

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

It is a peculiar characteristic of the French mind to prefer the *dulce* to the *utile*—the look of the thing to its use. Witness the following from a great English authority on French doings: "A new costume for sea bathers at Trouville has been invented; it is of indiarubber and quite waterproof. It looks well." Unintentional sarcasm evidently—that last sentence. "It looks well," but of what earthly use is a waterproof bathing dress? And yet we have not the least doubt that some of Mr. Darwin's undeveloped relations will beaping this idiotical fashion next season at Long Branch and elsewhere.

A Utica man has recently patented an invention which must meet with great favour from all unfortunate travellers who have suffered—and who has not?—at the hands of the irrepressible baggage-smasher. The new invention is a trunk with the following improvement for circumventing evil-minded expressmen, carters, and hotel-porters: Taking hold of the handle and lifting one end from the floor, a sharp pull draws out a hand-bar similar to those by which a hand-cart is drawn or propelled, and at the same time two strong wheels drop beneath. The trunk is at once a box on wheels, and the traveller can draw it away independent of porters or expressmen.

The little village of Mitchell in Ontario has won an unenviable notoriety in connection with the recent elections. According to a recent number of the *Advocate*, some five hundred sheep belonging to Messrs. Jones and Murphy—two gentlemen who took very prominent parts in the return of Mr. Daly to the Commons—were poisoned the other day by some cowardly scoundrel. On the morning after the election over thirty of the animals were found dead in the field, and fifteen or twenty others have since died. This is the most disgusting piece of election scoundrelism that has come under our notice. What a contemptible outcast the perpetrator of such a dastardly act must be! To sacrifice harmless, dumb cattle to a palmy election grudge—can one conceive anything baser, more inhuman, or more diabolical? We would give something to have the names of the worthies who have disgraced their kind by this act of combined meanness and cruelty.

For years past the "gentleman by Act of Parliament" has been a standing British Institution. Mr. Sampson Brass, of Bevis Marks, was one; so also were Messieurs Quirk, Gammon, and Snap, each, individually, and severally. "A gentleman by Act of Parliament." The character, antecedents, and actions of these worthies were not exactly such as to give one a very high idea of the gentleman-manufacturing power of Acts of Parliament. Indeed in the palmy days when these gentry lived and practised gentlemen by Act of Parliament were usually gentlemen by the Act, and by nothing else. It is therefore not without a feeling of commiseration for those indirectly concerned that we note a clause in the new Education Act creating parents "by Act of Parliament." By the Act in question, 35 & 36 Viet., cap. 62, it is enacted that a guardian or any person who is liable to maintain or has the actual custody of any child is a parent. If the parental feeling and conduct of the new "parents by Act of Parliament" is to be gauged by the gentlemanly feeling and conduct displayed by the old "gentlemen by Act of Parliament," we feel inclined to pity the youngsters who come under such "parental" rule.

