

## VARIETIES.

**THE ROMAN PONTIFFS.**—The whole number of Popes from St. Peter to Pius IX is 257. Of those 82 are venerated as saints, 33 having been martyred; 104 have been Romans, and 103 natives of other parts of Italy; 15 Frenchmen, 9 Greeks, 7 Germans, 5 Asiatics, 3 Africans, 3 Spaniards, 2 Dalmatians, 1 Hebrew, 1 Thracian, 1 Dutchman, 1 Portuguese, 1 Candiot, and 1 Englishman. The name most commonly borne has been John; the 23d and last was a Neapolitan raised to the chair in 1410. Nine Pontiffs have reigned less than one month, 30 less than one year, and 11 more than 20 years. Only 5 have occupied the Pontifical Chair over 23 years. These are St. Peter, who was Supreme Pastor 25 years, 2 months, 7 days; Sylvester I., 23 years, 10 months, 27 days; Adrian I., 23 years, 10 months, 14 days; Pius IX., who celebrated his 30th year in the Pontifical Chair, June 16th, 1876.

**CASUISTRY.**—An archbishop is no match for a woman. At a grand marriage which recently took place in Paris, Faure and Madame Cavalho had agreed to sing in the church, but the *cure*, upon applying to the Archbishop for the necessary permission, was informed that on no account would the great *prima donna* be allowed to sing in a sacred edifice. This was a sad blow, but the bride's "mamma," whom it annoyed, was equal to the emergency. She prevailed on Madame Cavalho to hide herself behind the organ, and then put up a lad with a missal in hand to stand up in the choir and pretend to sing while the *prima donna* poured forth her enchanting notes. The chorister boy had an immense success, but they had to send him away next day, so many churches contended for his ownership.

**OBITUARIES.**—The report that Mr. Delane will shortly retire from the editorship of the *Times* excites a reference to a statement which has been going the rounds relating to the Births, Marriages, and Deaths column of the great journal. It was said that those were at first inserted gratis; but Mr. Walter, then proprietor, thinking that a Benedict might very well pay a trifle for the announcement that he had volunteered into the "noble army of martyrs," fixed a tariff of half a crown upon each epithalamium—the money to go to the printers. One morning at breakfast Mrs. Walter suggested that the sum realized in this way would fit in very nicely to her pocket allowance; and her husband, seeing with the eyes of his wife, diverted the revenue accordingly. At the subsequent transfer of property it was found that the triple record of human weakness and mortality was worth fully four thousand a year.

**ORPHEUS C. KERR.**—Few persons who can read but have read of "Orpheus C. Kerr," one of the most delightful of American humorists, and one of the truest and most pathetic of poets. But few know or ever will know how rare the nature which lay concealed beneath his kindly wit; his genial cynicism only found expression in his active sympathy with every poor, forlorn and suffering child of humanity. He was a modern knight-errant, as true and chivalrous as the truest and purest of the knight-errants of old, and as sensitive and refined as the fairest lady of his love. His marriage with Adah Isaacs Menken was the strongest proof of this, though many considered it an act of folly. So far as its effects upon his own future was concerned, it doubtless was; but his motive was Christ-like. She wrote some poems for a paper he edited. He believed there was good in her. He married her to save her, but she would not be saved, and she sacrificed him without a second thought. Poor fellow, he lived in the world, yet the world knew him not; his wisdom and goodness was its folly, and now he is in all probability dying, wasting away with a disease which baffles the skill of physicians. He takes food only every other day, and then nothing solid. He was always a slender, delicate-looking man, but he is now the mere shadow of himself.

