

BEFORE THE FOOTLIGHTS.

Our first duty is to congratulate Miss Fanny Reeves and Mr. McDowell upon their happy marriage. May it prove the earnest of many years of contentment and prosperity. Mr. McDowell withdraws from the actor's life to devote his whole talents and energies to the vital work of management, for which he has special qualifications. We incline to think that he has passed through the initial stages of adversity, and that now, not suddenly, but by pleasant degrees, he will enter upon a career of satisfactory progress and remuneration. Under the circumstances we can afford to dispense with his services on the stage.

Not so with Miss Reeves—beg pardon—Mrs. McDowell. To begin with, we shall allow her a holiday, as in all gallantry bound, and which she has richly won. But after a reasonable lapse of time, we shall expect to see and hear her again. To put it tersely and peremptorily in the words of an old play-goer, she may retire from the stage—occasionally—yes; permanently—no. The fair lady will therefore take note and heed the mandate of the public to which her own inclinations and the will of her lord must bow.

Our next duty is to greet the return of Mr. Neil Warner. Toronto sustained an irreparable loss in parting from him; but that loss is our gain. We trust that he will now remain and settle among us, as we feel that the Academy Company will henceforth consolidate and form a standing institution of the city.

The play chosen for Mr. Warner's reappearance was *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. This is the second original drama introduced at the Academy, and we trust it will not be the last, as there is no reason why Canada should not have its playwrights, and why our only company should not stand sponsor to a genuine dramatic success. With regard to the construction of the new play, there was much extraneous or useless matter; but the general plan was wrought with a fine insight for graduated effect. With careful revision the drama might be fashioned into a work of high artistic merit. It is needless to say that Mr. Warner did justice to the Opium Eater, although we feel that the scene in Madge's den might have been more drawn out, so as to portray all the phases of the demoniacal incubation. From this week a new season may be said to commence, and we purpose giving it close and critical attention.

We are pleased to be the first to announce to our readers that we are going to have an opera, mounted and executed by artists of our own city. The intelligence will be doubly welcome when our friends are told that the task is under the direction of such leaders as Prime and Lavallée. All the choirs of the city are invited to participate, and it may be expected that the choruses of the opera will be something very grand. The orchestra will also be very full. The work chosen is *Jeanne d'Arc*, by Gounod, the immortal author of *Faust*. Rehearsals will be regular, and the opera will be produced in May, thus giving full time for thorough preparation.

THE GLEANER.

The Germans are not going to remain satisfied with the military sausage, and they are now studying at Passau a system for preserving eggs for the army by means of drying them.

There will be among the objects exhibited by the French in 1878 a one hundred-ton gun. It is to be cast at Rueil, near Paris, and will form the armament of the ironclad *Admiral Dupré*, now being constructed.

The Prime Ministers of England and France are both Jews, and both were born on the same day of the month, the last day of the year; but Benjamin Disraeli was born nine years before Jules Simon.

The Brussels omnibuses are fitted with letter-boxes, in which passengers or people living along the route may deposit letters. The boxes are removed and emptied at the end of each trip. A similar device has been in practice for some years on the Chicago street-cars.

"There is a creature," said the Rev. Phillips Brooks, in his recent Yale lecture on preaching, "who ought to share with the clerical cheat the abuse of the people. I mean the clerical jester. He lays his hand upon all sacred things. He is full of Bible jests, and he talks about the Bible with jests that have come down from generations. The principles which, if they mean anything, mean life and death to the soul, he turns into material for jest."

BRELOQUES POUR DAMES.

A NEW BEDFORD (Mass.) woman, of sixty-two, never used a hairpin in her life.

The claim that "man proposes" is disposed of by the ironical fact that 40,000 women in Massachusetts still have to button their own gaiters.

WENDELL PHILLIPS thinks that the American school girl is far less intelligent and cultivated than the Scotch, Swedish or Canadian school girl, as her letters show.

AN item from China stating that a man's head was cut off for patting a pretty girl on the cheek has caused one man we know of to make up his mind to stay in the United States, where he won't run any risks.

MOODY says he doesn't approve of pretty girls at fairs allowing themselves to be kissed for twenty-five cents. That's right. It's far better to go home with the pretty girls after the fair is over, and kiss them at the door for nothing.

A YOUNG American prima donna, who took lessons in Milan a few years ago, and returned to her country disgusted with the tyranny of Italian music teachers, has been engaged as a substitute for a steam whistle in a Lowell boot factory.

THE most hopeless specimen of imbecility to be seen these days is a man leaning over a dry goods counter, staring helplessly into the eyes of the unsympathizing young woman behind it, and wondering "what in blazes was the name of that thing the old woman told me to get?"

A WEST SIDE woman had her tongue paralyzed last week from playing the harmonica, and the next day when it was generally known, every other married man in town bought a harmonica and took it home to his wife and then went outside the house and stood on his head in the snow.

A NEW YORK letter says: "It just occurs to me that it is not every man that knows exactly what to select as a suitable Christmas gift for his mother-in-law." We should think that, if she happens to be visiting at his house, a railroad ticket to her home would be about the first thing to suggest itself to him.

