

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

F. W. B., TORONTO.—We omitted to acknowledge the receipt of your letter in our last. Will use the contribution, and shall be happy to hear from you when convenient.

R. T. B.—Many thanks! Are sorry the mistake occurred, but every one must have seen the proof-reader was at fault.

IO, HALIFAX.—Both articles were received. The second will appear as soon as we can find space for it.

POLLY.—We would accede to our correspondent's request with much pleasure, were it possible to do so; but as the article is not now in our possession, we fear Polly's "feminine propensity" must remain ungratified. On one point we can speak definitely—the writer's impressions were the reverse of favourable.

T. M. LEM.—We will, if possible, make room for your article in our next issue; but as our columns are very much crowded at present, its appearance may be delayed a week.

F. B. D.—We beg to refer you to our note addressed to you a few days since. We adhere to the views expressed therein.

J. T.—The "Death Blow" is respectfully declined.

MEDICO, JR.—A welcome budget. Do not forget your promise.

LESTER.—We agree with you that you cannot abandon the stand you have taken, without loss of self-respect, unless an ample apology is made. Perhaps, upon calm reflection, the offender will volunteer this.

SCOTIA.—We have written the Postal authorities respecting the charge you refer to. Will communicate the substance of their reply when received.

W. C. ORR.—Will reply to your queries in our next.

CONSTANTINE.—The Provincial Secretary is the proper person to address. Write out a plain statement of the facts of the case.

We are compelled to defer replies to a number of other letters, which have been received.

## MISCELLANEA.

It is estimated that upwards of 800,000 sewing machines have been manufactured in the United States since Mr. Howe introduced his invention, and that several millions of dollars are invested in the business.

LET no man drop an ill-gotten guinea into his pocket, and think the pocket unconscious of the wrong. His very glove shall babble of the bribe that has burnt his hand; and his cravat shall tighten like a rope about his throat.

The New York *Commercial Advertiser* mentions that seven young ladies have just taken the degree of Bachelor of Arts at the Maine Wesleyan Seminary.

Lord Chelmsford, who now occupies the wool-sack for the second time, served as a midshipman at Copenhagen when the Danish fleet was seized by our naval forces fifty-nine years ago.

Lord James Butler, the new State Steward at Dublin Castle, is a dairyman. His carts, with his lordship's name duly emblazoned, are to be seen in Dublin, supplying customers with milk.

Ireland claims the invention of the needle-gun. Capt. James Whitley is named as the inventor, and as having had a breech-loading needle-gun made in 1823 by Messrs. Trulock, of Dublin. Discouraged by the indifference shown at Woolwich to Capt. Norton's elongated shot, Capt. Whitley did not carry out the design he had of patenting his invention, the secret of which has been mastered by another. Such is the story told in Ireland.

A FACT FOR NATURALISTS.—A few weeks ago, a circumstance of considerable interest occurred at Wick, Scotland. A young dog, the property of Mr. James Craig, caught a large rat on the river breastwork, at Misses Oag's property, and

a prolonged contest for supremacy ensued, the rat managing to bite the dog, and almost place him *hors de combat*. The dog at last got hold of the rat by the back of the neck, and, holding it thus, ran to the river, plunged it under the water, and held it there till death ensued; when, after giving the dead rat a few indignant shakes, he threw it away, and returned in search of another.

RED-HOT SHOT.—When red-hot shot are fired, the ordinance used is elevated to the position desired before the gun is shotted. The powder in the gun is kept from explosion by means of the wadding. Between the explosive substance and the heated mass are generally three layers of wad. That against the ball is dry, the second is wet, and upon the powder another dry piece rests. The ball is discharged very soon after being placed in the cannon.

## SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

TO PROCURE SLEEP.—Twenty grains of carbonate of soda, taken the last thing on going to bed, will frequently procure sleep when all sedatives have failed.

PETROLEUM IN ENGLAND.—There appears to be good reason for supposing that an abundant supply of petroleum exists in the rocks of England. It is stated that the surface "indications" of various parts of Shropshire lead to this inference. Coalbrookdale, Coalport, Tarback Dingle, Caughley, Benthall, Broseley, and adjacent places, have been very confidently spoken of as likely localities. It is reported that experimental borings are already in progress. The oil-pit which has been sunk at Leeswood-green, in Flintshire, continues in active operation, and is increasing in produce. Extensive explorations are being carried on in the Buckley and Haywarden districts, and, if report be true, with good satisfactory results.

