

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

S. J. C.—It would depend, to some extent, on the character of the work; but we do not think it at all probable that you would find a publisher in Canada willing to undertake the risk.

J. M.—A very welcome budget, and for which we are much obliged.

TUDOR.—Please forward the MS., as it is impossible for us to express an opinion as to the interest of the sketch, until we have had an opportunity of reading it.

MAUDE STANLEY.—We regret that we are compelled to decline inserting the verses entitled "The Tide of Rebellion."

E. S.—Will write to you on the subject of your letter in the course of a day or two.

POLLY.—Shall be happy to hear from you again.

E. T.—Our candid opinion—since you request it—is, that you should devote your attention to prose compositions; we do not think you will ever write respectable verses.

Y. T. B.—The Rev. John Cumming, D.D., was born in Aberdeenshire, in 1810. He has published a large number of works on theological subjects; his favourite topics being the Prophecies. Among his most remarkable works, in this direction, are "The Apocalyptic Sketches," "The Great Tribulation," and "The Destiny of Nations."

IGNORAMUS.—The "Woolsack" is the cushion of the Lord Chancellor's seat; it was originally stuffed with wool, on account of that article being then the staple commodity of England.

INVALID.—Through long illness Invalid's lips have become colourless, and impart a ghastly appearance to her face. She asks "what can be done to remedy this difficulty?" Of course, with returning health, Invalid's lips would again resume their natural colour; but failing that, the application of carmine, dissolved in aromatic spirits of ammonia, would do much to improve her personal appearance.

IRENE DE FOREST.—Many thanks. Contributions to our pastime column are always acceptable.

A WELL-WISHER.—We are obliged to you for your communication, but would rather not discuss the matter in the columns of THE READER.

L. W. R.—Respectfully declined.

KATE R. WILTON.—The idea does not appear to us at all preposterous, and we are glad that you acted upon it. We found no difficulty in reading your contribution "to the very last word," and would willingly print it, had we not already published an article very similar in character in No. 33. We are only permitted to say that your surmises are incorrect as to the author referred to by you.

MEASLES.—Willingly, and with thanks.

A. R. G., HALIFAX.—Many thanks for your contributions. We are glad to welcome our Acadian cousins to the columns of THE READER.

ARTHUR.—We do not think it at all probable that such is the case.

L. C. W.—Messrs. Dent & Co., and Bennet & Co., London, are amongst the most celebrated of English watchmakers—and we believe your order would be well executed by either firm.

MISCELLANEA.

PALMERSTONIANA.—It is said that we shall not long have to wait for the publication of some of the most interesting papers left by Lord Palmerston to his literary executors, to deal with according to their discretion.

A NEWSPAPER correspondent says that, in Georgia, where Sherman's army made a sweep of all the carriages, the ladies now go visiting in carts. They call them *cartes-de-visite*, and console themselves with the thought that they are in the height of fashion.

A LAWYER, in Maine, recently moved for a new trial on the ground "that, in the verdict, the jury were unduly influenced by the great beauty of the female plaintiff."

COAL AS FUEL.—Coal was first used as fuel in London in the latter part of the thirteenth

century. But the smoke was considered so injurious to the public health that Parliament petitioned the king, Edward I., to prohibit its burning, as an intolerable nuisance. He complied, and issued a proclamation against it. The severest measures were then employed to abolish its use by fines, imprisonment, and the destruction of the furnaces and workshops where it was used.

VALUE OF A CHARACTER.—Colonel Chartres, who was the most notorious rascal in the world, and who had, by all sorts of crime, amassed immense wealth, sensible of the disadvantage of a bad character, was once heard to say, that "although he would not give one farthing for virtue, he would give ten thousand pounds for a character, because he should get a hundred thousand pounds by it." Is it possible, then, that an honest man can neglect what a wise rogue would purchase so dear?

THE Emperor of the French, at the suggestion of the Minister of Agriculture, has granted 300 medals—10 in gold, 178 in silver, and 112 in bronze—to those of the medical profession who, during the late visitation of cholera, evinced zeal and devotedness in the care of the sick.

THE hothouses of the Czars, in latitude sixty north, contain the finest collection of tropical plants in all Europe. Palm trees are nearly sixty feet in height, and there are banks of splendid orchards. The hothouses are about a mile and a half in their length.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

THE paper used for the books printed for the primary schools in Austria is composed of the cellulose of maize, and has a yellowish tint less fatiguing to the eye than the white of ordinary paper.

INK of the very finest and most intense black may be prepared by adding a very minute portion of vanadic acid, or vanadate of ammonia, to a solution of nut-gall. This ink is much more lasting than ordinary ink.