We always thought the Paris *Figaro* bore the palm for inaccurate information and impossible stories of English life and habits. But after the two following *morceaux* from a well informed New York paper the *chroniqueur* of the *Figaro* had better look to his laurels. "Mrs. Mary Talmadge Van Rensselaer," says the journal alluded to, "who died suddenly in the cars a few days since at Albany, visited England soon after Victoria ascended the throne. She was presented to and became a favourite of the Queen, who said one morning at breakfast that she would give her dominions for Miss Talmadge's beauty." As Her Majesty was not in a position to transfer the crown to Miss Talmadge, any more than it was possible for Miss T. to transfer her beauty to the young—and beautiful—Queen; and as, further, we have always been in the habit of giving Her Majesty unlimited credit for common sense of the highest order, we respectfully decline to believe this story, as also we decline to believe in the geographical acquirements of the author of the following. Says the same journal, "An exciting incident recently occurred at the Yorkshire Station of the Metropolitan Railway, near London, during a heavy thunder-shower. The station is in a deep cutting, in which a large quantity of water accumulated during the rain. A passenger train emerged from the tunnel, and was brought to a stop by the waters, which were so high as to put out the engine fires. The telegraph wires would not work on account of the storm, and the express train was momentarily expected. All efforts to move the train by another engine were unsuccessful; the passengers could not leave the cars on account of the water, which was flowing in a perfect torrent. A few of them, by the greatest exertions, had been removed from the train, when suddenly a shout announced that the express was coming, and a huge wave was seen issuing from the tunnel as the train approached. The same cause, however, which had placed the passenger train in its terrible position, proved its salvation, for the water also put out the fires in the express engine, which drew up, to the immense relief of all the by-standers, within about five feet of the hindmost carriage of the former train." The moderation displayed by this writer is something quite out of the common way, and cannot be too highly praised. In all the accounts of this "exciting incident," or similar incidents, which have hitherto come under our notice the express engine used to stop six inches of the doomed train. But "about five feet!" This is moderation indeed. The only thing that puzzles us is the locality of the incident; the Yorkshire station, of the Metropolitan Railway, near London! As the Metropolitan Railway does not extend outside of London, as there is no station of the name of Yorkshire on the Metropolitan Railway, and, finally, as there is no Yorkshire nearer London than the county of that name at the other end of the kingdom, it is likely the inquirer will find it difficult to "locate" this little incident. If the Americans are going to trifle in this manner with English geography the British will be justified in putting forward "Counter-Claims" of such magnitude as will leave the Americans but little of the fifteen and a half million dollars recently awarded them in compensation for the "Alabama" damages.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

THE DOMINION.

Several marine disasters are reported from the Lower Provinces.

A large party of Quakers from Pennsylvania have settled in the neighbourhood of Newmarket, Ont.

It is rumoured that Mr. Scott, the Conservative M.P.P. for Ottawa is to be the new Premier of Ontario.

Judgment was given last week by the Court of Review in the Gully and Brown case adversely to the petitioner.

Seven hundred and eighty-five immigrants arrived in Toronto last month, of whom 230 went to the Western States.

His Excellency the Governor-General visited the Institution of the Good Shepherd at Quebec and the Laval Normal School last week.

A hot discussion took place recently between Attorney-General Clarke and Riel, which resulted in the former challenging Riel to a duel.

The Immigration Agents who have been employed in Great Britain during the last six months returned last week, and have sent in their reports.

An old three-story house on the corner of Sous le Fort and Notre Dame Streets, Quebec, fell in on Friday last, destroying a large amount of property.

Sir George Cartier met with a grand reception from the citizens of Ottawa on Monday. Sir George has been elected for Provencher by acclamation.

Extensive preparations are being made at Toronto for the reception of the Governor-General. A public ball will be given in honour of His Excellency's visit.

Toronto advices state that it is rumoured that the Hon. George Brown will at once re-enter political life and take the lead of his party in the Ontario Legislature.

A rumour from Quebec states that the Hon. Mr. Cauchon is about to be sworn in as a privy councillor and to take the portfolio of Receiver General in the place of Senator Chapais who is about to retire from the Cabinet.

The nominations for the Commons took place in Manitoba on Saturday. Sir George E. Cartier was returned by acclamation for Provencher, Riel and Clarke retiring in his favour. In Selkirk A. E. Wilson, Stewart Mulvey and F. E. Cornish were nominated on the Reform ticket, and Donald A. Smith, as supporter of the Government. Mr. Wilson will likely be returned. In Marquette, Mr. Cunningham, editor of the *Manitoba*, Messrs. Norquay, Vertand and Lynch, were nominated, the latter as a Reformer. In Lisgar, Messrs. Schultz and Hay were nominated.

UNITED STATES.

The Indians in Alaska are becoming troublesome.

General Sherman arrived from Europe on Sunday.

A fire at Newark, N.J., last week destroyed \$75,000 worth of property.

