

that much of a loss: I shouldn't like to be troubled with a wife's tribe of relations." Again the word *wife*! but I preserved a calm countenance; and as he hesitated anew, I ventured to ask when the wedding was to take place, "for, I supposed," I added, "Miss Glenfield and you have already settled it."

"Why, no, Miss Rawlins; indeed, Amelia has not settled anything; but I don't think she would object. I wanted to have spoken to you or Mrs. Rawlins; I think Mrs. Rawlins must be ill, for I have not seen her for some time; and, indeed, I did go to Mrs. Morton, my brother's wife, and requested her to visit Amelia, telling her that she was a daughter of the gentleman my brother had served his articles to. And what do you think she said—that she had no idea of visiting a mere adventuress! That woman shall never cross my threshold again. Miss Glenfield is a gentlewoman, and could not have used such language. Could not you and Mrs. Rawlins manage the affair? I will write to Amelia this afternoon, to prepare her, as to the time, although the essential part I consider settled already; and pray, Miss Rawlins, let the matter be arranged as soon as possible, so that I may be able to attend to business as usual. There will be some little matters of dress required," he went on: "there are two fifty-pound notes for Amelia; if she wants more, you will be so good as to write. Of course, when she is in her own house, she will have everything at her own disposal. And there is another fifty for Rebecca; she will be an essential companion for her sister when I am from home."

I took the notes in a perfect bewilderment. There was I, a young maiden of twenty or so, preparing for my own bridal, which was to take place in a fortnight, quietly arranging with a stranger the preliminaries for the wedding of another.

"But I forgot to tell you, Miss Rawlins," resumed Mr. Morton, "that I am going this evening to Mr. Glenfield, the doctor, Amelia's uncle. He has shamefully neglected her; but as he is her uncle, and is a respectable man, I will ask his consent to the marriage, and invite him to attend, if it was only to vex my brother's wife."

I walked home in a dream. Why do romancers puzzle their brains to bring about their consummations by means of extraordinary events and coincidences? Could anything be simpler than the present concatenation, anything wilder than the result? These two poor, lonely, helpless girls, whom I had left sitting by their cottage-door, working for bread—the one in utter darkness, the other surrounded by a dead silence which thunder itself could not break—behold them now coming forth from their solitude into comfort, competence, and society: the blind clothed in smiles of happiness, and feeling no want of eyes as she leans on her sister's arm, and the deaf with love in her full heart, and the music of all nature in her ears. It was delightful to think that I had myself a part in bringing about this consummation; and yet, as I walked, my eyes filled, and in spite of all my efforts, the tears came rolling down my cheeks.

Soon after, my own marriage took place, and I removed to another part of the country. In due time—that is to say, in less than a month—I received a letter from my mother, giving me all the news. My mother stated that she had bestowed as much attention, and felt almost as much interest in Miss Glenfield's bridal, as she could have done in that of one of her own daughters. She added, she was not at all surprised at the interest I had evinced in Mr. Morton's choice: "and I really begin to be of your opinion, Louisa, as to his kindly disposition; and as for his being parsimonious—so far as I have seen—it is rather Mrs. Morton, who will limit the expenditure of the family. I wish you had seen Miss Glenfield in her bridal-dress—she looked so beautiful, so calm, so lady-like. Poor Rebecca scarcely knew what to do; but I had her by my side, and she wept her tears on my bosom. Poor girl! she whispered to me that she thought it was the first time she had ever really regretted her loss of sight, she should so like to see her sister."

THE PROPHECY OF BLOIS.

