

MISCELLANY.

AN interesting question of endurance has just been settled in Arkansas, where a negro murderer had been convicted on circumstantial evidence, and sentenced to death; but made the most solemn protestations of innocence. The murderer would not own up, and the Governor would not commute his sentence, and so the day of execution came on, when His Excellency signed the commutation just at the moment the negro made his confession.

A REMARKABLE feat in journalism and telegraphy was the transmission to the Chicago *Times* recently, of 83,715 words of a special despatch containing the revised version of the Four Gospels. About 50,000 words were sent in addition before the Revision reached Chicago by mail, when composition from the printed copy was begun, and the *Times* presented the whole New Testament in the form of a Sunday supplement. It was the *Times* which not long ago performed the feat of printing a description of the Oxford-Cambridge boat-race three hours before the start was made at Putney, thanks to the cable and difference in time.

A SUCCESSOR to Mr. George Robins, that gifted auctioneer, who once described a property he was offering for sale as perfect, but for one defect—the singing of the nightingales was apt to disturb the sleep of the residents, has been discovered in London, who calls a duck-pond "an aqueous provision for the poultry," and thus describes a "Residential Estate" which he has been instructed to bring to the hammer. "The house is a splendid home, replete with all that art and science could devise to render it perfect in fulfilling the requirements of a patrician or a peer, an opulent citizen, or a man of letters,—with a sumptuous suite of reception rooms, unique in the richness of their adornments, classic in the perfection of their style, and for symmetry of proportion and harmony in design an example to any age, in striking contrast to the anachronisms of the day," and "surpassingly beautiful grounds, of which the combination of attractions make the summer too short for their enjoyment and rob the winter of its drear."

ANCIENT BOYS AT SCHOOL.—At seven years of age the Roman boys studied Greek and Latin grammar together. The sons of centuries went to school at 5 a. m., with their satchels and counting tables slung over their shoulders, and studied in school-rooms on the ground floor, where they were so well and thoroughly flogged that their howls aroused the neighbours at very unseasonable hours. Martial and other satirists spoke of their cries and blubberings as one of the chief nuisances of the early morning hours. The masters were great disciplinarians, and esteemed corporal punishment as one of the chief means of inducting that precious boon, knowledge, into dull heads. The ancients believed that boys were naturally vicious and required taming. So great a teacher as Plato laid down the axiom that "A boy was the most ferocious of animals." Others, like Quintilian, protested against undue flogging. Pictures found in Herculaneum show that the system of flogging was in vogue; also, that in some schools both sexes were together, although the education of girls was comparatively neglected. In the higher social circles girls were taught music and dancing, and other fashionable branches, as nowadays. Tuition was very cheap, less than a cent a day. The boys had holidays in March and December and a long vacation in the summer, from June 24th to October 19th, a great part of which was spent with their parents at Roman Newports and Coney Islands. At fourteen they were put into high schools, where they studied rhetoric, poetry, and belles-lettres generally, their previous efforts having been confined to reading, writing and arithmetic, with Greek and Latin grammar and verses. The younger children were taught their letters and numerals by means of small ivory blocks, as at the present day. The pay of a teacher was thirty dollars a year, about one hundred times less than that of a ballet dancer.

CONTEMPTS IN A RUSSIAN GIRLS' COLLEGE. Not many weeks ago a lady of the highest society surprised one of the most aristocratic ladies' institutes in the Russian capital by her unexpected visit. Followed by the ladies of her suite, and accompanied, of course, by the enchanted directress of the institute, the high-born lady walked through the spacious apartments of the building and expressed much interest at what she saw. These, Anna Pawlowna, are your own private apartments, I suppose? she inquired of her companion. "They are, your imperial highness. This is my reception room, the next is my sitting-room, those two beyond are the sitting-rooms of my two daughters, and this last one we are entering now is their common dormitory." Heavy curtains darkened the sanctum sanctorum, in which, as in all the other rooms, thick carpets deadened every noise, and thus had prevented the company from noticing the hasty steps of a fugitive, who, hunted from room to room and finding all the doors leading to the main corridor locked, had forcibly sought a hiding place in the aforesaid dormitory. "May I?" said her imperial highness to the directress and raised her hand to part the curtains, when suddenly there stood before them the tall form of a man, whose appearance caused terror and elicited an outcry from the bystanders. He stepped forth, and bowing low to the astonished grand duchess, said: "Your imperial highness will pard."

His address was cut short, for the *entourage* could no longer suppress a smile, and the directress felt called upon to solve this masculine riddle. "Your imperial highness, this is Prof. K., my sister's husband, who," "Who," laughingly added the wife of the hereditary grand duke, "has been completely taken by surprise at our unexpected visit and mercilessly persecuted by our advance, had to surrender at last in this his last place of refuge." The singular capture of "my brother-in-law" has not failed to greatly amuse the circles of the upper-tendon of St. Petersburg.

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

Solutions to Problems sent in by correspondents will be duly acknowledged.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. W. S. Montreal.—Papers to hand. Thanks.

The great chess match between the East and West of Scotland has excited so much interest among chess-players of the old country that we must be excused for alluding to it again in our Column this week. The defeat experienced by our East players in the late encounter seems to have been, to a great extent, unexpected, as in the four preceding contests with their rivals they had conquered without difficulty. It appears, however, that the amateurs of the West did what all sensible players will do when defeated, they discovered the cause of their want of success, and buckled to for another trial, at the same time improving their play as the best means to secure the object in view.

There seems to be much excitement in the West on account of this victory, and the Glasgow *Weekly Herald* contains a spirited song, which, while testifying to the skill of the men of the East, rejoices in the result of the recent contest. We have only room for the following lines:

"The day came at last, and in battle array
The East met the West, but to vanish away,
And the crown of the East is submerged in the sea,
And no more crow Edina and Cannie Dundee."

