

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

MUSICO.—Will appear in an early issue.

ARTIST.—Use the Roman numerals, and the answer will be plainly CIVIL.

W. Q.—We will hand your problem to the chess Editor.

R. E., MISSISSAUGA.—We really cannot say where Mrs. Capt. Tremorne is to be found now, not having a recent "Army List" near us, but the present number will inform your young friends that the "Scarlet Fever," came to a crisis which terminated favourably. We trust Miss, or rather Mrs. Fannie sees no reason to regret the "attack." Probably she thinks the "Scarlet Fever" is not so terrible a disease after all: although you say—

"Tis a wonder that Fannie could ever be bro't  
To fancy an epaulette even in thought.  
What!—follow a soldier from pillar to post,—  
No woman should try it except as a ghost.  
For the best constitutions would soon be a wreck,  
To broil in Barbadoes and freeze at Quebec."

J. H., TORONTO.—Are we to understand that no solution has been found? We will keep the question till we hear from you again.

W., QUEBEC.—Your communication must have been overlooked, which we regret. We are always happy to receive replies to the questions propounded in our Pastime Column.

W. P. D., TORONTO.—C. Roberts, 70 St. Francois Xavier St., is a good practical Electrotyper. See his advertisement on Reader cover.

H.—Thanks for your good wishes. We strive to merit the approbation of our readers, and evidences of their good will are very pleasant to us.

JOSIAH B.—Your communication is to hand, but we have not yet found time to read the MS.

GEORGE MASSEY.—You mistake the question. The £2000 is to be added to the original common stock, £5000, making the capital £7000; 10 per cent on which will, of course, be £700. The profit divided is £500, leaving £2400 as stated.

PETER.—Many thanks!

EROSTRATUS.—The MS. is received. As for the subject upon which you ask our advice, we would say as *Mr. Punch* did when advising upon a more delicate matter—"don't." So little is to be gained except by those who are brilliantly successful, and so very few attain to more than a respectable mediocrity, that we fancy the man is wise who is content to leave to others the task of scaling the slippery heights of Parnassus.

R. W.—Will insert shortly. Thanks.

SAMUEL GRAY.—You will see by referring to one of the early numbers of the READER that it has already appeared.

C. L. N.—CONWEB.—Received—thanks!

ELLEN V.—We have read the MS. but have not yet decided upon its acceptance or rejection. Most of the tales we receive are of much too sentimental a tone to suit our taste. It is only fair that the brighter and cheerier aspects of life should engage a due share of the attention of those who, under the guise of fiction, are supposed to seek to pourtray life as it is.

BEN NEVIS.—Yes—forward at your convenience.

LEVI L.—We are unable to afford you the information you seek. Consult an army list for that year.

S. M.—Declined with thanks.

## SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

ELECTRO-TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGE TO THE STARS.—The electric fluid travels at the mean rate of 20,000 miles in a second under ordinary circumstances; therefore, if it were possible to establish a telegraphic communication with the star 61 Cygni, it would require ninety years to send a message there.

INCOMBUSTIBLE.—Paper that will not burn may be made by mixing with the pulp a fluid obtained by adding to an aqueous solution containing one and three-quarter ounces of pure tallow soap, just enough alum to decompose the soap completely. The paper made with this requires no size.

BLEACHING PAPER.—It has been found that paper which has been very imperfectly bleached, may be rendered thoroughly white by pouring upon it in succession, as dilute solutions, three and a half parts alum, one part chloride of barium, a little free hydrochloric acid, and one-eighth of a part calcined chalk—stirring well during the operation. The fibres of the paper become firmly coated with the brilliant white sulphate of barytes which is formed.

NEUTRAL SOAP.—A perfectly neutral soap—that is, one containing no free alkali—possesses hardly any detergent power: on the other hand, the presence of free alkali in soap causes it to corrode the skin. It has, however, been discovered recently that a neutral soap may be rendered as effective for detergent purposes as a highly alkaline one, by the mere addition of alumina, which is itself a neutral substance. The alumina may be combined with the soap, during its manufacture, by the use of aluminate of potash or soda, or of some other alkaline salt of alumina, or by mixing free alumina, in the form of a dry powder, with melted common soap.

CUTTING METAL.—An improved implement for cutting pipes and bars of metal has been invented by Mr. Wolstenholme, of Radclyffe, Lancashire. It consists of a revolving circular cutter, upon a suitable slide. The pipe or bar to be cut is securely held in a vice or otherwise, and the circumference of the cutter is brought against the pipe or bar by means of a screw passing through the lower end of the slide; the implement is then turned round by the handle forming the continuation of the screw, and the cutter is set up by the turning of the screw. By this means the cutter gradually penetrates into the metal until the pipe is cut asunder, or the metal bar is sufficiently indented to enable it to be broken.