The Paris *Constitutionnel* publishes a document of a prophetic character which just at the present moment possesses a more than ordinary interest. We allude to a prediction well known in certain parts of France as "the Prophecy of Blois." It was made in 1508 by an Ursuline Nun of that city, and she foretold that troubles would come upon both Blois and France in 1848 and in 1870. The former part of her prediction has come true; and therefore there is a probability that the latter part of it may also be realized. While foretelling terrible troubles to France in the present year, the nun went on to predict *le sauveur accorde à la France*, and added that he should be a man whom the country did not expect. According to her prophecy, the *grands malheurs* were to begin after the middle of July—it will be remembered that the war dates from just before that time—and before the vintage. The troubles foretold were to affect the capital especially, in which there was to be a fearful fight and very great massacre. "Both good and bad will fall in battle, for all the men will be called out and only the old men left in the place. The time," adds the nun, "will be short; for the women will prepare the vintages, though the men will return to complete the work. Meantime no news will be obtained, excepting through private letters. Presently, three couriers will arrive at Blois, of whom the first will bring tidings that all is lost, the second will be in too great a hurry to stop at all, and the third, who will come by fire and water"—probably, that is, by railway—"will be the bearer of good news. *Te Deum* will then be sung, such as never has been heard sung before; but this *Te Deum* will not be in honour of him who reigned at the first, but for the saviour granted (*accorde*) to France." The Prophecy of Blois ends by a statement to the effect that "the Prince will not be there; they will go and seek him elsewhere; and after the Prince has ascended the throne, France will enjoy peace and prosperity for twenty years."

MANSARD ROOFS.

Now that Mansard Roofs are becoming so exceedingly common in Canada—witness the Lieut.-Governor's residence at Toronto and the Barron's Block now being erected in St. James St., Montreal—the following remarks, made by the *Chicago Tribune* on the occasion of the burning of the Farwell Block, respecting the danger of this style of roofing in case of fire, are well worthy of reproduction:

"The total destruction of this, the largest, finest, and most imposing business structure of its kind in Chicago—the subject of pride to our citizens, and of wonder and admiration to strangers—although rendered a thousand times more pitiful

and deplorable by its loss of human life, may not be altogether without an indirectly beneficial result, provided the lessons it teaches are heeded. Experience, in this case, has been a terrible tutor, it is true; but it has demonstrated with awful clearness, facts which will be of the utmost value in future. Untold volumes upon the subject of the safety, utility, expediency, and economy of strictly fire-proof buildings could not have effected so much. To begin at the very top, where the fire began, it is found that the nature and construction of the roof was a calamity. The building was surmounted by a handsome roof of the Mansard style, which was pierced with windows, and which constituted the sixth story above the ground. No sooner did the fire reach the light and destructible material of which the roof is composed, than the whole surface was placed beyond the possibility of control. As the seething flames leaped and hissed along the top of the doomed building, the Assistant Fire Marshal, stopping for a moment to gaze mournfully upon the fearful scene, exclaimed to the writer:—Great God! will Chicago never learn better than to put those lumber piles on the top of such buildings?"

To this the *Philadelphia Inquirer* adds:—

"Mansard roofs are justly liable to the objection of being too much of the character of 'lumber piles,' and it has been noticed, whenever a fire has occurred in this city in a building having this popular style of roof, its destruction has been certain. Underlying the impenetrable slate are thousands of feet of inch thick pine boards, and nearly as many feet of scantling, which cannot be reached by the firemen except from the room in which the conflagration is raging."

"The Mansard is undoubtedly superior, as an embellishment to buildings, to the old-fashioned flat or pitched roofs, but they are becoming so common that their utility must be considered, and it is questionable whether it is best to erect lumber piles over squares of expensive buildings, the ignition by the incendiary of one of which may destroy the whole."

IMPLEMENTS OF WAR.

The Paris *Illustration*, in spite of the terrible disasters that have overtaken the French arms, still indulges in jokes on the subject. In a history of war, it describes the implements of warfare, from the club with which Cain slew his brother, down to the implements which will eventually produce a universal peace. We shall commence with 1869:

1869—THE NEEDLE GUN.

But, as the sagacity of man has no limits, he invents the needle gun, an admirable invention, with which one is able to kill ten men at five hundred yards, before the enemy is able to kill one. Triumph of the needle gun! The soldiers became mechanics, and the commanding general is chief engineer. The thirty years' war lasts thirty days.

1870—THE MITRAILLEUSE.

But the chief mechanic of the hostile armies invents the mitrailleuse of the power of forty needle guns. One man can destroy a company in five minutes, at a distance of two thousand yards. The mechanics working the mitrailleuse gain many laurels. The thirty years' war lasts three days.

1880—THE ELECTRICAL GUN.