**SYDNEY SMITH.**—Sydney Smith, with all his humour, was naturally reserved if the surroundings were not all favourable, and forwardness he utterly despised. One evening, at a dinner-party, he was excessively annoyed by the familiarity of a young fop with more money and pedigree than brains and sense, who constantly addressed him as "Smith." "Ah, Smith, my dear fellow!" "Smith, you will pass the wine?" and so on. By-and-by the young gentleman stated that he had been invited to dine with the Bishop of London, and he asked the reverend canon what "sort of a fellow" he was. "A very good sort of fellow indeed," replied Smith; "only let me give you a piece of advice. Don't call him Howley." This rebuff greatly amused all present save the object of it, whose armour of ignorant obliviousness was proof against anything like true wit, and he talked on in happy unconsciousness. Soon afterwards one of the company rose to depart, remarking that he had an engagement for a *soirée* at Gore House. "Pray take me with you," cried the titled fop; "I've the greatest possible desire to know Lady Blessington." The request was very naturally demurred to on the ground that a visitor was not authorized to introduce uninvited guests. "Oh," said Sydney Smith, "never mind! Take him, by all means; I am sure her ladyship will be delighted to see our friend. The weather is uncomfortably warm, and you can say to her that you have brought with you the cool of the evening."

**SMALLNESS OF STATURE.**—Not long before his death, Canon Kingsley drew attention to the surprising number of small young men to be seen in a London crowd. According to him, it was a sign of the deterioration of the race. But there are two ways of looking at everything, and, for the comfort and satisfaction of small people, we would point out that it might almost be taken as an indication of intellectual progress. Many—we might almost say most—of the great men of history have been of short stature, from the days of that ancient philosopher who, as the story goes, was so diminutive that he had to carry lead in his pockets to prevent his being blown away. Canute the Great, for example, was a singularly small man; Napoleon, too, was little; Nelson had no height to boast of, and the great Condé was short enough. Hildebrand—Gregory the Seventh—the mightiest of all the Popes, was also quite a diminutive person. Then amongst men of letters, poets, and philosophers. Montaigne, the essayist, was little; so was Pope—"a little crooked thing that asks questions;" so was Dryden; so was Dr. Watts, who insisted, as we all know, on the mind being the stature of the man; and so was Scarron, who, alluding at once to his ill health and his little size, called himself an "abridgment of human miseries." Will any one, after such names as these—and the list might be indefinitely extended—look down on little men with disdain?

**LORD BEACONSFIELD'S ARMS.**—Upon the elevation of untitled persons to the ranks of the peerage, or even of the Baronetage, it is necessary, or at all events customary, for them to apply to the authorities of Her Majesty's "College of Arms," commonly called the Herald's College, for a grant of armorial bearings, or for some augmentation to those already borne, in the way of charges, supporters, crest, motto, &c. The usual form has lately been gone through by Lord Beaconsfield, whose arms and supporters are now for the first time duly "registered at the College." The motto which his lordship has chosen, "*Forti nihil difficile*," resembles the motto used by Lord Muskerry, "*Forti et fidei nihil difficile*." The armorial bearings granted to Lord Beaconsfield are as follows, in Heraldic language: "Per saltire, argent and gules, two lions rampant, sable, between a tower, argent, in chief, and an eagle displayed in base." The crest is "a tower, triple-towered, argent, surrounded at base by an oak-wreath proper." The supporters are as follows: "Dexter, an eagle, or, collared gules; on an escutcheon, gules, pendent therefrom, a tower, argent. Sinister, a lion, or, collared gules, with similar escutcheon pendent therefrom." It is to be observed that the supporters of his lordship's arms are the same as those chosen by Lady Beaconsfield, and recorded in "Lodge's Peerage" on her being created a Peeress in her own right in December, 1868, although the charges of the shield itself are quite different. Lady Beaconsfield's arms were, "Argent, a bunch of grapes, proper between two haunches, sable, each charged with a boar's head of the field."

