

How to Answer a Sharp Letter.

Nothing relieves the mind sometimes like writing a man a letter. It is said that Secretary Stanton was once greatly vexed because an officer had refused to understand an order, or, at all events, had not obeyed.

"I believe I'll sit down," said Stanton, "and give that man a piece of my mind."

"Do so," said President Lincoln, "write it now while you have it in your mind. Make it sharp; cut him all up."

Stanton did not need a second invitation. It was a bone-crusher that he read to the president.

"That's right," said Abe, "That's a good one."

"Whom can I get to send it by?" mused the secretary.

"Send it!" replied Lincoln, "send it! Why don't send it at all. Tear it up. You have freed your mind on the subject, and that is all that is necessary. Tear it up. You never want to send such letters; I never do."

There was a world of wisdom in Lincoln's suggestion. Write your letter; free your mind; out with it; and then put it in the drawer a week, and then read it over and burn it and say no more about it.—*Ex.*

A boy is like a bicycle because he cannot stand alone. He needs a steady hand to direct his way. He runs the easiest down hill. If you lose control of him, he may break your heart, if not your head. He is not made to travel on bad roads. The straighter you keep him the more safely he runs. The faster he runs the more closely must his guide stick to him. He needs blowing up once in awhile. He should never be run by more than two cranks.—*Exchange.*

"Your brother in Manila is a long way off," said Hojack.

"That's what he is," replied Tomdick. "He could hardly get any further away without coming nearer. Now, I'd like to know what you're laughing at so comsedly."—*Judge.*

President Schurman, of Cornell, declares that in America there has been no first class creative productions of the human mind, but the country is living on Europe for the best in poetry, art, literature and science, and the danger is that it will continue to do so.

The hope of America, he says, is in her colleges and universities, and in the professors realizing our secondary place and making greater efforts.

It is a great misfortune for a child to be under the influence of a teacher who deceives patrons and visitors as to the real attainments of pupils; who trains his pupils to seem to know what they do not know, as in public examinations, so called; who assigns false reasons for his acts; who pretends not to be watching pupils, that he may "catch them in mischief."

CURRENT EVENTS.

The richest nation in the world, proportionately, is not Great Britain, not fat little Holland, not even the United States. For the greatest average individual wealth we must look to the Australian commonwealth.

Last year the total value of the products of the colonies forming the Australian commonwealth amounted to fully \$500,000,000, of which their pastoral industries represented \$150,000,000, their agricultural \$140,000,000, their mineral products fully \$100,000,000 and their manufacturing and other industries the remaining \$160,000,000. The wool alone from the 110,000,000 sheep raised in 1900 was worth \$100,000,000.

The New Zealand commission which has been engaged in taking evidence as to the views of the people in regard to joining the commonwealth of Australia, has reported adversely. New Zealand wishes to rank with Canada, South Africa and Australia as one of the great divisions of Greater Britain.

The formation of new fissures on Mount Vesuvius is thought to foretell a serious eruption, and people living in the vicinity have been warned of the impending danger.

Civil government under the authority of the United States was established in the Philippine Islands on the fourth of July.

Sir Harry Johnston, British Commissioner for Uganda, reports having found a large stretch of that country entirely uninhabited by human beings. His party went through herds of elephants, zebras and antelopes, which approached fearlessly within ten yards. He advises the maintenance of this district as a national park. He has also discovered a new race of ape-like people along the eastern skirts of the great Congo forest in the vicinity of Lake Albert and Lake Tanganyika.

Having made a success of the cultivation of tea, South Carolina is now about to try the experiment of conducting a silk farm.

A manageable balloon has made a very satisfactory trial trip in Paris, passing over a distance of seven miles in fifteen minutes, and turning around the Eiffel tower; but lack of motor power prevented its returning to the starting point and winning the prize of 100,000 francs offered for a dirigible balloon.

The details of the plans of the government of Holland for the draining of the Zuyder Zee have been announced. The work is to be completed within eighteen years, and the land to be redeemed amounts to 24,000 acres.

King Edward will confer a decoration on James J. Van Allen, a generous American who happened to be in England at the outbreak of the Boer war, and who organized and equipped at his own expense a hospital corps to be sent to South Africa.

A specimen of the much ridiculed sea serpent is said to have been actually caught by a fisherman in Japan. It is twelve feet in length, covered with dark brown