

MARSHAL McMAHON.

Marie-Edme-Patrick-Maurice-de-McMahon, Duke of Magenta, Marshal and Commander-in-chief of the French Army, born at Sully in July, 1808, derives his descent from an Irish family who risked and lost all for the last of the Stuart kings. The McMahaons, carrying their national traditions, ancestral pride, and historic name, to France, mingled their blood by marriage with the old nobility of their adopted country. This member of the family entered the military service of France in 1825, at the school of St. Cyr; was sent to the Algerian wars in 1830; while acting as aide-de-camp to Gen. Achard, took part in the expedition to Antwerp in 1832; attained to the rank of captain in 1833; and, after holding the post of aide-de-camp to several African Generals, and taking part in the assault of Constantine, was nominated Major of Foot Chasseurs in 1840, Lieut.-Col. of the Foreign Legion in 1842, Colonel of the 41st of the Line in 1845, and General of Brigade in 1848. When, in 1855, Gen. Canrobert left the Crimea, General McMahon, then in France, was selected by the Emperor to succeed him in the command of a division; and when the chiefs of the allied armies resolved on assaulting Sebastopol, Sept. 8, they assigned to General McMahon the perilous post of carrying the works of the Malakoff. For his brilliant success on this occasion he was made Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour; and in 1856 was nominated a Knight Grand Cross of the Bath. Gen. McMahon, who took a conspicuous part in the Italian campaign of 1859, received the baton of a Marshal, and was created Duke of Magenta, in commemoration of that victory. He represented France at the coronation of William III., of Prussia, in Nov., 1861, was nominated to the command of the 3rd corps d'armee Oct. 14, 1862, and was nominated Governor-General of Algeria by decree Sept. 1, 1864.

THE ARREST AND EXAMINATION OF GENERAL ROSSEL, EX-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMUNE.

"Distrust pale men," said Caesar. Rossel is a young man, pale and thin, rather tall and with an expressive countenance, although the fire of his eye is habitually veiled under spectacles.

Educated at the Polytechnic, he early gave proofs of great military capacity, and was created at the age of twenty-six a captain in the line.

He was at Metz with Bazaine, and having fortunately escaped captivity in Germany, he, after Sedan and the investment of Paris, placed himself at the disposition of the delegation of Tours. M. Gambetta, then Minister of War, created Rossel a colonel.

After the capitulation of Paris, the Government refused to confirm Rossel in the rank conferred by Gambetta. He then repaired to Paris, where the Commune had replaced the National Government. Lacking capable captains for its insurrectionist forces, and Rossel was easily persuaded to accept the position of Chief of the Staff to Cluseret.

Cluseret having been imprisoned by his friends of yesterday, Rossel succeeded him. The capture of Fort d'Issy instigated his resignation, which he addressed to the Commune through the papers. After this, his first endeavour was to seek a safe hiding-place from the wrath of the revolutionists. He hid himself, and it was rumoured that he had fled to England.

But he had not left Paris. He had remained in hiding in a furnished lodging-house, No. 54, on the Boulevard Saint Germain, where he was arrested June 9th. In order to change his appearance he had assumed the dress of an engine driver of the Northern Railway Company.

He was conducted from the Boulevard Saint Germain to the Fetit-Luxembourg, and was arraigned in the White Hall before the Grand Provost of Cussy's Army, M. Hincker.

The ex-chief entered haughtily, and examined the persons present; but at sight of his old comrades of the Polytechnic and of the army, his assurance abated. His arms dropped to his side, and he bent his head.

After asking his name, age, and quality, M. Hincker asked:

"Why did you desert from the army to enrol yourself under the red rag?"

"I had been unjustly treated," replied the prisoner, "and my character had become soured."

After this, the ex-Minister of War of the Commune refused to answer any further questions. The Provost then ordered him to be manacled, but the prisoner recoiling from this indignity, exclaimed:

"I am no malefactor, and ought not to be manacled."

It required the united strength of four men to handcuff him. He was then conducted to Versailles.

