

THE ESCURIAL.

(Translated from Théophile Gautier.)

Reared, like a challenge, near a mountain's brow. Far off I trace the dark Escorial now: Three hundred feet from earth it soars, alone. Uplifting firmly on its shoulder wide. Like some huge elephant, a dome of pride. The Spanish Emperor's debauch in stone. No ancient Pharaoh for his mummy's tomb E'er built a Pyramid of denser gloom. No desert Sphinx more readiness betrays; The work is sleeping in each chimney tall. Green weeds grow rank in each deserted hall. Monks, soldiers, priests are things of other days. All would seem dead, save that from every niche, From crumbling pediment, and cornice rich, Even from the hands of sculptured kings there sweep A flock of swallows, garrulous and gay. That strive to wake to the light of day The drowsy giant who forever sleeps. Montreal. GEO. MURRAY.

THE INFLUENCE OF MUSIC.

If it be asked, "What is the use of music?" I may ask in return, "What is the use of emotion?" It colours all life, it inspires all words, it nerves for all action. What would your life be without it? And what is the grandest thought without it? Music expresses no thoughts, stands for no ideas or intellectual conceptions, rouses (except by association) no images; but it stands for independent states of consciousness, it creates the atmosphere in which thoughts are born, it deals with the mystic states in which thought is steeped and coloured. Without emotion thought would perish, or remain passive and inert. No age, no sentient creature has been quite without a sense of musical sound as the language of emotion. In its rude elements even dumb animals are affected by it. It influences dogs, horses, and cattle generally. Notice how a musical sound, though monotonous, is understood and obeyed, and how the jingle of bells notoriously encourages horses to perform their work. The plough-boy is inspired by the strains of his own whistling. And do you wonder that the Spartans were enabled to march to victory by the lays of the minstrel Terpander—that our soldiers require the fife and drum? And I have been told that there are people in the North who are very delighted and cheered by that unutterable abomination, the Scotch bagpipe. I must not trust myself to dwell upon the religious functions of music—active, as in the Lutheran hymn, sung by the people; passive—as in the mass or Catholic anthem, sung for the people. The songs of the temple have had more attention paid them than the songs of the street; but the time will come when these too, will be understood as important factors in the life and morality of the people. A great statesman has said, "Let me make the songs of the people, and let who will make their laws." And when we think what might be the influence of music we cannot but regret that the popular songs of England are, in fact, represented by "Tommy, make room for your uncle." The songs of our music halls kindle emotions truly, but of what kind are they? When you employ music, wed it to thought, and thus awaken emotions; you must remember you are playing with two-edged tools, for the emotions kindled and directed may be such as it is unhealthful and mischievous to cherish. Emotion means fire, and a heap of live coals on your carpet and in your grate subsolve very different purposes; for in the one case your house is warmed, and in the other case it is burned down. So it is with music, which kindles and directs emotion. Music under certain conditions elevates, while under certain conditions it demoralises. Music ought to be used discreetly, advisedly, and soberly, and that is why the particular kind of music we adopt, and the words to which music is set, should be carefully considered. Music is not intended simply to tickle the ear; music is moral. And here let me remind you that not half enough has been said of the discipline of emotion, a function exercised in the highest degree by music. Upon this very quality of discipline, nobility, and truth of emotional expression, turns the distinction between the modern German and the modern Italian schools, as schools. The secret of a good school of music is, that it is a real exponent and a sound discipliner of the emotions. Listening to a symphony or Sonata of Beethoven's is not a joke; it is a study, an emotional training. You sit down and listen attentively, and the master leads you through various moods; he elates you and depresses you; your feeling waxes and wanes with various intensities, not spasmodically, but by coherent sequences. You are put through a whole system of feeling, not of your own choosing; you are not allowed to ebb, you are to control yourself here and expand there; and at last, after due exercise, you are landed on the composer's own platform, chastened, exercised, refreshed, and elevated. Although urged here and there, the light rein has been upon you, and the master drives you much in the same way that a skilled charioteer drives a spirited steed. Let the heaven-born art of music spread; let it bless the homes and hearths of the people; let the children sing, and sing together; let the concertina, the violin, or the flute be found in every cottage; let not the only fiddle in the place be hung up in the beer-shop, the only choruses in the villages be heard in the choir and at the public-house. And while music refines pleasure, let it stimulate work. Let part songs and sweet melody rise in all our crowded factories above the whirl of wheels and clanking of machinery; thus let the factory girl forget her toil, and the artisan his grievance, and music the civiliser, the recreator, the soother and purifier of the emotions, shall become the music of the future for England.—Good Words.

MISCELLANY.