SAFE-DOORS.—Mr. J. Chubb has just invented a method of securing safe-doors from the application of the professional burglar's wedge. The frame, in place of being made flush, as hitherto, projects beyond the door, so that the door will be recessed, and further, to protect the door and the keyhole, or holes through the door of a strong room or iron safe, a hardened steel bar is applied externally to the door, and from side to side thereof, the bar being fitted within a groove across the door. This bar is of a convex form externally, and flat on the side where it comes next the door. At each side of the framing of the door a projecting socket is formed, into which the bar slides after the door has been shut and fastened, or locked. In order better to insure that no thin steel wedges shall be introduced, the sides of the groove across the door in which the bar is fitted are under cut.

## WITTY AND WHIMSICAL.

THE ADVERTISER'S PARADISE.—Puffin Island.  
—Punch.

EXERCISE FOR CITY CLERKS.—A run on a bank.  
—Punch.

PROFOUNDITY.—Some one said to Talleyrand that the Abbé Sieyès was a very profound man. "Profound!" was the reply, "yes, he is a perfect cavity."

AN IRRESISTIBLE APPEAL.—A young widow, who married an old man, was for ever speaking of my "first husband." The second husband, at last, gently remonstrated. "I expect," said the young wife, pouting, "you'll want me to remember you when you are dead and gone!"

A COOL CUSTOMER.—The fellow who wrote the following note to his tailor, not considering it any disappointment to postpone his wedding, must be a philosopher:—"Dear sir, I do not care for the velvet collar, so you may do as you please about putting it on. It was no serious disappointment, only I should have been married if I had received the goods."

A FURL.—The Irish statute-book opens characteristically with "An Act that the king's officers may travel by sea from one place to another within the land of Ireland."

"THE TWO SISTERS."—Paris gossip gets off a rich joke on the distinguished Frenchman, M. Emile de Girardin, who recently gave a dinner in Paris to Abd-el-Kader, and during conversation said, "I shall be happy to present you with my 'Two Sisters,' meaning his new play. In translating, the explanation that it was M. Girardin's play was left out, and the Emir politely replied, "he would be very happy to accept the ladies, although his harem was quite full."

LORD ERSKINE was giving an account of the people at the North Pole, when one of his listeners exclaimed, "What! is it possible they can live upon the seals?"—"Yes," replied the chancellor, "and deuced good living, too, if you can keep them."

A LADY, very fond of her husband, notwithstanding his ugliness of person, once said to Rogers, the poet, "What do you think? My husband has laid out fifty guineas for a baboon on purpose to please me."—"The dear little man," replied Rogers, "it's just like him."

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE.—Mrs. Partington says that hydrophobia is a fearful thing, as she knows from personal experience, having once heard her uncle say that he knew a baker whose little boy was acquainted with a man that kept a big dog in a town where a mad terrier had been killed some years previously.

A PERSON who was told that bone-dust was used by some unscrupulous bakers, remarked, "What's bred in the bone can't be helped, but bone in the bread's quite another matter."

A MUSICAL author, being asked if he had composed anything lately, replied, "My last work was a composition with my creditors."

BACK AND MIND.—Mr. Adam Smith, hearing his servant complain of a pain in his back, said to him, "The pain, John, is not in your back; it is in your mind."—"Deed, sir," replied John, "gif ye'll tak' it out o' my back, and pit it in my mind, I'll be singularly obliged to ye."

"YOUR FARE, MISS?"—A young lady from the rural districts lately visited London with her rural. Getting into an omnibus for the first time, she took her seat, while her lover planted himself on the box with the driver. Very soon the conductor began to collect the fares, and approaching the rustic maiden, he said: "Your fare, miss?" The rural rose-bud allowed a delicate pink to manifest itself upon her cheeks, and looked down in soft confusion. The conductor was rather astonished at this, but ventured to remark once more—"Your fare, miss?" This time the pink deepened to carnation as the rustic beauty replied, "Deed, and if I am good lookin', you hadn't ought to say it out loud afore folks!"

A MANLY little fellow of five years fell and cut his upper lip so badly, that a surgeon had to be summoned to sew up the wound. He sat in his mother's lap during the painful operation, pale, but very quiet, resolutely keeping back his tears and moans. In her distress, the young mother could not refrain from saying, "Oh, doctor, I fear it will leave a disfiguring scar!" Charley looked up into her tearful face, and said, in a comforting tone,—"Never mind, mamma, my moustache will cover it!"

COUNT D'ORSAY, who was a remarkably fine man, once put down an impertinent little cock-comb in the following way. The little bean, seeing D'Orsay with a waistcoat on of the newest fashion, said, "D'Orsay, give me that waistcoat when you've done with it;" to which impudent request the Count replied, "What you want my waistcoat for?—to make you a tressing-gown?"

"THERE THEY ARE."—Perhaps the shortest sermon on record was one preached by the late Irish Dean Kirwan. He was pressed, while suffering from a severe cold, to preach a charity sermon in St. Peter's Church, Dublin, for the benefit of the orphan children of the parish school. The church was crowded to suffocation, and the good dean, on mounting the pulpit and announcing his text, pointed with his hand to the children in the aisle, and simply said, "There they are." The collection on the occasion exceeded all belief.