

A MAGNIFICENT REVIVAL.

Lucy Hooper, writing from Paris to the *Philadelphia Press*, describes the revival of "Orphée aux Enfers" as follows, saying that the opera known here is but an outline of the present gorgeous piece, Offenbach having, moreover, written several new *morceaux*: "The first act was only remarkable for a new chorus, sung by the Municipal Council of Thebus, a set of grave, spectacled old gentlemen bearing golden broom-sticks; a splendid ballet of fauns and shepherdesses, and a very charming chorus of twenty children, the pupils of Orpheus, who come to take leave of him, each playing vigorously on the violin. But with the rising of the curtain on the second act (the gods in Olympus) public expectation was on the *qui vive*, for of the *mise en scene* of this act such stories had been told as had greatly excited public curiosity. Thick veils of blue and silver clouds hid the stage completely from view, and the chorus of the sleeping gods was heard from behind. The first veil was lifted, revealing, half hidden in mist-like clouds, the Celestial Clock, a graceful female figure poised on an azure globe and holding a pendulum. The clock strikes and the hour appears in an illuminated figure on the globe, while from below appears a personified Hour, a dancer clad in gray and silver or pink and silver. The ballet of the Hours and the Dreams succeeds, and then the Hours lead in the Dawn, at whose appearance the clouds rise and disappear, all save the gold-edged and saffron-hued clouds of sunrise, which still hide the back of the stage. At the conclusion of the ballet the clock sinks into the earth, the dancers disappear, and the last clouds disperse, revealing a vast amphitheatre, on the steps of which repose the sleeping gods and goddesses. Nothing can be imagined more superb than this scene—exquisitely painted and dazzling with light, while the sleeping divinities are grouped with a skill that might render a classic painter jealous.

"The act closes with one of the most astonishing processions ever seen upon the Parisian stage. First came a band of twenty-five musicians, the orchestra of the Olympian Conservatory of Music; then follows the cortège of Public Opinion, with the personified newspapers of the time. Next follows Pluto, his purple velvet mantle upborne by negro pages, his courtiers glittering in golden armour; then comes Jupiter, with his suite; then Venus, followed by Psyche, leading her doves and attended by Cupid and her priestesses. Juno follows, accompanied by her peacock; then Agriculture, represented by Flora, Pomona, and Ceres (the latter goddess drawn on a magnificent car), and their followers; Industry and Commerce are represented by Fortune, who is followed by a cortège of money-bags, with gold coins for heads. Then come Art, Literature, War, and next the Marine, with Amphitrite borne aloft in a silver shell on the shoulders of four river gods; and finally, the Triumph of Bacchus, preceded by Silenus on his ass. The young god, garlanded with grapes and vine-leaves, sat astride of a barrel, on a litter draped with vines. Then, funniest feature of the great procession, came the Menagerie of the Gods—Juno's peacock, Minerva's owls, with 'Death to Mice!' inscribed on their banners, the doves of Venus, the Centaurs and Pegasus, the latter walking solemnly on his hind legs. Last of all came an omnibus for the aged and infirm divinities, inscribed 'From the Champs Elysées to the Barrière de l'Enfer,' which piece of pleasantry was much relished by the audience.

"As the procession filed across the stage the different participants in it took up their places, passing on the steps of the amphitheatre behind, so that at the close the whole assemblage was grouped there. Then into the sky, the centre of a dazzling star of light, rose the car of Apollo drawn by four white horses, hovering in the air above the back of the amphitheatre. On that last scene the curtain fell. At that moment four hundred persons were assembled on the stage, which, vast as it was, was crowded in every part.

"The third act was chiefly remarkable for a very beautiful ballet, that of the 'Flies,' wherein the four principal dancers were costumed as dragon-flies. The scenery of the fourth act, the banquet hall of Pluto, with the festivities of his Olympian guests, rivalled the splendours already past, and surpassed them in dazzling effects of colour and lights. The 'Triumph of Bacchus' closed the act and the opera together, and left us poor worn-out mortals to return home, wearied in eye and brain alike by the strain of six hours of constant gazing and incessant admiration and astonishment."

Our Illustrations.

On our first page we give an illustration of the statue of JOAN OF ARC erected last month on the Place des Pyramides, in Paris, the spot supposed by many to have been the scene of her cruel death. The statue is of bronze, life-size, and stands on a pedestal of red granite.