GLASS PEARLS, though among the most beautiful inexpensive and common ornaments worn by the ladies, are produced by a very singular process. In 1656, a Venetian named Jaquin, discovered that the scales of a fish, called bleak-fish, possessed the property of communicating a pearly hue to the water. He found by experimenting, that beads dipped into this water assumed, when dried, the appearance of pearls. It proved, however, that the pearly coat, when placed outside, was easily rubbed off; and the next improvement was to make the beads hollow. The making of these beads is carried on to this day in Venice. The beads are all blown separately. By means of a small tube, the inside are delicately coated with the pearly liquid, and a waxed coating is placed over that. It requires the scales of four thousand fish to produce half a pint of the liquid, to which a small quantity of sal-ammonia and isinglass are afterwards added.

LUDY FOOT, the celebrated snuff manufacturer, originally kept a small tobacco shop at Lim-rick. One night his house, which was uninsured, was burned to the ground. As he contemplated the smoking ruins, on the following morning, in a state bordering on despair, some of the poor neighbors, groping among the embers for what they could find, stumbled upon several canisters of unconsumed, but half-baked snuff, which they tried, and found it so pleasant to their noses that they loaded their waistcoat pockets with it. Ludy Foot aroused from his stupor imitated their example, and took a pinch of his own property, when he was struck by the superior pungency and flavor it had acquired from the great heat to which it had been exposed. Acting upon the hint, he took another house in a place called Black Yard, erected ovens, and set about the manufacture of that high-dried commodity which soon became widely known as Black-Yard snuff. Eventually he took a larger house in Dublin, and making his customers pay liberally through the nose, amassed a great fortune by having been ruined. The story reminds us somewhat forcibly of Charles Lamb's famous account of the origin of Roast Pig.

MR. SWAN'S INCANDESCENT ELECTRIC LIGHT.—The mystery of Mr. Swan's carbons is at length disclosed. They are made of vegetable parchment—commonly called parchment paper—cut into strips and carbonized; they are then bent to the required shape and fixed inside the exhausted globes in the manner publicly described by Mr. Swan. The so-called vegetable parchment is paper prepared by immersion in strong sulphuric acid, thereby it becomes exceedingly tough and compact. The actual cost of the lamp has yet to be settled in a definite manner before its success can be fully demonstrated, but it seems that those most interested are quite sure about that, and it is only the durability of the carbon thread—which is obviously a question of time—that is at all open to doubt. Sir W. Armstrong has already placed sixteen lamps in his picture gallery at Crag-side, which are equivalent to sixty-four ordinary-sized Swan lamps, and he finds that they require about 32 horse-power to work them. Sir William obtains the current from a Siemens machine, driven by a turbine worked by a water-fall about three quarters of a mile from his house. The success of the Swan system at Crag-side is demonstrated; but there the power costs practically nothing, and it still remains to be seen how it stands when the cost of power has to be considered.

AT Bucharest there has just been introduced—for the first time in Europe—a mode of fighting which has hitherto been confined to Asia. A squadron of Roumanian cavalry showed the Prince at least something not yet tried even in Germany. A body of cavalry galloped toward the enemy, and then, instead of charging, halted suddenly and lies down, horses and men together, the body of the animals forming a breast-work, from behind which the men open fire. Though the particular action on the occasion of the Prince's inspection would be of little use (adds the Pall Mall Gazette), for horses are far too expensive for a breast-work, it is clear that animals trained to lie down by word of command would suffer on the average much less from the enemy's fire than cavalry does now. The most conspicuous loss, both of cavalry and artillery, is always in horses; yet some of the gunners who fought in Afghanistan were trained to work the guns in a kneeling position. To have the height of a target is to decrease very greatly the chance of its being hit; and, besides, the usual fences and walls in any country are enough concealment for animals lying down, but not for the same animal if standing. It is to be hoped that the difficulty of making the horses rise again is not great, otherwise their previous docility might lead their riders into a hot corner without much hope of getting out of it.

NEW CASH BOX.—John Wanamaker, the well-known Philadelphia merchant, has displaced the dusty skurrying of cash boys and cash girls by a system of pneumatic tubes. Under the new system an inspector with wrappers is stationed at each counter, who will receive with the money and goods the seller's checks. While goods are being wrapped up the cash, with the proper voucher, will be transmitted to a centrally located cashier, who will return the change through the proper tube. There are two such tubes leading from each counter to the cashier's enclosure. One of the tubes is to carry the money to the cashier, and the other is to return the change and the accompanying check

to the counter again. The "carriers" which work inside of the tubes are little cylindrical boxes of sheet steel, lined with green baize, and protected at each end by diminutive felt cushions. Each carrier is of the exact diameter of a silver dollar, and is capable of holding thirty of the latter pieces, or a much larger sum. By means of a steam engine and exhaust pump in the cellar, with proper attachments leading therefrom, the air is constantly being exhausted at the cashier's end of the tube and at the counter end of the tube of each pair; and when a carrier is placed in the mouth of either tube it is immediately drawn to the other end and is there delivered automatically by an apparatus devised for that purpose. The system not only saves time and noise, but the wages of an army of boys or girls, besides discharging a large amount of fresh air into the building, greatly improving the ventilation.