Mr. Ruskin does not believe in this so-called modern spirit of liberty. In his lectures on "The Queen of the Air," he lets off his rhetorical pyrotechny, with the usual brilliancy, in denouncing it. "Death," says he, "is the only real freedom possible to us; and that is consummate freedom—permission for every particle in the rotting body to leave its neighbor particle, and shift for itself. You call it 'corruption' in the flesh; but, before it comes to that, all liberty is an equal corruption in the mind. You ask for freedom of thought; but, if you have not sufficient grounds for thought, you have no business to think; and, if you have sufficient grounds, you have no business to think wrong." The following passages, in further illustration of his views, are certainly spirited pictures:

"I believe we can nowhere find a better type of a perfectly free creature than in the common house-fly. Not free only, but brave; and irreverent to a degree which I think no human republican could by any philosophy exalt himself to. There is no courtesy in him; he does not care whether it is king or clown whom he teases; and in every step of his swift mechanical march, and in every pause of his resolute observation, there is one and the same expression of perfect egotism, perfect independence and self-confidence, and conviction of the world's having been made for flies. Strike at him with your hand, and to him the mechanical fact and external aspect of the matter is what to you it would be if an acre of red clay, ten feet thick, tore itself up from the ground in one massive field, hovered over you in the air for a second, and came crashing down with an aim. That is the external aspect of it; the inner aspect, to his fly's mind, is of a quite natural and unimportant occurrence—one of the momentary conditions of his active life. He steps out of the way of your hand, and alights on the back of it. You cannot terrify him, nor govern him, nor persuade him, nor convince him. He has his own positive opinion on all matters

—not an unwise one, usually, for his own ends—and will ask no advice of yours. He has no work to do, no tyrannical instinct to obey. The earthworm has his digging; the bee, her gathering and building; the spider, her cunning net-work; the ant, her treasury and accounts. All these are comparatively slaves, or people of vulgar business. But your fly, free in the air, free in the chamber—a black incarnation of caprice—wandering, investigating, flitting, flirting, feasting at his will, with rich variety of choice in feast, from the heaped sweets in the grocer's window to those of the butcher's back-yard, and from the galled place on your cab-horse's back to the brown spot in the road, from which, as the hoof disturbs him, he rises with angry republican buzz—what freedom is like his?"

"For captivity, again, perhaps your poor watch-dog is a sorrowful type as you will easily find. Mine certainly is. The day is lovely; but I must write this, and cannot go out with him. He is chained in the yard, because I do not like dogs in rooms, and the gardener does not like dogs in gardens. He has no books—nothing but his own weary thoughts for company, and a group of those free flies, whom he snaps at with sullen ill-success. Such dim hope as he may have that I may yet take him out with me, will be, hour by hour, wearily disappointed; or, worse, darkened at once into a leaden despair by an authoritative 'No'—too well understood. His fidelity only seals his fate; if he would not watch for me, he would be sent away, and go hunting with some happier master; but he watches, and is wise, and faithful, and miserable; and his high animal intellect only gives him the wistful powers of wonder, and sorrow, and desire, and affection, which embitter his captivity. Yet, of the two, would we rather be watch-dog or fly?"

The report of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland states at the close of last year the number of schools in operation was 6,906. The total number of children on the rolls within the year was 998,999, and the average daily attendance of children for the year was 459,199. There was an increase of 7,664 on the rolls, and 639 in the average daily attendance. During the year 169 schools were placed on their operation list, but 68 schools were removed from the roll, and 2 schools were placed on the suspended list, leaving a net increase of 99 to our list of operation schools. Grants have been made at various times towards the erection of 98 school houses which will contain 148 separate school rooms. When these 98 buildings shall have been completed, they will afford accommodation to 13,170 children. Of the above 98 school houses, the erection of 21, containing 33 school rooms were sanctioned during the year 1870. There were 45 vested schools opened during the year, towards the erection of which grants had been made and 3 suspended school reopened.

PREVIOUS EPIDEMICS OF SMALLPOX IN LONDON.—The Registrar-General publishes some statistics of former visitations of small-pox in the metropolis which are worth recording. In the thirty-one years, 1840-70, small-pox caused altogether 25,071 deaths in London; and the disease may be said to have been epidemic nine times during that period—namely, in 1840-1, 1844-5, 1847-8, 1851-2, 1854-5, 1859-60, 1862-4, 1866-7, 1870-1. The greatest fatality was in 1844 and 1863, when 1804 and 2012 deaths respectively occurred. Nearly all the epidemic periods began in the autumn, and lasted from one to two years. The most severe visitation, although of comparatively short duration, was that of 1840-1, when the highest weekly mortality in the thirty-one years—namely, 102 deaths in the last week of 1840—occurred. During the past nine weeks the deaths have averaged 152 per week, while in an equal number of weeks in 1840-1 the average was only 71 per week. The present epidemic is, therefore, far more severe, says the Lancet, than any previous one of which there is accurate record—that is, since the systematic registration of deaths was established.