Three portraits appear in this issue, those, namely, of the late CARLOS MANUEL DE CESPEDES, ex-President of the Cuban Republic; of MADAME BAZAINE, the heroic wife of the unfortunate defender of Metz; and of the late SENATOR SUMNER. Céspedes, it will be remembered, was killed on the 17th ult., after being betrayed by a captured negro to a party of soldiers of the San Quentin battalion. Charles Sumner, the eminent American statesman and senator, died at Washington on the 11th inst. He was born at Boston on the 6th of January, 1811, graduated at Harvard, and studied law there after taking his degree. He practised at Boston in 1834, when he was called to the bar, visited Europe three years later, and was in Paris at the time of General Cass' embassy. At his request it was that he wrote a defence of the rights of the United States in reference to the questions at issue between the two Governments. His opposition to the annexation of Texas, his support of Van Buren's candidature for the Presidency in 1848, and, above all, his determined policy in the matter of abolitionism, brought him into notoriety both on this continent and in Europe. In 1851 he succeeded Daniel Webster in the Senate, and when the war of Secession broke out became known as one of the bitterest opponents of England. Nevertheless, when the Trent affair threatened to embroil the United States into a war with Great Britain, he recommended the surrender of Mason and Sidel, albeit he maintained the right of the Federal Government to retain the captured envoys. He was a warm advocate of the metric system, and recommended the throwing out by the Senate of the Neutrality Laws Abolition Bill, passed unanimously by the House of Representatives out of hostility to England. He was for several years Chairman of the Congressional Committee of Foreign Affairs, and his name has frequently been associated of late with important measures.

The COMMITTEE OF THIRTY was chosen, as our readers are aware, by the French Assembly, to elaborate the constitutional laws of the country. The president, or chairman, as we should

call him, is M. Batbie, whose name frequently figures in the despatches from Versailles.

The fetes in Russia on the occasions of the Royal marriage and of the visit of the Emperor of Austria, furnish subjects for five illustrations, the majority of which speak for themselves. The ceremony in the Cathedral of the Assumption is thus described by an eye-witness:—"On entering the church an involuntary exclamation of astonishment and admiration escaped us. We were unprepared for such a wealth of richness. On every side gold met our eyes. The interior of the church was square, and from floor to roof the walls, as well as the pillars and the ceiling, were covered with figures of saints painted on a golden ground. The door of the iconostasis was open, and disclosed the picture of the Virgin of Vladimir, painted by St. Luke, its setting of diamonds and emeralds blazing in the light of a thousand tapers. The reliquaries containing the vestment of Christ and the piece of the Virgin's robe, lit up by the lamps suspended from the roof, gleamed darkly from the depth of the sanctuary. The door which communicates with the interior of the palace was still shut, and while waiting for the appearance of the Imperial cortège, we whiled away the time by admiring the splendours of the cathedral and the gorgeous costumes of the clergy, who were drawn up in two lines between the entrance and the choir. At last the Palace door opened, and the Czar, in the uniform of a Russian general, made his appearance, followed by the members of the Imperial Family and a host of Princes, Grand-Dukes, and other high dignitaries, who took up their stand around one of the great pillars in front of the sanctuary. The Dean of the Archbishops then advanced to the front of the choir, bearing the cross, and the Czar, humbly kneeling before him, kissed the sacred symbol, and then one after another the sacred images and relics. His example was followed by the Grand-Dukes his sons."

The ceremony of opening the GERMAN REICHSTAG, or Parliament, took place in the White Hall of the Castle of Berlin on the 5th February. On the 16th the fifteen deputies from Alsace and Lorraine took their seats. Seven of these gentlemen are ecclesiastics, two of them belonging to the Episcopate. These latter are M. de Loges, Bishop of Metz, and M. de Metz, Bishop of Strasbourg.

The celebrated SCALA SANTA, or sacred staircase, is in the church of St. John Lateran at Rome. It consists of thirty-three steps of white marble, and is said by tradition to be that up which Christ passed on his way to the Pretorium. The ceremony, performed by the faithful, of mounting these stairs on their knees is too well known to need description.

Since the annexation of Rome to Italy the CARNIVAL has lost much of its old-time splendour. This year, however, notwithstanding the suppression of the horse-races (*barbieri*) in the Corso, the celebration assumed considerable brilliancy. The processions of Saturn and Ceres, after having sailed down the Tiber in barks as far as Ponte Molle, were received by Pasquino II., the King of the Carnival, followed by all his court, and the whole entered the city by the Porta del Popolo. Then commenced, in the Corso, the usual showers of *confetti*, the throwing of bouquets and the witty cries of the Transteverini. Our sketches give scenes on the river and in the Corso.

