

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. H. S.—You will readily understand that we cannot promise to print the letters you refer to, but if you choose to transcribe one of them and forward it to us, you may at least rely upon its being read. We repeat, however, what we wrote a few weeks since, that prose articles are more acceptable. Nine-tenths of the original poetry we receive is transferred to the waste basket with but scant hesitation.

P. A. B., LONDON.—Please forward the solutions. Did our fair correspondent wish to test our editorial ingenuity?

J. F.—We have not much opinion of "Whitby." Try something better.

W. A.—We cannot, even to oblige a subscriber, celebrate the charms of "sweet *mignard Bessie*." The number of our readers would grow small by degrees and unpleasantly less, if we were to publish articles which are interesting only to the writer, and at best, a few of his friends.

JOHNIE.—For a small "space of period" you have been a bad boy, Johnnie. We are glad to receive answers to the questions propounded, but don't send us any more as you did the last. It isn't honest. Wherever did you pick up "a considerable space of period?"

Wm. W.—We did not notice the mistake you refer to in time to rectify it; fortunately, however, it was only cover deep. Your Taylor, in spite of the proverb, is a man by himself, and we are glad that you think so. The contribution will probably appear in due time.

MIGNONETTE.—Are you quite sure that Nos. 2 and 4 are original? We fancy we have seen them before. Many thanks nevertheless.

E. H. A., C. R. R.—The solutions will be acknowledged next week.

FRONTENAC, U. E.—One touch of nature makes the whole world kin. We hope the touch of genius Irish humour in Father Dominico's sermon will make a respectable portion of it—laugh.

T. P. T., Sr. C.—Your letter and the article sent are under consideration.

NEMO.—We believe three Roman Catholics were elected to Parliament by English constituencies at the late general election there.

A. H.—We cannot believe that any serious results will attend the Fenian movements in Ireland. The Imperial government have apparently nipped that folly in the bud—and our correspondent need not fear for the safety of the loved ones at home.

UN ANGLAIS.—So far as our experience guides us, the Indian summer is a rather mythical season. It is popularly supposed to follow the first fall of snow. Our English correspondent will probably enjoy the bright, bracing Canadian winter, more than any other season of the year.

WELL WISHER.—We shall shortly commence a second serial tale, written by an eminent English author. It will be continued weekly with "Half a Million of Money."

ELLEN B.—We decline the article with thanks.

MUSICAL.—It is our intention to publish a page of music about once a month. Occasionally the pieces will be instrumental.

E. J. H.—Please forward the manuscript, and if accepted you will hear from us.

GEORGE.—Perhaps some day the much needed reform in spelling will be effected. The *Phonetic Nuz*, so far as we know, was the only journal ever published in the common sense principle of spelling words as they are pronounced.

T. S.—Yes, if you wish it. Subscriptions can commence with any number.

J. H. W.—We think you are mistaken.

## SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

NEW SMOOTHING IRON.—A self-heating iron for smoothing clothes has been recently patented in the United States. It is hollow, and has within it a gas-pipe, which is supplied with gas by a flexible tube connected with the handle. In the gas-pipe are a few small apertures that constitute jets, which furnish minute flames. The upper portions of the iron are most heated: but when the lower has become too cold for use, the

position of the upper and lower surfaces, both of which are perfectly smooth, can be easily reversed.

PURIFYING WATER.—It often happens that our experimenting readers require pure water when they can only obtain putrid. A good plan for overcoming this difficulty is the following:—Take a large tin or wooden funnel, and place a few pieces of broken glass at the bottom; fill up to two-thirds with charcoal, broken small; place a few pieces of broken glass at top, to keep down the charcoal; pour in water, and, even if it be putrid, it will pass rapidly through clear and sweet.

An extraordinary electrical phenomenon lately occurred in the forest of Chantilly. A waterspout passed across the forest, and in less than five minutes it destroyed almost everything in its passage for a width of fifty yards and a length of nearly five miles. About 600 trees, many of them oaks of large size, were either broken off close to the ground, or torn up by the roots, and shivered to splinters.

A new mode of preparing formic acid and the formic ethers, was described by M. Lorin at a recent meeting of the Paris Academy of Sciences. Oxalic acid and alcohol, in equivalent proportions, are added to glycerine; a reaction takes place in which formic acid is produced; this then combines while in a nascent state with the alcohol, and formic ether results. After the decomposition of the oxalic acid is complete, the product is distilled, and ether purified in the ordinary manner. With 500 grammes of amylic alcohol M. Lorin has obtained the same weight of amylic-formic ether.

A VINEGAR-MAKING ANIMAL!—In Paris there are a couple of curious creatures from China. One is a tortoise, or small turtle, with green hair floating about from under his shell. The other creature is a hideous, revolting-looking polypus, endowed with the peculiar attribute of making vinegar. It is a monstrous assemblage of fleshy membranes and glutinous tubes, and a mass of mis-shapen appendages, which gives it a revolting and hideous aspect. You will suppose it to be lifeless, but, if you touch it, it writhes and assumes various forms, proving its vitality. The structure of this creature is but little known.