**A SPEECH ATTRIBUTED TO NELSON.**—The Astronomer Royal, Sir George B. Airey, writes to the *Athenaeum*:—"It has been stated in some of our best biographies of Nelson, that he went into the battle of Trafalgar with orders and decorations on his coat; that his officers pointed out to him that these would attract the attention of the enemy's marksmen, and requested him to change his coat; and that he proudly answered, 'In honor I have won them, and in honor I will wear them,' or in words to that effect. Some years past, my friends Mr. Francis Baily and Admiral W. H. Smyth, came in contact with Sir Thomas Hardy, (the Captain Hardy of Nelson's flagship), and inquired of him as to the accuracy of this report. He replied distinctly that Nelson did wear the decorated coat, and that he (Captain Hardy) did represent to Nelson the danger; but that the character of Nelson's reply was materially different from that reported. He only replied, peevishly, 'This is not a time to talk of changing coats.' I think it is probable that Nelson was at the time in great anxiety. The hostile fleet lay in a deep horseshoe form, open to windward. The smaller British fleet, in two nearly equal divisions, advanced in nearly parallel lines into the horseshoe. The wind fell to a very light breeze, and the British advance was very slow. During this time the British fleet was exposed to a heavy fire from the enemy, which they could not return. Had the wind sunk to calm the British fleet might have perished. There remained, however, enough of breeze to carry them on, and when once mixed in the melee, their success was no longer doubtful."

## THE FASHIONS.

We present our readers, in this issue, with a fine group of Autumn fashions. No. 1 and 2 are hats for children; No. 3 is a paletot for girls between 7 and 9 years of age; No. 4, a paletot for girls between 6 and 8; No. 5, a paletot of corded cloth; No. 6, a mantle of black cashmere; No. 7, a mantle of grey Vigogne; No. 8, a paletot of drap-pique; No. 9, a paletot of cashmere; No. 10, a mantle of Eugenie material; No. 11, a dress for girls; No. 12, a costume of velvet; No. 13, a mantle of Vigogne; No. 14, a costume for boys between 4 and 6; No. 15, a paletot of silk; No. 16, another paletot of Vigogne; No. 17, a paletot of mated cloth.

## BEFORE THE FOOTLIGHTS.

Now that the west end of Montreal has secured the erection of a respectable place of amusement, the inhabitants of that favored region seem to think they have done all their duty. They are satisfied to know that there is, close by, a handsome hall where they may semi-occasionally take their families, but as to the means whereby a high standard of entertainment is to be maintained there, they leave such to be provided by their neighbours. It was a mistake at the start that the directors of the Academy of Music Company, did not, before opening the doors of the theatre, secure, by a subscription list, the sale of at least 500 seats for the year. But even now, it is not too late for these gentlemen to canvass their friends, and to contribute by their own patronage to the success of the Academy. How otherwise can any first-class company keep the place open? Is this pretty theatre to become a mere Variety Hall to be leased week by week to strolling troupes of unknown actors? Or is it the ambition of the proprietors of the Academy to have on its boards only good reliable companies, such as the one Mr. McDowell placed before the public last winter, and which now delights the sparse but appreciative audiences that assemble at Victoria street? If not liberally patronized by the gentility of Montreal, our Academy must be closed, or must lose caste. The plays presented last week by Mr. McDowell were deserving of bumper houses every night, both intrinsically and for the manner in which they were set, cast, and acted. "Clouds" and "Pique" are vastly different in style and character; but both have merits of their own. "Clouds" is an American comedy of a high standard, full of interest, and replete with refined humour and elegant dialogue. "Pique" is a drama in tableaux, in some of which the situations are somewhat strained, but which has ample elements of sentiment and fun, to attract and amuse. The first is undoubtedly the one which gives the better occasion for legitimate acting, and in it, each individual member of the company shows out with peculiar brilliancy. We only reecho the daily press, when we say that the cast was excellent, and that among so many good actors and actresses, it is difficult to signalize any one in particular. We may however say that our belief, formed last winter, as to the future of Miss Affie Weaver, has become a conviction, and we notice with pleasure the great improvement which steady application, aided by excellent natural gifts, has wrought in this lady's acting and presence on the stage. Both as *Stella Gordon*, and as *Mabel Renfrew*, Miss Weaver conquered at once the sympathies of the audience, and was called and recalled before the curtain. Miss Reeves is pleasing as usual, natural and careful, and must always be a favorite. Miss Cameron had unpleasant and difficult parts in both plays, and did them well. Mr. Neil Warner was more at home in "Pique," as the autocrat of Deerfield, than as the wayward and indefinite Ralph Randall. Mr. McDowell was at his best in the excellent part of Fred Towne. Capt. Standish is too melancholy a character for him, though it could scarcely be better interpreted. Mr. Chippendale, Mr. Gwynette, and the other members of the company, are equal to all emergencies. Two junior members, Harry Chester and Alfred Selwyn, greatly contributed to the success of "Pique," although one of them was a *perjured villain*. It is a thousand pities that the company can stay but a very limited time, and we do hope that the citizens of Montreal will condescend to be rationally amused, and will crowd the Academy every night this week.