From the *Chess Player's Chronicle* of May 10:
To the Editor of the *Chess Player's Chronicle*:

DEAR SIR.—Will you kindly mention in your paper that I have challenged Herr Zukertort to a match for fifty, sixty, or seventy pounds a side, seven games up, draws not counting, time limit 15 moves per hour, four games a week. The match to commence about the middle of June. Yours most respectfully,

J. H. BLACKBURN.

It appears that the match between Messrs. Blackburn and Zukertort has been arranged. The stakes are £100 a side, seven games up, draws not to count, and time limit, 15 moves an hour.

The following is the score in the championship tourney of the Manhattan Chess Club to and including the 25th last:

	Won.	Lost.
Wm. M. de Nis...	4	1
F. M. Tied...	4	1
D. G. Reid...	3	14
Leas Cohn...	2	3
A. L. Gutter...	1	24
W. D. Cohn...	1	4

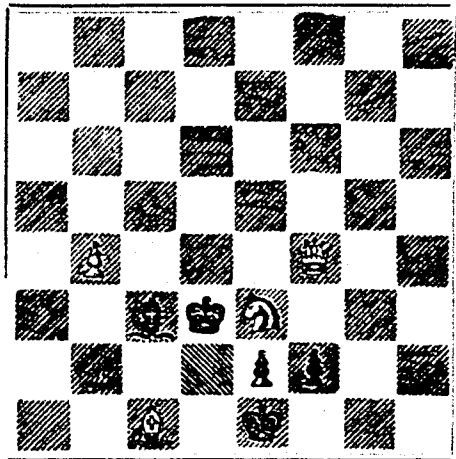
—Turf, Field and Farm.

In the match between the St. Louis amateurs and Mr. Mackenzie the latter has won 17, lost 1 and drawn 1.

PROBLEM No. 332.

By W. A. Shinkman.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

GAME 459TH.

THE CHESS MATCH AT ST. LOUIS.

(From the *Globe-Democrat*.)

Twelfth game in the match between Messrs. Judd and Mackenzie.

(French Defense.)

White.—(Mr. Mackenzie.)	Black.—(Mr. Judd.)
1. P to K4	1. P to K3
2. P to Q4	2. P to Q4
3. Kt to Q B3	3. Kt to K B3
4. P takes P	4. P takes P
5. Kt to B3	5. B to Q3
6. B to Q3	6. Castles
7. Castles	7. P to Q B3
8. B to K Kt5	8. P to K R3
9. B to R4	9. B to K R3
10. P to K R3	10. B to K R4
11. P to K Kt4	11. B to K Kt3
12. Kt to K5 (a)	12. B takes B
13. Q takes B	13. Q Kt to Q2 (b)
14. Kt takes Kt	14. Q takes Kt
15. B takes Kt	15. P takes B
16. P to B4	16. K R to K sq
17. R to B3	17. R to K2
18. Kt to K2	18. Q R to K sq
19. Kt to Kt3	19. R to K5 (c)
20. Q to Q2	20. P to Q R4
21. P to Q B3	21. Q to K3
22. Kt takes R	22. P takes Kt

23. P to Q5 (d)	23. Q to Q2
24. R to Kt3	24. P to B5 (e)
25. K to Kt2	25. B to Q B4
26. R to Q sq	26. Q to Q3
27. Q to K2	27. Q takes B P
28. R to K B sq	28. Q to Q3
29. Q takes B P	29. B to Kt3
30. R to K sq	30. B to B2
31. Q R to K3	31. R to K4
32. P to K R4	32. R takes P
33. Q takes K P	33. R to Q7 (ch)
34. K to R3	34. R takes P (f)
35. Q to K8 (g)	35. K to Kt2 (h)
36. P to Kt5	36. B P takes P
37. P takes P	37. P takes P
38. R takes P (ch)	38. K to R3
39. Q R to Kt3	39. Q to Q sq (i)
40. R to Kt6 (ch)	40. K to R4
41. Q R to Kt5 (ch) (j)	41. Q takes R
42. R takes Q (ch)	42. K takes R
43. Q to K7 (ch)	43. K to Kt3
44. Q takes B and wins.	

NOTES.

(a) B takes B, followed by Q Q3, is also a good continuation.

(b) Injudicious, we think, for it gives Black the disadvantage of a doubled Pawn, besides exposing his King.

(c) B takes K B P would not answer, on account of the following:

20. R takes B	19. B takes K B P
21. Kt K R5, etc.	20. R to K6

(d) If White had time to support this Pawn by P Q B4, the present advance would be very effective; as it turns out, however, its merit is somewhat doubtful.

(e) Preventing White from supporting the Q P, and bringing his Bishop into formidable action.

(f) Q K B5, as Mr. Judd afterwards remarked, would have been stronger.

(g) Should White try to exchange Rooks by R K2 he is mated in two moves.

(h) Better to have interposed the Queen.

(i) If Q K3 ch, White takes with Q, and then wins by B or checkmates.

(j) This wins, but clumsily, by brute force, as it were. How White, instead of checking with Rook, can mate in two moves, is a little problem which we leave to the penetration of our younger readers to discover.

SOLUTIONS

Solution of Problem No. 331.

1. Kt to Q2	1. Any
2. Mates acc.	

Solution of Problem for Young Players No. 328.

White.	Black.
1. B to K7	1. Any
2. Mates acc.	

PROBLEM FOR YOUNG PLAYERS, No. 329.

White.	Black.
Kat Q Kt5	Kat Q3
Bat Q7	Pawn at Q B1
Bat Q R5	
Kt at K R7 and	
Q B4	

White to play and mate in two moves.



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