

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Letters addressed for the Editor should be addressed "Editor of Saturday Reader, Drawer 401," and communications on business to "H. Worthington, publisher."

E. R. S.—Charles Dibdin was born in 1745, and died in 1814. At the early age of sixteen he made his literary debut in London by writing an opera called *The Shepherd's Artifice*, which was produced at Covent Garden Theatre, of which he afterwards became musical master. Dibdin composed upwards of 1200 sea songs, among the happiest of which are *Poor Jack* and *Poor Tom Bowling*. He retired from public life in straitened circumstances in 1805, when government granted him a pension of £200.

GEORGE B. F.—We are afraid it would offend many of our readers, so must decline it with thanks.

NEWCASTLE.—The Vulgate is the only translation of the Bible acknowledged by the Roman Catholic Church to be authentic. It was translated from the Greek of the Septuagint.

C. H. S.—The papers mentioned have not found their way to Montreal as yet; nor do we think it likely they can be procured unless specially ordered from London or Paris. The translation for which we are obliged will appear in an early number.

W. H. TATE.—Sheridan is said to have written the best comedy—the "School for Scandal," the best opera, the "Duenna," and the best after-piece—the "Critic in the English language."

H. C. WISS.—Porcelain is so-called from the Portuguese word "porcellana" a cup or vessel.

M. S. G.—The tradition of the eleven thousand virgins is as follows: When Conan with eleven thousand warriors founded the kingdom of Armorica, or Brittany, in the fourth century. Dionatus, king of Cornwall, despatched Ursula his daughter with eleven thousand of the elite of the British virgins to be their wives. The fair adventurers being cast ashore by a tempest among the Picts, and declining their addresses, were all barbarously murdered.

ADA Z.—We regret that we cannot accept the story; our principal objection is that it is too long. Do not however be discouraged, but cultivate the talent you evidently possess. If you will favour us with your address we will return the MS.

OPDORP PETTIFOGGER is derived from the French words *petit vague*, of small credit or reputation.

WORN TO A SHADOW.—Daniel Lambert, an Englishman who died in 1809, is supposed to have been the heaviest man that ever lived; he weighed seven hundred and forty pounds.

MAY.—Respectfully declined.

A. B.—Many thanks for your kind letter; we hope to have the pleasure of hearing from you frequently.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

M. SAINTE-CLAIRE DEVILLE found that a solution of fluoride of calcium in hydrochloric acid was quite as suitable as fluoric acid for engraving on glass, and it did not possess the injurious property of causing dangerous wounds like the latter substance.

THERE has lately been on trial at the chief office of the London District Telegraph Company, in Cannon Street, a telegraph instrument which appears to be the nearest approach to simplicity and perfection hitherto available for public or private use. It is a printing instrument, producing letters printed in ordinary type by means of pressing small keys bearing the respective letters. It is worked by a combination of clockwork and electricity, and has now been in use for some weeks without a single derangement.

MADAME GERINEAU, sister of the eminent traveller, Lalande, has placed 4,000 francs in the hands of M. Drouyn de Lhays, President of the Society of Acclimatisation, to be awarded by the Society to the traveller who shall have

been most instrumental in improving human food by discoveries and researches in the animal and vegetable world.

The Prussian Government have resolved not to despatch an expedition to the North Pole, which, it was believed, would have been organized this spring.

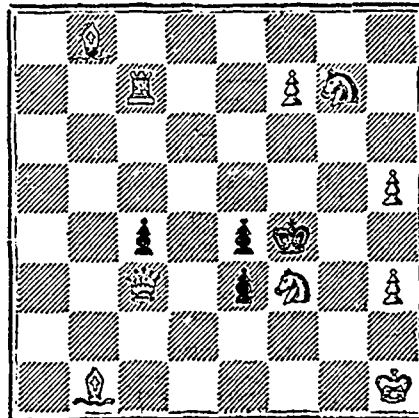
PROF. AGASSIZ, who has lately been engaged in examining the fish of the river Amazon, states that he has not found one fish in common with those in any other fresh-water basin, that different parts of the Amazon have fishes peculiar to themselves; and as an instance of the teeming variety of the Amazon, he adds, that a pool of only a few hundred square yards showed 200 different kinds of fish, which is as many as the entire Mississippi can boast. In the Amazon itself 2,000 different kinds exist, a great proportion of which are most excellent eating. Several are extremely curious, one especially, which has the power of walking or creeping on dry land, and of worming its way up the trunks of trees.

CHESS.

The *Illustrated London News* says: "We have refrained from speaking of the Chess gathering until something definite was announced by its promoters. At present all we know is; that the chief French players are in hopes to organize a grand Chess meeting of all nations, to take place in the International Club of the Exhibition. It is proposed to have a grand handicap tourney open to all the world, a problem tourney, and a match by telegraph between Paris of the most eminent French players, seated in Paris, against three of the most distinguished English ones, seated in London. For this amicable and interesting contest the Emperor of the French has promised, we hear, to give a handsome prize, in the shape of an object of art. For the rest we can say nothing until the programme now, we believe, in preparation reaches us."