PETROLEUM.—M. Laronde, who recently discovered that petroleum is an excellent test for various substances, especially iodine and bromine, illustrates its action by the following experiment on a quantity of distilled water, containing one milligramme of iodide of potassium. To the liquid in question contained in a test tube he adds twenty-five drops of petroleum; he shakes the mixture, and then adds from two to three drops of any acid, even vinegar. After shaking again, and then letting the mixture stand, the petroleum will be seen to gather at the top, carrying with it the iodine which was combined with the potassium, and which now imparts a beautiful rose colour to the petroleum.

WEED SEEDS.—In a pint of brand-clover Professor Buckman detected 39,449 weed-seeds; in two pints of Dutch clover he found 25,560 and 70,400 respectively. When seeds are saved wholesale it is often very hard to keep all weeds out; there are so many things, for instance, which flower almost exactly like the turnip; but even 20,000 to the pint must be due to something more than carelessness. "Save your own seed, then, if you can," is the best advice to the farmer. It is troublesome, no doubt; but it must pay somebody to do it—why not you? You will have to pay less for hoeing the next year.—*The Scottish Farmer*.

POISONOUS WATER.—Alluding to the death of Dr. Hodgkin from impure water, the *Medical Times* says—"We wonder that travellers do not carry with them a little bottle of solution of permanganate of potass—a few drops of which would speedily purify any water. A friend of ours, who has just returned from India, tells us that he has derived the greatest benefit from its employment. At stations where the water was turbid, and tasted and smelt of decaying organic matter, he found the addition of a few drops of the solution of the permanganate made it in a few minutes as clear and sweet as spring water.

WITTY AND WHIMSICAL.

WHAT length ought a lady's crinoline to be.—A little above two feet.

MOVING for a new trial—courting a second wife.

WHEN is coffee like earth?—When it is ground.

"If there is anybody under the canister of heaven that I have in utter execration," says Mrs. Partington, "it is the slander, going about like a boy constructor, circulating his calomel upon honest folks."

A SHOEMAKER was taken up for bigamy. "Which wife," asked a bystander, "will he be obliged to take?"—"He is a cobbler," replied another, "and of course must stick to the last."

"DOUGLAS, dear," said a wife, appealing to her husband in a small feminine dispute, "do you think I am generally bad-tempered?"—"No, my dear," says he, "I think you are particularly so."

HOW TO REDUCE HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE.—A married man adopted an original way of reducing household expenses. One morning when he knew his wife would see him, he kissed the servant girl. The household expenses were instantly reduced twelve pounds a year.

STRAITS.—"Well, captain, when do you sail for Alexandria?"—"On Tuesday next."—"How do you go?"—"Through the Straits; shall I book you for the voyage?"—"I reckon not; I left home to get out of one *strait*, and I don't mean to get into another."

"I THINK you must allow," said a pompous gentleman, "that my jests are very fair."—"Sir, your jests are like yourself," was the quick retort; "their age makes them respectable."

ON a wet, miserable, foggy London day, Charles Lamb was accosted by a beggar-woman with, "Pray, sir, bestow a little charity upon a poor desitute widow woman who is perishing for lack of food. Believe me, sir, I have seen better days."—"So have I," said Lamb, handing the poor creature a shilling; "so have I; it's a miserable day! Good-bye."

THE MOTIVE.—In the morning train on the Metropolitan Railway the other day, a fussy gentleman (of that kind who are always intruding themselves upon the notice of others) began to question a sweet little girl who was sitting beside her mother as to her name, destination, &c. After learning that she was going to the City, he asked "What motive is taking you thither, my dear?"—"I believe they call it locomotive, sir," was the innocent reply.—The "intrusive stranger" was extinguished.

A WEALTHY Boston gentleman signified his intention of adorning the public garden of that city with an allegorical statue in honour of the introduction of ether. The subject he selected was the scene from the *Beggar's Opera* where the noble captain sings, "How happy could I be with either!"

THE following is a copy of an advertisement which appeared in a country paper:—"Made their escape, a husband's affections. They disappeared immediately on seeing his wife with her hands and face unwashed at breakfast."—*American Paper*.

THE agents of two rival iron-safe manufacturers were recently presenting the claims of their respective articles. One was a Yankee—the other wasn't. He that wasn't told his story. A gamecock had been shut up in one of his safes, and then it was exposed three days to the most intense heat. When the door opened, the cock stalked out, flapped his wings, and crowed loudly, as if nothing had happened. It was now the Yankee's turn. A cock had also been shut up in one of his safes with a pound of fresh butter, and the safe was submitted to the trial of a tremendous heat for more than a week. The legs of the safe were melted off, and the door itself so far fused as to require the use of a cold chisel to get it open. When it was opened, the cock was found frozen dead, and the butter so solid, that a man who knocked off a piece of it with his hammer had his eye put out by a frozen butter splinter.