FOOT NOTES.

THERE are now in France five women who are doctors of medicine, two who are "bachelors" of arts and sciences, seven who are bachelors of sciences, and twenty who are bachelors of arts.

THE Earl of Kenmare is about to leave Ireland in consequence of the condition of his neighbourhood. He has lately built a new house at Killarney, and recently employed a skilled carpenter to finish some windows, to the exclusion of local workmen. He received notice that if this man was not immediately dismissed the house would be burnt down. Last year, in consequence of the distress, Lord Kenmare borrowed £20,000 from the Board of Works in order to give employment to his people.

BORING the Mont Cenis tunnel was a joke to the task undertaken by the English Spelling Reform Association. The energies of the members are now engaged in the consideration of no fewer than twenty-seven original orthographic reforming schemes. One specimen among those which appear to find favour in the sight of the reformers is the word "plough," pronounced *plone*. The Americans spell it *plow*. Why should we not do so, it is asked? Some few improvements of this character appear to be universally approved, but when it comes to spelling "tough," *taff*, divisions of opinion manifest themselves.

"DELIRIUM TREMENS" has at last been represented in a musical form, and it will not surprise anyone to know that the composer is Wagner. At the third of Mr. Cowan's series of orchestral concerts, a new scene added by Herr Wagner to his opera of *Tannhauser* was performed for the first time in England. To describe the music of this scene in the words of an evening contemporary as "trembling on the verge of delirium" is insufficient—it is simply *delirium tremens* set to music. It is very striking all the same, as one might expect alcoholic exaltation combined with amorous frenzy to be. The scene in question is meant to figure in the introduction of the first act of *Tannhauser*, where the Bacchantes of Love indulge in orgies which are usually expressed, chiefly through the medium of "diminished sevenths" and unceasing tremolos for the violin.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

FANNY DAVENPORT wears a necklace in "American Girl" which cost \$21,000.

ANOTHER great spectacle play is to be produced at Niblo's, New York, entitled "The Black Venus."

CARLOTTA PATTI, being unable to gather any more laurels in Europe and America, is on a tour to India and Egypt.

It is suspected that Clara Louise Kellogg did not make an extraordinary impression at Vienna, where she has recently filed an engagement.

WAGNER'S "Meistersinger" has recently been given for the first time in Magdeburg. It is stated that not fewer than 170 rehearsals were held for the work, viz. twenty-five for principals, eighty for the chorus, four for ensemble, three for the *mise en scène*, and seven for orchestra.

"JOSEFFY will play the Chickering piano." Exchange: "Joseffy will play the Steingway piano." Another exchange: "Joseffy prefers the Weber piano and will use it at his concerts." Still another exchange: "Joseffy has decided to use the Hale piano this season."—Musical World.

MR. SCOVELL, the husband of Mrs. Marcia Russell Scott, is soon to appear at the Argentina Theatre in the opera of "Sonambulo." All Rome is said to be talking of his voice, which is just now delighting the congregation of the American Church in the Via Nazionale.

Mlle. ALWINA VALLERIA, being too ill to play "Aida" in the first presentation of the opera in Boston, the part was undertaken by Mrs. Marie Louise Swift, who, according to several of the Boston papers, was so successful that she will be encouraged to repeat the performance and to venture upon other roles than those she has tried in New York and London.

EUGENIO MAURICIO ENGELMONT, a celebrated Brazilian violinist, only fourteen years of age, who has already made a triumphal professional tour of Europe and Brazil, arrived last week in New York from Rio Janeiro. He brings his company with him and proposes to make the tour of the United States, giving concerts in ten different cities. Mr. Engelmont will make his first appearance at Koster and Telford's, in Twenty-third street.

THE veteran Professor Ella, founder of the Musical Union, will attain the age of seventy-eight, on Sunday, the 19th inst. Owing to the falling sight of the late director, founder of the Institution, his medical advisers have ordered him to retire from the entire direction of the concerts in future.

A memorial to the late Miss Neilson has been placed on the grave in Brompton Cemetery. It consists of a colossal cross of rough Shiloh marble fixed upon a solid base of the same material, with a marble enclosure, to correspond, and is similar to that depicted in the well-known engraving of the "Rock of Ages." It was contemplated having a sculptured figure of Miss Neilson, as Juliet in a recumbent picture, but the idea was abandoned for that of the simple cross.

