

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. N.—We cannot reply to your question without touching upon topics we would rather not discuss in the columns of the READER. We have more than once declined to be led into theological disquisitions.

JASON.—Chaucer assumed the title of poet-laureate in the fourteenth century, but we believe the first patent of office as poet-laureate was granted in 1630 to Ben. Jonson.

C. M. H.—David Hume was born in the year 1711, and died 1776. Matthew Henry was born in Shropshire in 1662, died 1714.

INQUIRER.—Cardinals acquired the exclusive power of electing the Popes in the time of Edward the Confessor. The red hat was worn as a token that they were to shed their blood for their religion, if necessary.

G. C. G.—Your note will receive our early attention.

A. M. T.—The reply shall be forwarded as requested in the course of a day or two.

LIZZIE.—It was in order to check any desires the Lacedemonians might cherish for riches, that Lycurgus, having banished the use of gold and silver, decreed that iron should pass as current coin.

MIGNONNE.—We are desirous that the interest of our Pastime column should be sustained, and welcome your contributions with pleasure.

MEAZLES.—The representations of Our Saviour but embody the conceptions of various artists; they are all alike imaginary. We would willingly give our opinion of the tale our correspondent refers to, but must confess that we have not read it. We do not know the author of "Petronilla's Fear."

FRANK.—"To Birdie" is respectfully declined.

SLANEY.—Reserved for insertion in an early issue.

FRED. BENGOUGH.—Please favour us with your address.

POLLY.—We were pleased to receive our correspondent's note, and to be assured that she retains all her interest in the READER. We venture to hope that the trip referred to will prove a very pleasant one.

F. B. D.—Both contributions are reserved for insertion. We are pleased to be able to say that we consider the verses possess more than average merit. Our reply to your question is this: we think the subject was one difficult to treat in a popular style.

TIPSTAFF.—We have not as yet been able to give our attention to your last communication—we will reply in our next issue.

ARTESIAN TUBES.—Received—thanks.

FESTUS.—Our own age has given birth to "The learned Blacksmith," but "The learned Tailor"—Henry Wild—was born in the latter part of the seventeenth century. He was a native of Norwich, England; and, while working at his trade, is said to have mastered the Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Chaldaic, Syriac, Arabic, and Persian languages.

PHILIP.—It is impossible for us to express an opinion until we have had an opportunity of looking through the MS.

ALTON FORBES.—"How I lost Phebe" is respectfully declined.

META.—We will do so with much pleasure.

MISCELLANEA.

REGAL CEMETERY.—An antiquarian gives us the following statement with regard to a regal cemetery. He says that "in the small island of Iona, on the coast of Scotland, sixty-one kings lie buried—forty-eight were Scotch, eight Norwegians, four Irish, and one French."

THE Rev. Paul Hamilton, on receiving the presentation to the church and parish of Broughton, near Edinburgh, preached a farewell sermon to the ladies of Ayr; and not a little to the sur-

prise of his fair auditory, gave out his text—"And they fell upon Paul's neck and kissed him."

THE TALMUD says that "there are three crowns—the crown of the law, the crown of priesthood, and the crown of royalty; but the crown of a good name is superior to all."

LIVERPOOL rejoices in the possession of two periodicals which are certainly unique in their titles, being called, respectively, the "Porcupine" and the "Tomahawk." The editor of the "Porcupine" is very fierce against the "Tomahawk," but the wit of both is of the shallowest kind.

ENGLAND began the present century with four acres of land for every person within her borders. When the century was half through, there were but two acres per inhabitant; and now they are upon a descending scale of fractions between two acres and one acre to each person. The estimate of the population of England in the middle of the year 1866 gives 1.78 acres to each person. In Scotland the tide of life rises more slowly, and there are still six acres to every head of population.

THE QUEEN NOT HURT.—At Portsmouth, on a day in June, three shots were fired at "the Royal Sovereign." Her turret was smashed, but the rotatory machinery is still quite perfect. The Lords of the Admiralty were present to witness the experiments.

A SMALL balloon made of goldbeater's skin, two feet in diameter, was lately sent up from London, and after a twelve hour's voyage landed in Bavaria, about 500 miles distant.

The famous cherry-stone of the collection Le-carpentier, which was so much admired at the Retrospective Exhibition in the Champs-Elysées, has recently been sold at the auction rooms of the Hotel Drouot, Paris. This microscopic marvel of arts and patience, which has beautifully carved on it a representation of a charge of cavalry, fetched nearly £40.

THERE is an international commission for the Exhibition of 1867, the object of which is the establishment of the same coinage, weights, and measures throughout Europe. England is represented by Mr. Leone Levi.