BURGLARY AND CHLOROFORM.—Under this title we (Lancet) find a sensational story in the newspapers about a lady at Stamford-hill, who went upstairs to her bedroom, and was there seized by a man and a lad, who applied a wet handkerchief to her nose and mouth, and rendered her insensible. The men completed a robbery, and the lady was found insensible, and did not recover for some time. Two medical men are stated to have concurred in the opinion that she had taken chloroform. The recent jewel robbery is also said to have been effected by the aid of chloroform—not administered, however, until the individual had been secured and prevented from making any opposition; but the general experience of the profession is so completely opposed to all such stories, that we should much like to hear of their being sifted. The time required for the administration of chloroform would usually prevent it being employed by thieves or for bad purposes; and it is far more likely that the lady in the case referred to had simply fainted from terror. We have never heard of a well-authenticated case of robbery in which chloroform was used; and the common narratives to this effect are often those of people who went into bad company of their own accord, and who, having suffered consequences which involved some disclosure, have had recourse to imagination in order to conceal the truth.

FOOD VALUE OF FRUITS.—Fruits are used, says Dr. Cameron, in the Irish Farmers' Gazette, as a staple food in many warm countries; but in most parts of Europe they are regarded chiefly in the light of luxuries. Deprived of their stones or seeds, they contain often not more than 5 per cent. of solid matter. They are very poor in albuminoids; but they are usually rich in sugar, and many of them contain much acid. There is the greatest variation in the relative amounts of pectose, sugar, and acid in edible fruits. Berries contain, as a rule, more acid than stone fruit. The grape contains from 13 to 28 per cent. of sugar; the cherry only 14 per cent. In the peach there is about 9 per cent. of soluble pectin and gum, whilst the gooseberry only includes 2 per cent. of these bodies. In the common fruits the percentage of free acid varies from a mere trace to about 3 per cent. The pear is almost wholly free from acids, while the currant often contains three times as much free acid as sugar. The grape is probably the best fruit adapted for the sick. As heat-and-force producing foods, 5 1/2 lb. of grapes, 6 1/2 lb. of apples or cherries, 10 1/2 lb. of currants, and 12 1/2 lb. of strawberries are equal to 1 lb. of starch. The dietetic value of the fruits is chiefly due to their fine flavour and their abundance of saline matter.

HOW TO CURE STAMMERING.—Lute A. Taylor, editor of the La Crosse (Wis.) Leader, who has been an inveterate stammerer, writes as follows about the way to cure the habit: "No stammering person ever found any difficulty in singing.

The reason of this is, that by observing the measure of the music—by keeping time—the organs of speech are kept in such position that enunciation is easy. Apply the same rule to reading or speech, and the same result will follow. Let the stammerer take a sentence, say this one—'Leander swam the Hellespont'—and pronounce it by syllables, scan it, keeping time with his finger if necessary, letting each syllable occupy the same time, thus, Le—an—der—swam—the—Hel—les—pont, and he will not stammer. Let him pronounce slowly at first, then faster, but still keeping the time; keeping time with words instead of syllables, and he will be surprised to find that, by very little practice, he will read without stammering, and nearly as rapidly as persons ordinarily talk or read. Then practise this in reading and conversation until the habit is broken up. Perseverance and attention is all that is necessary to perform a perfect cure."

CHESS.

Solutions to problems sent in by Correspondents will be duly acknowledged.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

M. V. B.—The solution given was perfectly correct; we shall be happy to hear from you again.

We record the following game, recently contested by two Montreal amateurs, as it seems to us more interesting than many of the games played with this defence:

FRENCH OPENING.