THE RED BREAST.

A LEGEND OF BRITAIN.

When Jesus meekly passed to death, And bore the cruel road, With faltering limbs, and falling breath, And brow bedewed with blood;

A small bird, hovering in the air, Flew down and strove—in vain— With feeble strength, but plume on care, To soothe the Saviour's pain.

The only thorn its love could wrest From out His ruthless crown, Pierced sharply through its gentle breast, And crimsoned all the down.

Agony passed; but, since that deed, The bird with crimson breast (Oh! sweetly superstitious creed!) Is loved by man the best.

Montreal. GEO. MURRAY.

HUMOROUS.

"You are now one," said the minister to the happy pair he had just tied together with a knot that they could never undo. "Which one?" asked the bride. "You will have to settle that for yourselves," said the clergyman.

An old lady in New Scotland hearing somebody say the mails were irregular, said: "It was so in my young days—no trusting any of 'em." The old lady in question should have been a native of Jersey, where Her Majesty's postal arrangements include a van, on which may be read, or engraved, as when I was there last the remarkable inscription, "The Royal Mail."

The following was copied literally from an old tombstone in Scotland:

Here lies the body of Alexander Macpherson, Who was a very extraordinary person; He was two yards high in his stocking feet, And kept his accounts clean and neat. He was slow At the battle of Waterloo, Plump through The gullet; it went in at his throat, And came out at the back of his coat.

GENTLEMEN, do you want nice-fitting, well-made garments at reasonable prices? Go to L. Robinson, practical tailor, late of London, England, 31 Beaver Hall Terrace.

TRUTH AND SOBERNESS.

What is the best family medicine in the world to regulate the bowels, purify the blood, remove costiveness and biliousness, aid digestion and stimulate the whole system? Truth and soberness compels us to answer, Hop Bitters, being pure, perfect and harmless. See "Truths" in another column.

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

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

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. W. S., Montreal.—Papers to hand. Thanks. Student, Montreal.—Correct solution received of Problem No. 206. J. H., Chicago.—Shall be glad of any chess news from the West.

On Thursday evening last, January 7th, the members of the Montreal Chess Club met together in order to hold a social entertainment of which, it was decided, that their favourite game should form the principal feature. Several single chess contests were carried on, at the termination of which, the members present were arranged into two divisions for the purpose of contesting a consultation game. The encounter occupied nearly three hours, and only terminated in favour of the winning players after a very obstinate struggle on the part of their antagonists.

The whole of these present then sat down to supper, after which the usual formalities were carried out, and several members briefly acknowledged the honours done to them on the occasion. Dr. Howe, the President of the Club, Mr. John Henderson, the Secretary, and others took advantage of this to speak, among other things, of their long connection with the Club, the pleasure they had derived from this connection, and the benefits the game of chess was calculated to produce when judiciously used as a relaxation after the ordinary labours of daily life. Mr. J. A. A. in responding to the good wishes of his conferees, made excellent use of the occasion by giving a very interesting account of some recent visits to England, when opportunities were afforded him of seeing some of the great chess-players of the day. He graphically described a brilliant performance of Mr. Blackburne, who, at the time and place described, was surrounded by an enthusiastic company, composed among whom were to be seen Potter, Steinitz, Bird, Hoffer, Macdonald, Gunberg, Mason, and several other magistrates of the chess world.

Altogether the evening was a very enjoyable one, and proved most satisfactorily that, though the noble game is usually a silent one, its literature and study afford scope for conversation of a decidedly agreeable and instructive nature.

From one of the officers appointed at the last annual meeting of the Canadian Chess Association, we learn that a resolution was passed at that gathering to the effect that the next meeting should be held at Ottawa, in February, 1881. This is a satisfactory statement, but it does not seem to be generally known. Taking it for granted that such is the case, we should like to see further enlightenment as to what subjects are likely to occupy the attention of the members when they meet, so that those who intend taking a part in the proceedings, may present themselves in some way prepared to consider the measures which may be brought forward for the advancement of chess in the Dominion. In fact, if there is to be a meeting in February, the programme should, at least, be in an active state of preparation. In the early years of the Association, problem tournaments were a rare sight, and we believe they were the means of producing some excellent specimens of Canadian Chess Problem composition. It is evidently too late for anything of that nature to form a part of the programme for the next meeting of the Association should it be held in February next. With the hope of receiving in a few days some definite information in the shape of a programme or otherwise, we shall leave further remarks for a future column.

We are glad to see that the revival of the British Chess Association is engaging the attention of Chess-players in England, and we believe there is every likeli-