

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

V. V. R.—Will insert in our next issue, and shall be happy to receive any contributions you may find it convenient to forward.

OLIVE.—Thanks! Please forward the real names of the composers.

J. M. LEM.—We regret that we were unable to insert the note. The paper was made up before we received it.

F. B. D.—As you request our opinion, we will state that we think your previous contributions possessed more merit. The paper sent will hardly bear publication; but have you not been unfortunate in selecting a subject?

MAX.—We feel much obliged to our correspondent for her very welcome contributions.

BLANCHE.—Will inform you in our next issue.

H. Y. PRICE.—The fullest information respecting the confederation of the British American provinces, may be obtained from the published Debates of the Delegates who assembled in Convention at Quebec. These Debates were printed by the Queen's printer, and, may, we presume, be obtained at Ottawa. We know of no general work on the other subject referred to.

FLECK.—"Alice Sherwood, or the Halfwitted" is respectfully declined.

NORMAN H.—We are unable to solve the difficulty.

ASTOR.—Willingly.

J. H. K.—It is impossible to form any opinion as to the merit of the articles without seeing them. If you forward them, they will receive our careful attention.

A. A.—Unsuitable both in subject and length for our columns.

W. T.—There is no such institution in Montreal, as that named.

ALFRED C.—The following is a good receipt for permanent ink—"Pitch, three pounds; melt over the fire and then add lamp-black one pound; mix well. This ink is used in a melted state to fill the letters on tombstones, marble, &c. Unless actual violence is used, it will last as long as the stone itself.

BLUNT.—New York was first called "Gotham" in a humorous work entitled "Salmagundi," to which Washington Irving was one of the principal contributors.

EDITH.—Madge is an abbreviation of Margaret—a pearl. Your own name signifies—happiness or rich gift.

CLARA H.—"Santa Claus" is the Dutch name for St. Nicholas, who is said to have supplied three destitute maidens with marriage portions, by secretly leaving money at their windows, and as this occurred just before Christmas, he was made purveyor of the gifts of that season to Dutch children generally. Another legend states, that the Saint brought three murdered children to life again, and this rendered him the patron of boys, especially school-boys.

GEORGE B.—Courage! George. After all it is better to wear out than to rust out. Strike the iron while it is hot, and continue striking, that it may be kept hot.

ERIC.—We have seen it stated, that, in a mile of the new Atlantic Cable, there are seventy-one miles of material, excluding the loose Manilla hemp which laps the Gutta Percha.

JESSIE.—We regret to say, that we are unable to comply with your request.

ALARM.—We think we may assure you that all danger is now over. It was a mad and wicked attempt against a people who can in no sense be held responsible for the wrongs Ireland is supposed to have suffered at the hands of the British government.

MISCELLANEA.

LADIES are like violets: the more modest and retiring they appear, the more you love them.

GENERAL FLEURY has established a school for coachmen in Paris. No one is in future to be

allowed to drive a vehicle in Paris without having obtained a diploma of his skill as a driver.

THE BACHELORS.—In a late work on suicide, it is said that marriage is, to a certain extent, a prevention of suicide. It has been satisfactorily established that, among men, two-thirds of those who destroy themselves are bachelors.

THE BEST THINGS.—The best thing to give your enemy is forgiveness; to your opponent, tolerance; to a friend, your heart; to your child, a good example; to a father, deference; to your mother, conduct that will make her proud of you; to yourself, respect; to all men charity.

THE MOON AND THE YEAR.—Astronomers have discovered that the moon is drawing gradually nearer to the earth, by about an inch every year. They have also discovered that the day is about the one-hundredth of a second longer now than it was 2000 years ago.

It is well known that the fruitfulness of fish is enormous. As many as a quarter of a million of eggs have been found in a carp, seven millions in a sturgeon, nine millions in a codfish. Of course, what is an egg to-day is not necessarily a fish to-morrow, or the ocean would not be able to hold the herrings.

A NEWLY-INVENTED harpoon contains a pound of powder with a ten-second fuse, and is instant death to a whale, and sure to hold him afterward. It is to be used in the sulphur-bottom whales, which are very large and plentiful in the Iceland and Spitzbergen seas, and have hitherto been neglected because they sink as soon as killed.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL

WATER POWER.—It has been estimated that a ton and a half of water falling one foot per minute, will grind and dress a bushel of wheat per hour.

HYDROGEN GAS.—If Hydrogen gas be breathed for a few moments it has the curious effect of changing the voice. The effect very soon disappears.

THE FLEA'S EYE.—Puget succeeded in adjusting the eye of a flea so that by the use of the microscope he was enabled to see objects through it. It multiplied and diminished every object. Thus a soldier appeared like an army of pigmies.