## HYGIENIC.

A tea made of ripe dried whortleberries and drunk in place of water is a sure speedy cure for scrofula difficulties, however bad.

THE social effects of morning bathing are desirable. It is a healthy practice, in that it necessitates early rising with its almost necessary association, early retirement to rest.

THE London *Milk Journal* says that a pint of milk heated a little, but not boiled, taken every four hours, will check the most violent diarrhoea, stomachache, incipient cholera, and dysentery.

DR. C. B. FABER, in the *Practitioner*, argues against the use of drugs in sea sickness. They prolong the attack, and he would only advise opiates when vomiting is continued to an alarming extent. Several hours a day on deck is what he advises.

SIMPLE cure for rheumatism is to boil a small potful of potatoes and bathe the part affected with the water in which the potatoes were boiled, as hot as can be applied, immediately before going to bed. The pains will be removed, or at least alleviated, by the next morning.

Baron Mundy, Chief Inspector of Hospitals in Serbia, has invented several contrivances for carrying the wounded off the battle field. The most satisfactory of these is an inclined arm chair strapped to the back of a burly soldier, upon which the wounded are transported with gentle celerity to the hospitals. It works admirably in mountain warfare.

A party of ten medical men were dining together not long since, and one of them, during dessert, started the question that, supposing all present were limited in their practice to a selection of six pharmacopoeial remedies, which would be chosen as being most useful, compound drugs to be excepted. Each of the party wrote the names of the six drugs he should select, and handed them to the doctor who started the enquiry. On examining the lists it was found a majority of votes were given in favor of opium, quinine, and iron; between mercury and iodide of potassium the votes were equally divided, as they were also between ammonia and chloroform.

## SCIENTIFIC.

THE Paris Jardin des Plantes has recently received a Chinese plant hitherto unknown in Europe. It changes color three times daily, and naturalists have named it *Hibiscus mutabilis*.

M. SEBRIL, a French architect, obviates the danger arising from dampness in brick building by injecting bricks, tiles and other earthen material with the tarry residue from the manufacture of illuminating gas.

SIGNOR PIEROTTI, a railway man, who has long resided in Palestine, has proposed to the Pope to make Jaffa a seaport, and connect it with Jerusalem by a railway. The Sultan has already given his sanction, and both Pio Nono as well as Cardinal Franchi, are favoring the scheme.

THE Bremen Senate recently regaled the members of the International Congress of Economists and Lawyers with some of their famous wine from the Baths Keller, where it had lain since 1620. An English member of the Congress writes that the wine had passed beyond the age of improvement, and bore a strong resemblance in taste to a less noble beverage.

A new industry, that of drying eggs, has been set on foot at Passau, on the Danube, and the Prussian military authorities are about to give the product a trial for soldiers' rations. The London *News* says several German chemists are very sanguine as to the success of the experiment, and they pronounce dried eggs to have lost none of their valuable properties by the gradual evaporation of the water contained in their original state.

Interesting experiments are being made at the central telegraphic bureau in Paris with a new apparatus for producing a fac simile of the writing and signature of an individual sending a despatch. The apparatus also produces, with great exactness, drawings of the most complicated description. The inventor is Mr. Lenoir. Some years ago similar trials were made with the invention of a Mr. Caselli, but the results were imperfect.