O'Connor has consented to accept the nomination of the Louisville Convention.

A defalcation of \$20,000 has been discovered in the treasury of Wayne County, Ohio.

The terrible mountain massacre has at last been proved to be the work of the Mormons.

By an accident on the Pennsylvania R.R. last week thirteen persons were injured.

A boat, supposed to belong to the missing steamship "Bien-ville," has been picked up bottom upwards.

Two men were killed at the western end of the Hoosac Tunnel last week by the premature discharge of a blast.

On Friday last a fire destroyed Lincoln's kerosene works at Boston and tenement houses. Loss estimated at \$50,000.

Much excitement was caused lately in Baltimore by the failure of several large firms engaged in the coffee and sugar trade.

The Laura Fair trial slowly drags its weary length along. Six hundred persons have been examined and only four jurors obtained.

Sheridan's expedition Westwards has been abandoned owing to the hostility of the Indians in the neighbourhood of the Yellowstone Valley.

Mr. Sumner on his arrival at Liverpool heard of his nomination as Governor of Massachusetts. He states that he will absolutely decline.

Six hundred people—being nearly half the inhabitants of three villages in the neighbourhood of New York—were laid up with ague last week.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

The rumour of Miss Nellie Grant's marriage is denied.

A treaty is being negotiated between China and Japan.

The Emperor Francis Joseph left Berlin on the 11th inst.

Rochfort is seriously ill, and it is feared that he cannot live long.

His Holiness the Pope has abandoned all ideas of leaving Rome.

Prince Bismarck has received the honorary citizenship of Berlin.

The Carlists are again becoming troublesome on the Spanish frontier.

Coal is being sent to England from the collieries of the Pas de Calais.

The celebrated Hawaiian volcano, Mauna Loa, has been in active eruption.

Prince Albrecht, Commander-in-Chief of the Austrian Army, died at Vienna on Thursday of last week, at the age of 55.

A hurricane has visited the Windward Isles by which much damage has been done to shipping, wharves, and other property.

The last weekly edition of the *Paris Illustration* was seized by the police because it contained insulting caricatures of the Prussians.

An indignation meeting is to be held at Dublin on Sunday to protest against the course of the British Government towards the Irish Press.

The Old Catholics will hold a grand Conference at Cologne on the 21st inst.

Odger has agreed not to contest the Preston election provided the Liberal candidate pledges himself to advocate the abolition of the Game laws.

It is asserted that the Czar of Russia will demand the abrogation of the Treaty of Paris for the purpose of co-operating with Austria and Prussia.

The Spanish Cortes opened on Monday. In the opening speech King Amadeo declared that the Government was determined to put down the rebellion in Cuba.

Eleven of the Narbonne rioters have been tried, convicted, and sentenced to terms of imprisonment varying from four to fifteen months, and fined from 200 to 500 francs.

A duel took place at Macao recently between the Spanish and Peruvian Consuls, arising out of a dispute respecting a gambling debt. Both combatants have been arrested.

It is said that on the reopening of the National Assembly M. Thiers will propose the nomination of a Vice-President. The President is also in favour of forming a second Legislative Chamber.

The Private Secretary of the Duke de Montpensier has been arrested at Merida. The Government has obtained the clue to a conspiracy on the part of Montpensier in the interest of Don Alfonso.

A terrible landslide is reported near Fraga, a town of some 5000 inhabitants situated on the River Cinca, in Arragon. A barge full of forty human beings was swamped and all perished. Many other lives were lost and a great quantity of property was destroyed.

The Geneva arbitrators publicly announced their award on Saturday. England is to pay to the United States fifteen and a half million dollars for losses caused by the depredations of the "Alabama," "Florida" and "Shenandoah." In the case of the last two vessels Sir Alexander Cockburn dissented from the judgment of his colleagues.

