessel over a lamp, and give it a boiling heat. Balls of fire will soon be seen to issue from the water, after the manner of an artificial firework, attended with the most beautiful coruscations.

TO MAKE FIRE FLASH FROM WATER.—Pour a small quantity of clear water into a glass, and put a piece or two of phosphoretted lime into it. In a few seconds flashes of fire will dart from the surface of the water, and end in curls of smoke rising in regular succession.

TO MAKE WRITING LUMINOUS IN THE DARK.—Fix a small piece of solid phosphorus in a quill, and write with it upon paper; if the paper be then placed in a dark room, the writing will be beautifully luminous.

FIRE PRODUCED BY WATER.—Fill a saucer with water, and let fall into it a piece of potassium, of the size of a pepper corn, which is about two grains. The potassium will instantly burst into a flame, with a slight explosion, and burn vividly on the surface of the water, darting at the same time from one side of the vessel to the other, with great violence, in the form of a beautiful red-hot fire-ball.

TO MAKE AN EGG STAND ON ONE END.—To accomplish this trick, let the performer take an egg in his hand, and while he keeps talking and staring in the faces of his audience, give it two or three hearty shakes, this will break the yoke, which will sink to one end, and consequently make it more heavy, by which, when it is settled, you may make it, with a steady hand, stand upon the glass. This would be impossible while it continued in its proper state.

HOW TO LIFT UP A FLINT GLASS BOTTLE WITH A STRAW.—Take a straw which is not broken or bruised, and having bent one end of it into a sharp angle, put this curved end into the bottle, so that the bent part may rest against its side; you may then take the other end, and lift up the bottle by it without breaking the straw, and this will be the more readily accomplished as the angular part of the straw approaches nearer to that which comes out of the bottle.

WITTY AND WHIMSICAL.

"PAPA," said a little boy to his father the other day, "are not sailors very, very small men?"—"No, my dear," answered his father. "Pray what leads you to suppose that they are so small?" "Because," replied the young idea, smartly, "I read the other day of a sailor going to sleep in his watch."

Mrs. PARTINGTON, having heard her son say that there were a great many anecdotes in the new Almanac, begged him to cut them all out, as she had heard that when anybody was poisoned, nothing was necessary but to give him an anecdote, and it would cure him. Did the old lady mean an antidote?

An experienced old stager says, if you make love to a widow who has a daughter twenty years younger than herself, begin by declaring that you thought they were sisters.

An advocate having lately gained a suit for a poor young lady, who was very ugly, she remarked, "I have nothing to pay you with, sir, but my heart." "Hand it over to the clerk, if you please. I wish no fee for myself," he replied.

In Louisville, a few nights ago, an escaped convict was found hidden in a hoghead of peas, and remanded to jail. He thought it hard that he couldn't be allowed to rest in peas.

Two dandies were, some time ago, taken before a Dublin magistrate charged with "intending to fight a duel." The justice, who was a shrewd and waggish man, had strong doubts as to the really pugnacious inclination of either of the professed belligerents, so he dismissed them upon a promise "not to carry the matter further;" but added, "Gentlemen, I let you off this time; but upon my conscience, if you are brought again before me, I'll positively bind you both down to fight." They did not offend a second time.

A GALWAY bailiff, having been questioned as to whether he had spoken to any of the locked-up jury during the night, gravely answered, "No, my lord; they kept calling out for me to bring them whiskey, but I always said, 'Gentlemen of the jury, it's my duty to tell you that I'm sworn not to speak to you!'"

Horace Walpole on one occasion observed that there had existed the same indecision, irresolution, and want of system in the politics of Queen Anne, as at the time he spoke, under the reign of George the Third. "But," added he "there is nothing new under the sun!"—"No," said George Selwyn, "nor under the grand-son!"

Sheridan being asked what wine he liked best, replied, "The wine of other people."

SHARP REPARTEE.—A countryman was sowing his ground, when two smart fellows riding that way, one of them called to him, with an insolent air, "Well, honest fellow, 'tis your business to sow, but we reap the fruits of your labour." To which the countryman replied, "Tis very like you may, for I am sowing hemp."

SOME men were in a tavern, and, when at the height of their jollity, in came a friend whose name was Sampson. "Ah," said one, "we may now be securely merry, having neither serjeant nor bailiff; for, though a thousand such Philistines should come, here is Sampson, who is able to brain them all." "Sir," replied Sampson, "I may boldly venture on as many as you speak of, provided you lend me one of your jaw-bones."

A lady asked a minister whether a person might not be fond of dress and ornaments without being proud. "Madam," said the minister, "when you see a fox's tail peeping out of the hole, you may be sure the fox is within."