

Answers to Correspondents.

The Editors will be pleased to answer any queries under this heading, but should the answers be required by post a fee of 10 cents must accompany the inquiry. All queries must be accompanied by the name and address of the sender.

MAC: Nearly all the postage-stamps in the world are manufactured either in London, Paris or New York. They are engraved from steel, and the process is complicated and costly. The perforating machine is a comparatively recent invention, though it seems strange that none should have thought of such a simple contrivance for so long a time.

H. GRAY: We really cannot give you a proper list of all the English issues of stamps during the present reign. We could only do so from memory, and the changes lately have been so numerous as to make this almost impossible. Ask a stamp-collector: he may have a list.

K. T. L.: To become a full general in the British Army is no small attainment. The reason why there appear to be so many retired "Generals" is simply that those who retire as Major-Generals; or Lieut-Generals; are commonly known in private life as "Generals." In point of fact, there are only 18 full Generals on the active list, including Prince Christian, Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, and Lord Wolseley. Nearly all the rest are distinguished men, whose names are well-known outside the Service. There are 50 Lieut-Generals and 138 Major-Generals on the active list.

KITTY: The only text in the Bible that contains all the letters of the Alphabet is, so far as we know, Ezra VII, ver. 21. If you are asking with a view to prize competitions, we shall expect our share of the spoils.

PHILO: The saying "when Hempe is spun, England is done" is a very old one. The best explanation is that given by Lord Bacon, viz: that Hempe is composed of the initial letters of Henry, Edward, Mary, Phillips and Elizabeth, and that the words "England is done" refers to the fact that after the death of the last named Sovereign the title was changed from "King of England" to "King of Great Britian and Ireland." Lord Bacon says he heard the saying in his boyhood. We do not know on what grounds he devised his explanation of it, which is certainly very clever.

There are many instances of Notarica, sometimes it is hard to distinguish whether the word sprang from the sentence, or the sentence was fitted on to the word. For instance there is *Tory* from *True Old Royal Yemman*, and *Whig* from *We hope in God*. Then again there is the old Jacobite toast *Limps*, from *Louis, James, Mary, Prince* (of Wales). Addison's nickname, *Clio*, was from the fact that he always used one of these four letters as signature to his papers in the *Spectator*. The derivation of *Hip! Hip! Hurrah!* is almost too good to be true. *Hip* is said to be a notarica from *Jerusalem est Perdita* (Jerusalem is destroyed,) and certainly *Hip! Hip!* was the favorite cry of the mediæval German knights when engaged in the then-popular sports of Jew-hunting. *Hurrah* is said to come from the Slavonic *hura-j*—to Paradise, which would fit in very nicely with the other.

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