The Emperor of Austria has conferred the Cross of the Order of St. Stephen of Hungary on Prince Bismarck, Prince Gortschakoff, and General Manteuffel. Colonel Andrassy has been decorated with the Order of the Black Eagle by the Emperor of Germany, and with the order of St. Andrew by the Emperor of Russia. The Emperor William has made the Emperor of Austria honorary colonel of the Schleswig Holstein Regiment of Hussars, and the sons of the Prince Imperial of Germany have been appointed to colonelcies in the Russian army.

CHESS.

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

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. H. B., Kingston.—Solutions received: correct in both cases.

REVIEW OF CHOICE GAMES.

Correspondence Game, played several years ago between the Chess Clubs of Paris and Westminster.

FRENCH DEFENCE.

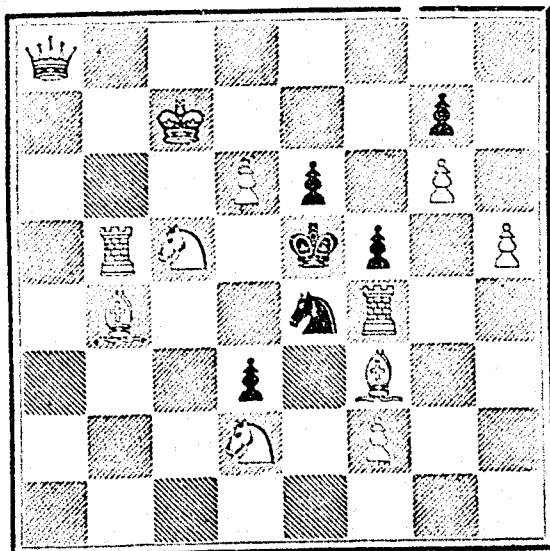
White, Westminster.	Black, Paris.
1. P. to K. 4th	P. to K. 3rd
2. P. to Q. 4th	P. to Q. 4th
3. K. P. takes P.	P. takes P.
4. K. Kt. to B. 3rd	K. Kt. to B. 3rd
5. K. B. to Q. 3rd	P. to Q. B. 4th
6. Q. to K. 2nd, ch.	K. B. to K. 2nd
7. Q. P. takes B. P.	Castles.
8. Q. B. to K. 3rd (a)	K. R. to K. sq. (a)
9. K. B. to Kt. 5th	Q. Kt. to B. 3rd
10. K. Kt. to Q. 4th	K. B. takes P. (c)
11. K. B. takes Kt.	Q. Kt. P. takes B.
12. P. to Q. R. 3rd	K. B. takes Kt.
13. P. takes B.	P. to Q. B. 5th (a)
14. Q. to Q. 3rd	Q. to Q. Kt. 3rd (c)
15. Castles. (c)	Q. B. to B. 3rd
16. Q. to Q. Kt. 3rd	Q. takes Q.
17. P. takes Q.	B. takes R.
18. P. takes B.	Kt. to Kt. 5th
19. P. takes P.	Kt. takes B. ch.
20. P. takes Kt.	R. takes P.
21. Q. Kt. to Q. 2nd	Q. R. to K. sq.
22. P. to Q. Kt. 4th	R. to Q. 6th
23. R. takes Q. K. P. (b)	R. takes Kt.
24. P. to Q. Kt. 5th	R. takes Q. Kt. P.
25. P. to Q. Kt. 6th	P. to Q. 5th
26. P. to Q. Kt. 7th	P. to Q. 6th
27. R. to B. 8th	K. to B. sq., wins.

(a) Castling here would have been far more prudent: this attempt to sustain the pawn seriously compromises their game.
(b) The beginning of a formidable attack.
(c) Regaining the pawn, with much the superior position.
(d) The attack is promptly followed up.
(e) The *compromise*: White cannot now avoid serious loss.
(f) The best move left apparently.
(g) Abandoning the piece in a desperate attempt to retrieve the fortunes of the game by pushing on their advanced pawns.

PROBLEM No. 61.

By an amateur of Brooklyn, U. S.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.