An invention has been provisionally specified by Messrs. Standly & Prosser, of Cockspur Street, which consists in the employment of hydrogen or its compounds, alone or mixed with oxygen or atmospheric air projected from blow-pipes, for the purpose of welding plates or masses of iron, or other metals. They prefer to mix the gases in a reservoir at the base of the blow-pipe.

## WITTY AND WHIMSICAL.

A TOAST.—"The Press: it ex-presses truth, re-presses error, im-presses knowledge, de-presses tyranny, and op-presses none."

"IDLENESS covers a man with rags," says the proverb; but a schoolmaster, thinking to improve on this, wrote a copy for one of his boys with the proverb thus altered, "Idleness covers a man with nakedness."

TOM MOORE said to Peel, on looking at the picture of an Irish orator, "You can see the very quiver of his lips."—"Yes," said Peel, "and the arrow coming out of it." Moore was telling this to one of his countrymen, who said "He meant *arrah* coming out of it."

A WITTY counsellor being questioned by a judge to know "for whom he was concerned," replied as follows—"I am concerned, your honour, for the plaintiff, but I am employed by the defendant."

DECLINED WITH THANKS.—When Henry VIII. sent an offer of his hand to the Princess of Parma, she replied that she was greatly obliged to his Majesty for his compliment; and that if she had two heads, one of them should be at his service, but as she had only one, she could not spare that.

WAR is cutting off an elephant's head widely different from cutting off any other head?—Because when you separate the head from the body, you don't take it from the trunk.

THE RULING PASSION.—A Jersey physician, while playing cards, fell out of his chair in a fit. After half an hour's steady application of remedies, he recovered, and immediately inquired, "What are trumps?"

WHEN Walter Scott was at school, a boy in the same class was asked by the teacher what part of speech "with" was.—"A noun, sir," said the boy.—"You young blockhead!" cried the teacher, "what example can you give of such a thing?"—"I can tell you, sir," interrupted Scott; "there's a verso in the Bible which says, 'they bound Samson with withs.'"

A YORKSHIREMAN who had attended a meeting of the Anthropological Society was asked by a friend what the learned gentleman had been saying. "Well I don't exactly know," he said; "there were many things I could not understand; but there was one thing I thought I made out; they believe that we have come from monkeys, and I thought as how they were fast getting back again to where they came from."

SAMBO, is your massa a good farmer?—"Oh yes, massa fus-rate farmer—he makes two crops in one year."—"How is that, Sambo?"—"Why you see, he sell all his hay in de fall, and make money once; den in de spring he sell de hides of all cattle that die for want of de hay, and make money twice—dat's two crops, massa."

BUSINESS AND PLEASURE.—An apothecary at Boston, who in every thing connected with business was a perfect pattern of punctuality and exactitude, had lately the misfortune to lose his wife. At the hour of her interment he placed the following placard upon the door of his shop, "Gone to bury my wife; return in half an hour."

A VERY singular human phenomenon was observed the other night in Norfolk, which is thus mentioned by Professor Clark, of the *Norfolk Express*:—"A most singular sight was seen in the heavens last night by a friend of ours, who was out rather late. The moon, he avers, turned three complete somersets without stopping, bowed to him, winked knowingly, and then resumed her course as if nothing had happened."

TAKING HER AT HER WORD.—The late Rev. Dr. Wightman, of Kirkcuboe, was a simple-minded clergyman of the old school. When a young man he paid his addresses to a lady in the parish, and his suit was accepted on the condition that it met the approval of the lady's mother. Accordingly, the doctor waited upon the matron, and, stating his case, the good woman, delighted at the proposal, passed the usual Scottish compliment. "Decd, doctor, you're far owre guid for our Janet. I'm sure she's no guid eno' for ye."—"Weel, weel," was the rejoinder, "ye ken best, so we'll say nae mair about it." No more was said, and the social intercourse of the parties continued on the same footing as before. About forty years after, Dr. Wightman died a bachelor, and the lady an old maid.

LITERAL CONSTRUCTION.—A chaplain was once preaching to a class of collegians about the formation of bad habits. "Gentlemen," said he, "close your ears against bad discourses." The scholars immediately clapped their hands to their ears.

A SUPERINTENDENT of a mission school, being annoyed by the noise, finally, in appealing to the boys, raising his hand, said—"Now let's see if we can't hear a pin drop." All was silence, when a little fellow in the back part of the room, cocking his ear and placing himself in an attitude of breathless attention, spoke out—"Let her drop!"

## SPIRITUAL FACTS.

THAT whisky is the key by which many gain an entrance into our prisons and almshouses.

That brandy brands the nose of all those who cannot govern their appetites.

That wine causes many to take a winding way home.

That punch is the cause of many unfriendly punches.

That ale causes many ailings; while beer brings many to the bier.

That champagne is the cause of many real pains.

That gin-slings have "slewed" more than the slings of old.