- White, Mr. "Walker." Black, Mr. W. H.—
1. P. to K. 4th. P. to K. 3rd.
2. P. to K. B. 4th. P. to Q. 4th.
3. P. to K. 5th. P. to Q. B. 4th.
4. K. Kt. to B. 3rd. Q. Kt. to B. 3rd.
5. B. to Q. Kt. 5th. Q. to Q. Kt. 3rd.
6. P. to Q. R. 4th. P. to Q. R. 3rd. (a)
7. B. takes Kt. P. takes B.
8. Castles. P. to B. 5th. dis. ch.
9. K. to R. sq. P. to Q. R. 4th.
10. Q. Kt. to B. 3rd. B. to B. 4th.
11. Q. Kt. to K. 2nd. K. Kt. to R. 3rd.
12. P. to Q. B. 3rd. Kt. to Kt. 5th.
13. Q. Kt. to Q. 4th. Castles.
14. P. to K. R. 3rd. Kt. to R. 3rd.
15. Q. to B. 2nd. P. to K. B. 3rd.
16. P. takes P. R. takes P.
17. Kt. to Kt. 5th. Kt. to B. 4th.
18. Kt. takes Kt. P. takes Kt.
19. Kt. to B. 3rd. B. to Q. 3rd.
20. R. to K. sq. B. to Q. 2nd.
21. P. to Q. 3rd. P. to Q. B. 4th.
22. Q. to Q. sq. B. to Q. B. 3rd.
23. P. takes P. P. to Q. 5th.
24. P. takes P. P. takes P.
25. Kt. takes P. B. to K. 5th.
26. Kt. to Q. Kt. 5th. B. to Q. B. 4th. (b)
27. P. to Q. Kt. 3rd. Q. R. to Q. sq.
28. B. to Q. 2nd. R. to K. Kt. 3rd.
29. R. to K. 2nd. R. to Q. 6th.
30. K. to R. 2nd. Q. R. to K. Kt. 6th. wins.

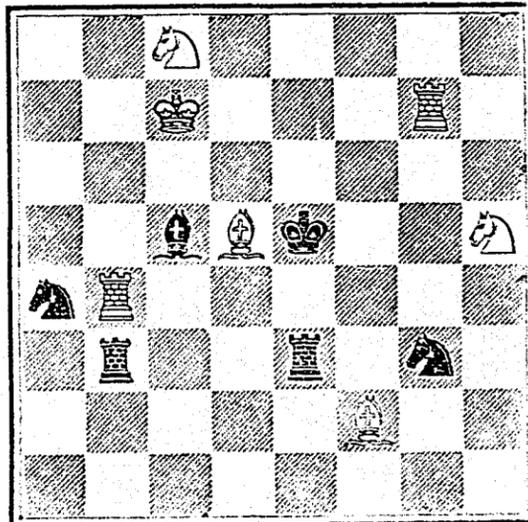
(a) P. to Q. B. 5th. first, would have been better for the defence, as it prevents his opponent's castling for some time.

(b) Black has now a fine attacking position, amply compensating his sacrifice of pawns: any attempt to sustain or equalize them would have resulted very differently.

PROBLEM No. 32

By J. W.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in four moves.

ENIGMA No. 10.

By C. H. S.

White.—K. at Q. Kt. 3rd. R. at K. Kt. 2nd. Bs. at Q. 2nd., and Q. 5th. Kt. at K. B. 4th. Ps. at K. R. 4th., and Q. R. 3rd.

Black.—K. at his 4th. R. at Q. Kt. sq. B. at K. sq. Kts. at Q. 6th., and Q. Kt. 4th. Ps. at K. B. 3rd. Q. B. 2nd. Q. 5th., and Q. R. 4th.

White to play, and mate in six moves.

CHARADES, &c.

NUMBERED CHARADE, No. 23.

Composed of 30 letters.

- My 14, 13, 7, 2, is a Roman Emperor.
My 4, 18, 3, 11, 10, 19 is a very necessary portion of ladies' attire.
My 30, 21, 23, 29 is part of a wagon.
My 15, 6, 1, 5 is part of the face.
My 2, 17, 9 is a summer luxury.
My 29, 25, 12, 28 is a novelty on the banks of the Nile.
My 24, 16, 22, 20 is a highly coloured vegetable.
My 8 is a bullock driver's command.
And my whole is a distinguished Canadian statesman.
F. J. T., Toronto.

NUMBERED CHARADE, No. 24.

Composed of 22 letters.

- My 18, 5, 1, 11, 15 is a much dreaded personage.
My 2, 19, 4, 10, 16 is a famous volcano.
My 6, 7, 12, 17 is a celebrated English statesman.
My 13, 14, 9 is what an impecunious youth makes use of.
My 20, 3, 21, 22 is a clerical dignitary.
My 8 is the old woman's delight.
And my whole is a most important event of the year 1870.
F. J. T., Toronto.