Scraps.

A notorious scoundrel at present lying under sentence of death in Paris is occupied annotating a work on morality by the prison chaplain.

Mr. Gladstone has written to Prof. Max Muller, and told him that it is his (Mr. Gladstone's) purpose to devote his attention to philology.

A woman is composed of two hundred and forty-three bones, one hundred and sixty-nine muscles, and three hundred and sixty-nine pins.

A well-known deputy has been refused as a tenant, because his mother-in-law formed part of his family, and the proprietor "disliked disturbances in the house."

Tax the piano is now the cry in France. The majority agree with Theophile Gautier, who replied seriously, when asked if he liked a piano, "I prefer it to the guillotine."

A Parisian journal speaks of a present of a silk robe which the Duchess de la Rochefoucauld will present to Queen Victoria, and adds that it was manufactured at Lyons at a cost of 10,000*fr.*

A Vienna journal contains the following advertisement:—"Anna Agrikol, sick nurse, watches dead bodies, repairs straw chairs, applies leeches, and makes pastry, desserts, and delicacies."

Torch-bearers in bronze are, by order of the Préfet of the Seine, to be set up at different points in the Place du Carrousel, so that torches may be lighted there in foggy weather when the gas lights are insufficient. The British fog is no longer a joke for the Frenchmen.

A London daily contemporary tells of a man who "attempted to commit suicide, and died from his self-inflicted injuries a few hours afterwards." If such was the melancholy result of a mere attempt, what extraordinary ill would have befallen him had his effort been crowned with complete success?

Monsieur Albert Bazaine, the nephew of the marshal, sent in his resignation. It has been refused in terms so honourable that there was no alternative but to remain in the service. Monsieur Bazaine has even been entrusted with a mission to the northern states of Europe to make some important studies.

A writer in *Macmillan* records a remark made by S. T. Coleridge to a schoolmaster, with whom he was making the trip to Margate by the old Margate hoy. Coleridge watched his friend's efforts over the side, and at length said, "Why, Robinson, I did not expect this from you; I thought you brought up nothing but young gentlemen."

Mr. Dawson, one of the captives in Coomassie, contrived to send Sir Garnet Wolseley a letter, a few hours before the battle of Amosful, referring as a caution to the 2nd of Corinthians, 2nd chapter, 11th verse. The text is:—"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices." Very shrewd on the part of Mr. Dawson, and showing an apt knowledge of Scripture. Few of the best-read of the clergy could at a moment of pressure have singled out such a text.

Mr. Lowe has furnished the material for a good many stories already, and since the administration of the Gladstone Ministry some fresh anecdotes have been in circulation. One is that at the last Cabinet dinner at Carlton House Terrace Mr. Gladstone was amazed at the request of the Home Secretary that he might say grace. Still more astonished were the guests, however, at the grim reminder which followed. Mr. Lowe slowly uttered these significant words, "Let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we die."

The indefatigable American showman, Barnum, will again make his bow to the people of New York on April 1st, and this time in a still more spacious and more comfortable structure than any heretofore occupied. The work in progress on the block bounded by Fourth and Madison Avenues, Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh streets, is being rapidly converted into a substantial amphitheatre, and the many extraordinary attractions collected in all parts of the world by Mr. Barnum and his numerous agents will be exhibited under the following impressive titles: P. T. Barnum's Roman Hippodrome, World's Congress, Aquarium, Museum, and Caravan."

News of the Week.

THE DOMINION.—The Queen's Hall, Montreal, was burned on the 20th inst.—A dinner was given to Hon. E. G. Penny, of Montreal, on the 19th inst.—Parliament met on the 25th.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Sir Garnet Wolseley has arrived in England with several regiments.—The Thames has overflowed its banks.—The Imperial Parliament re-assembled on the 19th, and the Queen's speech was read. Her Majesty says the Governor-General of India has been instructed to spare no expense to mitigate the horrors of the famine in Bengal. Also, if necessary, a bill will be introduced dealing with such portions of the acts regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors as have given rise to complaints.—The Queen has publicly expressed her admiration and thanks for the gallantry displayed by the Ashantee expedition.—The report that the Fenian prisoners would be liberated is generally discredited.—Lord Salisbury, Secretary of State for India, announces a loan of \$50,000,000, \$15,000,000 of which he requires immediately.—In the House of Commons Dr. Butt moved an amendment to the report on the Address, representing Ireland's dissatisfaction with the present system of government, stating also that the Irish asked for the management of their local affairs, leaving supreme matters to the control of Parliament.—The members of the Queensland Cabinet have all been returned without opposition.—Floods at Maitland and elsewhere in New South Wales have caused great loss of property.