Mount Ararat has been successfully ascended by Mr. Bryce, of Lincoln's Inn, London. This is believed to be either the third or fourth ascent, the first having been made by Parrot in 1834, and the second by Abich in 1850. The mountain is 17,212 feet in height, and the last 4,000 feet had to be climbed alone, the Cosack escort refusing to go further. The Armenians of the neighborhood believe the mountain to be inaccessible, and insist that Noah's ark still remains upon the summit.

It is proposed to carry a wire to the Cape of Good Hope across the African continent. Of the 1,500 miles or so of aerial line it is suggested that much might be erected without the expense of poles by taking advantage of the trees over thickly wooded tracts, which are frequent in tropical Africa. The difficulty would be to keep the natives from utilizing the wire in regions where iron is scarce and valuable, but this might be got over. The undertaking, if it could be established and kept in working order, would be exceedingly lucrative, and would in many ways aid in opening up Africa to commerce and civilization.

Two years ago some laborers digging in the soil near Dufort, France, encountered a number of fossilized bones. The Paris Museum lost no time in obtaining possession of the prize, and has at length succeeded in setting the fragments together for permanent preservation. They were at first supposed to be the bones of a mammoth, but the structure of their molar teeth identifies them as appertaining to a prehistoric animal known as the *elephas meridionalis*, which antedated both the mammoth and the mastodon. The stratum in which they were found belongs to the Pliocene, or tertiary period. The skeleton which, after two years effort, has at length been put together, measures 19 feet in height and 18 in length.

## HUMOROUS.

MILWAUKEE is called the Cream City on account of the number of pumps in its streets.

SEWING bees will soon be in vogue, and at every meeting three or four African beehives will be provided with clothes, and the characters of eighteen citizens will be ruined.

A thief, who broke out of goal in Ohio the other day, being captured, told the sheriff that he might have escaped, but he had conscientious scruples about travelling on Sunday.

Presence of mind is a great thing. A Floyd avenue man, whose wife was attacked by a cross dog, promptly crawled under the steps of a cooper's shop, and did not get hurt at all.

AT the Winchester Sessions in England four men were indicted for stealing beans. A gentleman asked another, "What have they been doing?" "Been stealing," was the answer.

"I don't think I ought to pay that bill," said a man when his physician called on him for settlement. "Why not?" "Because, doctor, you gave me so much medicine that I was sick a long time after you cured me."

THE following was the reply to the question, "Which of the two preachers do you like best?" naming them. "I like to hear Mr. Smith preach best, because I don't like any preaching; and he comes nearest to nothing of any that I ever heard."

As the trial of a breach-of-promise suit was about to begin in San Francisco, a juror arose and asked to be excused because he was engaged to be married, and consequently his mind was not free from bias. He was excused.

A boy who was sent to ask how an old lady named Wilkins was in health, delivered his message thus:—"Please, ma'am, missus wants to know how old Mrs. Wilkins is?" To which she replied, "She is just seventy-four."

AN organist played in another church than his own recently, and was complimented by the organ blower, for the proficiency shown in his Voluntary. "By the way," added the man who manipulated the wind apparatus, "I've blown that Voluntary before."

A party of belated gentlemen, about a certain hour, began to think of home and their wives' displeasure, and urge a departure. "Never mind," said one of the guests, "fifteen minutes will make no difference; my wife is as mad now as she can be."

## OUR CHESS COLUMN.

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

All communications intended for this department to be addressed Chess Editor, Office of CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, Montreal.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS

J. S. W., Windsor street, Montreal.—Solution of Problem 91, received. Correct.

Sigma, Montreal.—Received correct Solution of Problem No. 89.

The following programme of the Centennial Chess Problem Tournament has been published in the newspapers of the United States:—

"That the Centennial Chess Tournament may possess a more wide-spread interest it has been decided to hold