But the hostile mechanics do not despair; they invent an electrical gun of the power of twenty-five mitrailleuses. A single man destroys a battalion with the greatest of ease in three minutes, and at a distance of two thousand five hundred yards. Triumph of electricity. The thirty years' war lasts a day and a half.

1890—THE STEAM GUN.

From this war is invented the steam gun, which spouts out a continual stream of bullets, is managed like a fire engine, and possesses the power of twenty-five electrical guns. It destroys a regiment at a distance of three thousand yards in a minute and a half. Triumph of steam. The thirty years' war has lasted twenty-four hours.

1900—THE SURPRISE BOMBHELL.

The mechanical and chief engineer and chemist of the army, beaten by the steam gun, employs the leisure which peace gives him by inventing a stupefying bombshell, with a triple electrical current and a quadruple base of prussic acid—destroying a division at a blow at a distance of ten thousand yards.

But the hostile chief chemist has in the meantime invented another stupefying bomb, composed of twenty-five elements of super-concentrated azote, which annihilates an army corps also at a distance of ten thousand yards. The two kinds of bombshells are shot off at the same time, and the consequence is.

GENERAL PEACE.

The two armies sink down as though struck by lightning. Peace ensues, and tranquillity reigns everywhere. The thirty years' war has lasted just three hours.

TOTAL ECLIPSE OF DECEMBER 22, 1870, EARTHQUAKE AND TIDAL WAVE.

Professor Delissier, in *Stewart's Quarterly*, says:

This will be one of the greatest of modern total eclipses of the sun that has taken place: for not only does it occur when the moon is particularly near to the earth, but at a period when the earth is nearest the sun, and also at the time of the winter solstice, the moon likewise occulting the planet Saturn, the planet Venus on the same day being in configuration with the moon, 1° 6 min. south, the moon at the time approaching her conjunction with the planet Mercury, which latter body will be only 1° 19 min. south of the moon.

In the opposite part of the heavens, both the planets Jupiter (1° 7 min. north) and the planet Uranus (only 56 min. south of the moon) at a period when the planet Jupiter is approaching in opposition to the sun, which will take place on the 13th December, will exercise a most powerful reciprocal attractive influence on each other. By the combined influences thus exercised by the Sun, the Moon, Mercury, Venus, Jupiter, Uranus, and the Earth, all being nearly in a right line, a configuration that has not taken place for centuries, and which seldom occurs, the effects on the earth will be considerable, creating earthquakes, tidal waves, storms, hurricanes and cyclones. Similar configurations were present at the time of the total eclipse of the 16th August, 1868, when Quito and Callao were destroyed by earthquakes and tidal waves; but even then, the influences were somewhat less than they will be on the 22nd December next.

The eclipse will begin in the North Atlantic Ocean, the

central line moving in a south-easterly direction. Crossing one part of Spain and the Mediterranean Sea, it enters Africa near Oran, and soon afterwards attains its southern limits. The shadow of the moon now moves in a north-easterly direction and leaves Africa, and crossing the Island of Sicily, the south of Turkey, the Black Sea, and the Sea of Azof, disappears.

The penumbra of the moon decreasing rapidly, leaves the earth with the setting sun in Arabia.

The sun will be centrally and totally eclipsed at noon in lat 36° 38' north, long. 5° 1' west, a little to the north-east of Gibraltar, and near the Lisbon coast, creating tidal waves and earthquakes of great severity, agitating the waters of the Atlantic Ocean, the Bay of Biscay and the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

GERMAN LOVE OF TOBACCO.—It would be unjust, considering all the abuse levelled at tobacco-smokers, and how often they are solemnly told that tobacco destroys all their energies, not to admit that the success of the Germans in the present war is rather a feather in the smoker's cap. These misguided men seem to live on tobacco: the Uhlans, who in little parties of three or four trot gaily in advance and take possession of fortified towns, invariably carry pipes in their mouths. The mayor of each town is directed to find cigars for everybody before anything else is done. The German troops, it is stated, think but little of a scarcity of provisions—they fight as well without their dinner as with it—but tobacco is indispensable to them. On the whole, we fear experience shows that a smoking army is capable of greater endurance and of making greater efforts than a non-smoking army. The gun without the pipe would be of little avail, nor can we be much surprised at this when we reflect that the quantity of foul air we are called upon to inhale in this world is probably far more injurious to health than the tobacco-smoke, which, though it acts as an antidote to the poison of the atmosphere, gets no thanks for its pains, but only reproachful language.—*Full Mall Gazette*.