UNITED STATES.—A man concerned in an extensive burglary as far back as the year 1868 has been arrested on Broadway, N. Y.—The New York Produce Exchange have appointed a committee to urge upon the Albany Legislature the deepening of the Erie Canal, and the introduction of steam navigation.—Bald Mountain gives further indications of a volcanic eruption, and the residents in the vicinity are rapidly clearing off.—Judge Brady has decided adversely on the motion for the alteration of Tweed's commitment.—The California Legislature have presented a resolution to the United States Senate instructing Congressmen to modify the Chinese treaty so as to discourage Chinese emigration to California.

GERMANY.—The Committee of the Reichstag have again voted against the standing army of Germany being placed at 400,000.

FRANCE.—The anniversary of the Communist uprising was celebrated in Paris by a ball and supper.—At a meeting of Deputies of Extreme Left held at Versailles it was resolved, that on presentation of the new electoral bill a demand should be made for the maintenance of the present law and the dissolution of the Assembly on the 28th January.—The Duke of Padua and other distinguished persons who took part in the recent demonstration at Chislehurst have been removed from Mayoralties and other offices held by them under Government.

SPAIN.—The Carlists have captured an outlying fort at Bilbao. Forty men belonging to the garrison were taken prisoners. The bombardment of the city by the insurgents continues.—An order has been issued, forbidding publication by press of other than official war news.

AUSTRIA.—The Emperor, having accepted the resignation of the Hungarian Ministry, has appointed Herr Bilo President of the new Council of Ministers.

SANDWICH ISLANDS.—Prince Kalakua has been elected King of the Sandwich Islands. Queen Emma's adherents made a riotous demonstration, setting fire to the House of Assembly and beating several of the members.

Chess.

It is impossible for us to answer letters by mail. Games, Problems, Solutions, &c., forwarded are always welcome, and receive due attention, but we trust that our correspondents will consider the various demands upon our time, and accept as answers the necessarily brief replies through our "column."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

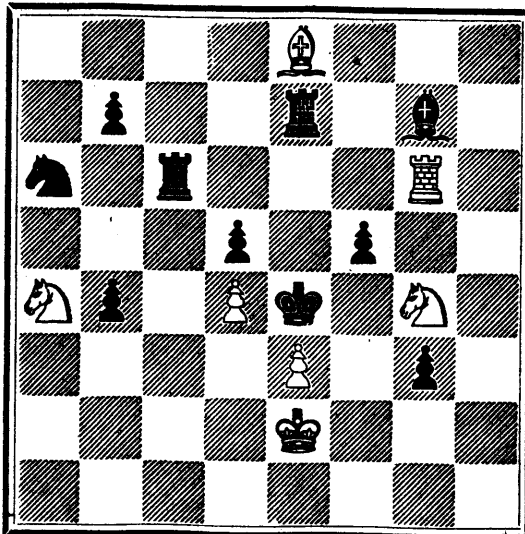
G. E. C., Montreal.—Many thanks for your problem; it is most welcome. As to Enigma 35, you lose sight of the Pawn at Q. Kt. 2nd. If Black play 1. Q. takes P. at her B. 6th, White would answer with P. takes Q., and then mate with the R. or Kt. Your solution was not correct, for if White plays 2. R. to Q. R. 8th, the Black Queen at Q. B. 5th can then check the White King at K. B. 8th.

CORRECT SOLUTIONS RECEIVED.—Problem No. 121, G. E. C., Montreal, and Juvénis, Quebec; No. 122, J. W. B., Toronto.

PROBLEM No. 124.

By Mr. G. E. C., Montreal.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM No. 122.

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|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| White. | Black. |
| 1. B to Kt 4th | 1. P to K 3rd or 4th (ch.) |
| 2. P takes P mate. | // |
| | 1. R takes R |
| 2. P takes R mate. | // |
| | 1. R takes Q |
| 2. P takes R mate. | // |
| | 1. Kt to Q 3rd |
| 2. Kt to K 5th mate, etc. | |