A NEW musical instrument of striking power and sweetness, and at the same time extremely simple, has been recently exhibited at Paris, where it called forth great admiration. It resembles a piano with upright strings, except that the latter are replaced by tuning-forks, which, to strengthen the sound, are arranged between two small tubes, one above and the other below them. The tuning-forks are sounded by hammers, and are brought to silence by means of dampers. The sounds thus produced, which resemble those of the harmonium, without being quite so soft, are extremely pure and penetrating.

SHOOTING STARS.—In a lecture at the Royal Institution on the shooting stars of the years 1865-66, Mr. Alexander Herschel has attempted to show that they have periodical returns like comets; and in support of this position, he referred to the records of observations made from time to time during the last 1000 years. Observations show that during every clear night in this hemisphere shooting stars may be seen, the ordinary number being about thirty an hour; but that in certain months, especially in the beginning of November, the number of these stars is greatly increased. It appears also that at intervals of thirty-three years there have been noticed very remarkable showers of shooting stars. One of these periods will occur about the 13th November next.

NAIL-MAKING MACHINE.—A Mr. R. C. Robinson has patented a nail-making machine on a new principle. He claims that besides making nails with good points and heads, it turns out much more quickly than the machines hitherto used, these latter producing of 1½-inch nails 180 per minute, while the new machine makes with ease 380 in the same time. The old machines are fed by hand, requiring a person to each machine, but this is self-feeding, and one person can easily tend two machines. The old machines are fed with a strip of the same width as the length of the nails to be cut from it; thus 1½-inch nails require strips of 1½-inch wide to be fed by hand into the machine; but the new machine, for the same length of nails, feeds itself with a strip 6 inches wide, detaching four nails from the strip at each cut.

## WITTY AND WHIMSICAL.

THE fellow who took offence has not yet returned it.

IN childhood we cut our teeth; in old age they cut us.

WARFARE is the worst kind of fare for a man to live on.

WHY is rheumatism like a glutton?—Because it attacks the joints.

A ROUND of pleasure sometimes renders it difficult to make things square.

IF you wish to get rich, get married. When was ever honey made with one bee in the hive?

THE right man in the right place is a husband at home in the evening.

WHAT is the key-note to good-breeding?—Be natural.

A NEW DEFINITION OF "FOOT NOTES."—Dancing tunes.

WHEN is a blow from a lady welcome?—When she strikes you agreeably.

WHY do the birds feel depressed early in a Summer morning?—Because their little bills are all over dew.

THE FEAST OF IMAGINATION.—When your stomach is empty, and your pocket ditto, to sit down and read a cookery-book.

A LAWYER'S POSITION is doubly perilous, because he often has other people's "deeds" to account for as well as his own.

"YOU seem to walk more erect than usual, my friend."—"Yes, I have been straightened by circumstances."

HEAVE YO!—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 RULING PASSION.—A great financial reformer is so devoted to figures that, when he has nothing else to do, he casts up his eyes.

HOW THEY DO IN MAINE.—Quaker young ladies in the Maine Law State, it is said, still continue to kiss the lips of the young temperance men to see if they have been tampering with liquor.

A LADY, in a paroxysm of grief, was said to shed torrents of tears. "Poor thing!" remarked an unfeeling punster, "she must have had a cataract in each eye."

"MARY, is your master at home?"—"No, sir, he's out."—"I don't believe it."—"Well, then, he'll come down and tell you so himself. Perhaps you'll believe him."

"I SAY, boy, is there anything to shoot about here?" inquired a sportsman of a boy he met.—"Well," was the reply, "nothing just about here; but the schoolmaster is down the hill yonder—you can pop him over."

A WESTERN paper strikes the names of two subscribers from its list because they were recently hung. The publisher says he was compelled to be severe, because he did not know their present address.

BUTTONING on a collar is cruel work for the nails when the linen is thick, and sternly starched, and the button is large, and closely sewed; but here is a way to meet the difficulty—dip the button-hole for ten seconds into water.

POWERFUL PILLS.—An itinerant quack in Texas was applied to by one of Colonel Hay's rangers to extract the iron part of an Indian arrow from his head, where it had lodged for some time. "I cannot 'stract this, stranger," said the would-be doctor, "because to do it would go nigh killin' ye; but I can give ye a box o' pills that will melt it in yer head."

MILITARY NOT CIVIL.—During the reign of Bonaparte, when the arrogant soldiery affected to despise all civilians, whom they, in their barrack-room slang, termed "Pekins," Talleyrand, one day, asked a general officer, "What is the meaning of the word 'Pekin'?" "Oh," replied the general, "we call all those Pekins who are not military."—"Exactly," said Talleyrand; "just as we call all people military who are not civil!"