CHESS.

The following game, (from Walker's Chess Studies) in which M. Des Chapelles gives the odds of "Pawn and Move" to Mr. Lewis, is an interesting and rare specimen of the style of these celebrated masters: the former was predecessor to De la Bourdonnais; and the latter, a most accomplished English player and Chess author.

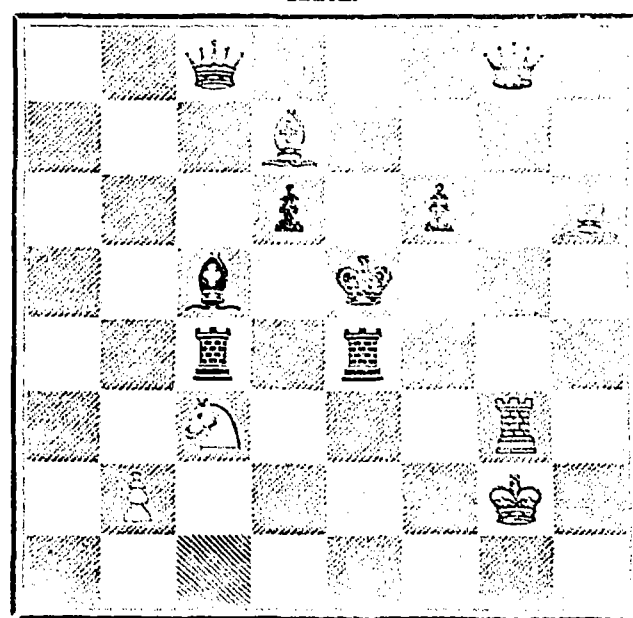
Before playing it over, Black's K. B. P. should be removed.

White.	Black.
Mr. Lewis.	M. Des Chapelles.
1. K. P. 2.	Q. Kt. B. 3.
2. Q. P. 2.	K. P. 2.
3. Q. P. 1.	Q. Kt. K. 2.
4. Q. B. Kt. 5.	K. Kt. B. 3.
5. B. takes Kt.	P. takes B.
6. Q. checks.	Kt. in.
7. K. Kt. B. 3.	K. B. Q. B. 4.
8. K. Kt. R. 4.	K. to B. 2.
9. Q. P. 1.	Q. K. B.
10. K. B. checks.	K. to K.
11. Kt. takes Kt.	P. takes Kt.
12. Q. takes P. ch.	K. to Q.
13. P. takes P. ch.	K. takes P. 4.
14. Castles.	K. R. R. 3.
15. Q. K. Kt. 3.	Q. P. 1.
16. Q. Kt. B. 3.	Q. B. Q. 2.
17. Q. Kt. Q. 5 ch.	K. to Q.
18. Q. Kt. P. 2.	K. B. Q. Kt. 3.
19. Kt. takes B.	P. takes Kt.
20. Q. to Kt. 8.	Q. takes Q.
21. B. takes Q.	R. K. Kt. 3.
22. K. B. Q. 5.	B. K. R. 6.
23. K. Kt. P. 1.	B. takes R.
24. K. takes B.	K. Q. B. 2.
25. Q. R. P. 2.	Q. R. K. B.
26. K. to K. 2.	K. R. P. 1.
27. R. Q. R. 3.	R. K. R. 3.
28. K. R. P. 2.	K. B. P. 1.
29. R. K. R. 3.	Q. R. K. B. 3.
30. Q. Kt. P. 1.	K. to Kt.
31. K. to K.	K. R. R. 2.
32. K. to 2.	K. R. Q. B. 2.
33. K. to Q. 2.	K. R. Kt. 2.
34. K. to Q.	K. R. to Q. B. 2.
35. K. to Q. 2., drawn.	

PROBLEM No. 20.

By J. W.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and mate in four moves.

SOLUTION OF ENIGMA No. 4.

White.	Black.
1. Kt. to Q. B. 6th.	K. moves.
2. Q. to K. B. 3rd, mate.	