A SCARCITY of ivory is predicted; the demand for Sheffield alone kills twenty thousand elephants a year. In process of time no more elephants will remain to be killed, all the tusks will be used up, and then what shall we do for ivory handles to our knives?

CHINESE SIMILES.—Some of the ordinary expressions of the Chinese are pointedly sarcastic enough. A blustering, harmless fellow they call a "paper tiger." When a man values himself overmuch, they compare him to "a rat falling into a scale, and weighing itself." Overdoing a thing they call "a hunchback making a bow." A spendthrift they compare to "a rocket" which goes off at once. Those who expend their charity on remote objects, but neglect their family, are said to "hang a lantern on a pole, which is seen afar, but gives no light below.

THE horses of the Manchester Carriage Company, at Pendleton, are now cleaned by a steam-brushing machine. The idea has evidently been derived from the hair-dressers' revolving brushes.

WITTY AND WHIMSICAL.

THE most immoral of musicians is the fiddler; he is always in a *scrape*!

THE lady who had a "spark" in her eye has kindled a "match" without trouble.

POOR Charles, who was lately splitting with laughter, has been spliced by the parson.

RATHER SLOW.—A man in New Orleans walks so slow that his shadow frequently falls asleep on the side-walk.

"WHAT blessings children are!" as the parish clerk said when he took the fee for christening them.

A PERT little girl boasted to one of her little friends that "her father kept a carriage." "Ah,

but," was the triumphant reply, "my father drives an omnibus."

WANTED, for the ornithological department of the Museum, the beak and claws of a tomahawk.

A GOOD action is never thrown away; and perhaps that is the reason why we find so few of them.

AN American paper tells a story of a negro boy who fell into a hoghead of molasses, and wonders if the people *licked* him when they took him out.

MY son, if thou wilt wear tight boots, there are three bad things thou wilt inevitably suffer—namely, a bad corn, a bad gait, and a bad temper.

UPON the marriage of Miss *Wheat*, of Virginia, an editor hoped that her path might be *flowery*, and that she might never be *thrashed* by her husband.

THE following is a copy of a bill posted on the wall of a country village:—"A lecture on total abstinence will be delivered in the open air, and a collection will be made at the door to defray expenses."

THE last case of indolence is related in one of our exchanges. It is that of a man named John Hole, who was so lazy that, in writing his name, he simply used the letter J, and then punched a hole through the paper.

HEARING a physician remark that a small blow will break the nose, a rustic exclaimed, "Well, I dunno 'bout that; I have blowed my nose a great many times, and I've never broke it."

"DEAR me, how fluidly he talks!" said Mrs. Partington, recently at a temperance meeting. "I am always rejoiced when he mounts the nostril, for his eloquence warms in every cart-ridge of my body."

A THICK SKULL.—It is related, as an amusing incident, that a lad of a darkey fell from the second storey of a window, a distance of fifteen feet, lighting with his head on the flagstone of a sidewalk, in the town of Lynchburg, Va. One of the flags was shivered, and it was supposed the boy was killed. Several persons who heard the concussion repaired at once to the spot. The darkey was on his feet before they fairly reached him, with a broad grin overspreading his countenance. "Dem stones," he said, "if dey don't want to get hurt, must keep out of dis nigger's way!"

A LOOKER ON.—Somebody, describing the absurd appearance of a man dancing the polka, says, "He looks as though he had a hole in his pocket, and was trying to shake a shilling down the leg of his trousers."

A MUSICIAN by trade does not subsist quite so simply as a chameleon. The latter lives upon air, the former upon *airs*. And, by the way, a musician should enjoy good health, for he has a change of air whenever he wants it.

VERY KEW-RIOUS.

["There was no marriage peal, there being only one little bell at Kew Church. . . . A shower of slippers was thrown after the carriage for luck."]

WELL, I never! did you ever?
Such a thing I never knew.
When the Princess Mary married,
No big bells to ring at Kew!
To be sure, it's something awful;
Very funny I should feel
If, when married, I had only
Orange blossoms, and no *peal*.

If to marry he did ask me—
Though it's hard to be refused—
If at Kew he put the banns up,
I would beg to be ex-Kew-sed.
Many weddings I have read of,
But never knew so wrong a thing;
And not e'en to be a princess,
Would I wed without a *ring*.

Princesses and Royal ladies
Slippers by the dozen *throw*,
For good luck to Princess Mary,
When she rode away from Kew.
Wedlock's path's a path of roses—
At least to make it so I'd try—
It wasn't right that Princess Mary's
Should be made so *slippery*.
A SINGLE YOUNG PERSON.