PROBLEM, No. 65.

By GEO. E. CARPENTER, TARRYTOWN, N. Y. BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and Mate in two moves.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM, No. 63.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1 K to K R 3. | P moves. |
| 2 B to Q 8. | K or P moves. |
| 3 B to Q Kt 6. | K or P moves. |
| 4 Kt to K Kt 5 Mate. | |

The following game was played, some time ago, in Bermuda, between Dr. D. (White) and the Hon. M. G. K. (Black).

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|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| (MUZIO GAMBIT.) | |
| WHITE. | BLACK. |
| 1 P to K 4. | 1 P to K 4. |
| 2 P to K B 4. | 2 P takes P. |
| 3 Kt to K B 3. | 3 P to K Kt 4. |
| 4 B to Q B 4. | 4 P to K Kt 5. |
| 5 Castles. | 5 P to Q Kt 4. |
| 6 B to Kt 3. | 6 P to Q K 4. |
| 7 Kt to K 5. | 7 Kt to A 3. |
| 8 P to Q 4. | 8 P to K R 6. |
| 9 Q B takes P. | 9 P takes K B. |
| 10 B takes K Kt. | 10 B — B. |
| 11 K Kt takes B P. | 11 B to A 6 (ch.) |
| 12 K to K sq. | 12 Q to K B 6. |
| 13 Kt takes B. | 13 P to K Kt 6. |
| 14 P to K B 3. | 14 P to Q 4. |
| 15 Q to K B 5. | 15 K B to his 7 |
| 16 Q to K B 7 (ch.) | 16 K to Q sq. |
| 17 Q takes Q P (ch.) | 17 Q B to Q 2. |
| 18 Q takes Q R. | 18 Q B takes R P. |
| 19 Q takes Kt (ch) | 19 Q B ret. to his sq. covers (ch.), and dis. mate. |

WITTY AND WHIMSICAL.

THE MOST ATTRACTIVE COURSE FOR LADIES.—The course of true love.

THE BURGLAR'S COMPANION.—How to bone anything locked up. Use a skeleton key.

WANTED to Know.—If a man toasts the girl of his heart, is that a reason why he should be debarred from any but her?

THE lady who took everybody's eye, must have a lot of them.

HOW TO AVOID DROWNING.—Always keep your head above water.

ODD.—That rivers should be so full just where they empty themselves.

TEACH your children to help themselves—but not to what doesn't belong to them.

WHY ought a fop not to object to being horse-whipped?—Because it would be making him smart.

WHAT is the difference between a looker-on at an auction mart and a mariner?—One sees the sale, and the other sails the sea.

EDITORS, however much they may be biassed, are fond of the word "impartial." A Connecticut editor once gave an "impartial account of a hailstorm."

THEODORE HOOK once said to a man at whose table a publisher got very tipsy, "Why, you appear to have emptied your wine-cellar into your book-seller."

A STUDENT at a veterinary college being asked, "If a broken-winded horse were brought to you to cure, what would you advise?" promptly replied, "To sell him as soon as possible."

THE man who was hemmed in by a crowd has been troubled with a stitch in his side ever since.

SUREWY inquiries are being made whether the cup of sorrow has a saucer. Can any one tell us?

INCIDENTAL REMARKS.—Why is the profession of a dentist a most anomalous one?—Because the more he "stops" the faster he gets on.

AN IMPORTANT LEGAL, MORAL, AND SOCIAL QUESTION.—Is being tender to another man's sweetheart or wife a "legal tender?"

WHEN may a man be said to be literally immersed in business?—When he's giving a swimming lesson.

EXCEPTIONAL.—In a parish school the master was examining a class in orthography. "Spell and define floweret," said he. F-l-o-w-e-r-e-t, floweret, a little flower." "Wavelet." "W-a-v-e-l-e-t, wavelet, a little wave." "Bullet." "B-u-l-l-e-t, a little bull," shouted urchin number three.

WHY is a hotel ghost like a policeman?—Because it is an *in-spectre*.

"WHAT are you laughing at?" said the priest to some giggling girls at the church door. "Nothing at all, please your reverence," was the reply of one of them. "Nothing?" said he; "what is nothing?" "Shut your eyes, your reverence," retorted the girl, "and you'll see it."

MR. YOUNG supplies a better version of the story of the Scotch student in theology, taken from Dean Ramsay:—"A simple country lad," he says, "went up for examination previous to his receiving his first communion. The pastor, knowing that he was not very profound in his theology, began by asking him how many Commandments there were, to which he cautiously replied, "Abliss (perhaps), a hunner." The pastor, of course, told the youth that he must wait and learn more. On his way home he met a friend, and on learning that he, too, was going to the manse for examination, shrewdly asked him, "Weel, what will ye say, noo, if the minister speers how many Commandments there are?"—"Say! why, I shall say ten to be sure." To which the other triumphantly replied, "Ten! Try ye him wi' ten! I tried him wi' a hunner, and he wasna satisfied." This story was related to the Dean by a minister of the Established Church who had the names of place and persons."