VARNISH FOR PHOTOGRAPHS.—M. Bussi first brushes the prints over with a solution of gum arabic, and when this is dry, applies a coating of collodion. The following are the proportions recommended:—1. Clear transparent gum arabic, 25 grammes; distilled water, 100 cub. cts. Dissolve and strain. 2. Gun cotton, 3 grammes; alcohol, 60 grammes; ethyl, 50 grammes. By this double varnish the inventor insures the preservation of the proofs.

THE MACKAY GUN.—This gun promises to be a more formidable piece of ordnance than was at first supposed. Several trials have lately been made with it at Crosby, near Liverpool, and the results have been highly satisfactory. The experiments were conducted with a view to ascertain both range and accuracy. Though the wind was high and the practice difficult, the target, which was 1,600 yards distant (the gun being a 12 pounder), was hit twice out of ten shots. The average deviation was not more than two or three yards. The *ricochet* is one of the best features in the gun, and is particularly straight.

SIMPLE PROCESS FOR SILVERING.—An employé of the Bavarian Mint has published an improved process for silvering copper, brass, and other alloys, by means of a solution of silver in cyanide of potassium; the difference from the usual method consists in the use of zinc-filings, with which the objects are coated; when the silvering solution is applied, an immediate deposition of a much more durable character taking place. The filings are easily removed by rinsing in water, and may be used repeatedly for the same purpose. Metallic iron may be coated with copper in the same manner, by substituting for the silver a solution of copper in cyanide; and over this copper deposit a coating of silver may be applied.

WITTY AND WHIMSICAL.

If you are too fat, and would like to fall off, mount a vicious horse.

A SHEAF from the shock of an earthquake must be a rare curiosity.

"HUSBAND, I can't express my detestation of your conduct."—"Well dear, I'm very glad you can't."

FASHIONABLE young lady detaching her hair before retiring:—"What dreams may come when we have shuffled off this mortal coil."

WHY is the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act likely to be beneficial to the Fenians?—"Because it will quicken their apprehension."

"PA," said a little fellow, "I know why that old-fashioned pistol of yours is called a horse pistol."—"Why, my son?"—"Because it kicks so."

A FRENCHMAN cannot pronounce "ship." The word is "sheep" in his mouth. Seeing an iron-clad, he said to a boy, "Ish dish a war sheep?" "No," answered the boy, "its a ram."

A GENTLEMAN advertises for a horse, "for a lady of dark colour, a good trotter, and of stylish action!" The horse "must be young, and have a long tail about fifteen hands high!"

UNPOPULAR.—A fat man in an omnibus, a tall man in a crowd, a short man on parade, and a lady in a huge bonnet sitting before you at a public lecture, are declared to be four of the most unpopular personages of the day.

RETORT COURTEOUS.—"If I were so unlucky," said an officer, "as to have a stupid son, I would certainly make him a parson." A clergyman, who was in the company, calmly replied, "You think differently, sir, from your father."

DIFFICULTY AND DANGER.—"Tom," said a man to his friend, a day or two since, "I think it highly dangerous to keep the bills of small banks on hand now-a-days."—"Tim," said the other, "I find it far more difficult than dangerous."

"You young rascal," said an old gentleman to a rash little boy in the street, "if that cab had run over you, where would you have been now?" and the boy answered, "Up behind' a takin' of his number!"

"Oh dear!" blubbered out an urchin, who had been suffering from the application of the birch. "Oh, my! they tell me that forty rods make a furlong, but I can tell a bigger story than that. Let 'em get sech a plaguy lickin' as I've had, and they'll find that one rod makes an acher."

"I don't say, your honour, that the gentleman was drunk," replied a witness in one of the police courts; "No, not by no means; but this I will say—he was washing his face in a mud puddle and drying it on a door mat. Whether a sober man, would do this, in course I can't say." The magistrate thought he would'nt. The consequence was the "gentleman" had to pay the usual fine.

THE SPREADING OF A REPORT.—The servant at No. 1 told the servant at No. 2 that her master expected his old friends the Bayleys to pay him a visit at Christmas; and No. 2 told No. 3 that No. 1 expected the Bailies in the house every day; and No. 3 told No. 4 that it was all up with No. 1, for they couldn't keep the bailiffs out; whereupon No. 4 told No. 5 that the officers were after No. 1, and that it was as much as he could do to prevent himself from being taken in execution, and that it was killing his poor, dear wife. And so it went on increasing, until it got to No. 33, where it was reported that the detective police had taken up the gentleman who lived at No. 1, for killing his poor, dear wife with arsenic, and it was confidently hoped and expected that he would be executed, as the facts of the case were very clear against him.

EPITAPH ON A TOMBSTONE.

OUR life is but a winter's day,
Some only breakfast and away;
Others to dinner stay, and are full fed;
The oldest man but sups, and goes to bed.
Large is his debt, who lingers out the day,
Who goes the soonest, has the least to pay.