"Tis snowing hard," we remarked pensively yesterday afternoon; "mark the fleecy emblems of nature's purity, as they frisk and skirl athwart the prospect like a beautiful girl with no rubbers on working around a slippery corner," and the heartless youth outspoke: "Snow odds; we can't go sleighing anyhow."

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

M. GOUNOD's new four-act opera, in eight scenes, entitled *Cyprien*, is completed, and is now in preparation at the Opéra Comique.

THERE is a prospect of Mr. Tennyson's new drama of "Harold" appearing on the boards of the Lyceum Theatre, with, of course, Mr. Irving and the Misses Bateman in the principal characters.

A NEW *Bernie Musicale* is announced to be published at Constantinople, which is to contain especially pieces composed by the amateurs of the Turkish Empire. The work is likely, we should think, to be a musical curiosity.

MR. W. S. GILBERT has accepted a very liberal offer made by Mr. Southern, who is to pay him two thousand pounds for a five-act play, the purchaser to have the exclusive copyright for England and America. This is the largest sum a dramatist has ever received.

The orchestra at a theatre in China is composed as follows: Gongs, fiddles, glass trumpets, bamboo flutes, castanets and tambourines. When all these get started the music begins. On the stage, men invariably play all the parts, including those of women, the absence of breeches and beard enabling them to do so with entire impunity.

"THE Seven Castles of the Devil," in which more than 600 persons take part, has been running recently with great success at the Châtelet in Paris. It is described as a "new sensation," by those who forget or are too young to know that the golden youth of the gay capital ran mad over it thirty years ago, and that it then was represented 400 consecutive nights.

HUMOROUS.

"WHAT do young men want?" solicitously enquires an exchange. Most of them could here want a recipe for living a twelve dollar life on nine dollar wages.

THE skull of Agamemnon, discovered by Dr. Schliemann, had thirty-two perfect teeth, which encourages the belief that he never lived at a boarding house.

A NEW YORK doctor says one-half the houses in Fifth Avenue are unfit to live in; but he can't frighten us. When we go to New York, we shall stay with our Fifth Avenue friends, as usual.

FIFTY million pins are made every day in England, and yet in all that country there is not a man who can pin a stiff collar on a stiff neckband without repelling heaven in four letters.

SOME of the scientific papers are again agitating the question, "How far off is the sun?" As long as it is so far away that it calls for five bolts of coal a day to run a fire, the question has no particular charm for most men.

A MOTHER'S love is never wholly exhausted, and when his father whaled her boy for throwing mud-balls against the newly-whitewashed fence, that mother interposed with the remark that if Gustave Doré had such a father he never would have been the famous painter that he is.

At the poles the twilight is two months long and the managers of gas companies, during the day, look as cheerful as a country graveyard in January. But when the night comes—a night of three months' duration—they feel as rich as Vanderbilt's principal heir, and refuse to speak to any person below a Governor or an editor of a newspaper.

A CORRESPONDENT asks why we do not publish more original poetry. One reason is that writers are too apt to confine themselves to thirty or forty verses and give the sentiment no opportunity to expand. What culture demands are expansions and large handwriting while kindling wood is so high.

A SINGULAR phenomenon occurred last week. A man was clearing the snow from the roof of his house, when he observed a dark object which shot rapidly over the snow on the roof and was buried in a drift in the back yard. As the object disappeared he distinctly heard a human voice, as of one in deep distress, cry, "Oh, Matilda!" He thought it was a meteor at first, but investigation proved that the man himself had rolled off from the roof.

THURSDAY afternoon a stranger stepped into a saloon and remarked, "It is snowing again," when a man by the stove sprang to his feet and explained, "I am glad of it. I can whip any man who says I am not glad of it. The snow was three feet deep last week and more came; then nobody knew how deep it was. I broke my snow-shovel, Sunday, and I've looked all over town and can't buy another; and the snow-scraper doesn't run any more on our street; and my neighbors have complained about my side-walk to the Recorder; and my mother-in-law is visiting at my house, and the snow is so deep she can't get home, and I am glad it is snowing. I wish the snow was ten thousand feet deep on my grave."

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.

M. J. M., Quebec.—Letter received containing correct solution of Problem No. 104, also Problem for Chess Column. Many thanks.

J. W. S., Montreal.—Correct solution of Problem No. 105 received.

On Monday last, January 23rd, Mr. Bird, who, as we have previously stated, is on a visit to Montreal, according to arrangements, was present at the Montreal Chess Club for the purpose of playing simultaneous games with any number of the members who were willing to enter the lists against him. Fifteen players were induced to try their skill against their talented visitor and the match began about 2 p. m.

The tables were arranged as an oblong, the club players, seated each at his own table, were on the outside; while the inside afforded a fine promenade for the champion himself.

The players, Messrs. Henderson, Stirling, Popham, Small, Hall, and Atkinson on one side; Messrs. Ascher, Hicks, Saunders, Howe, Watkins, Barry and Workman on the other, and Messrs. Shaw and Bazin at the ends.

Dr. Howe, being elected chairman for the evening, announced the following rules for their guidance, viz:—That each player had to play his own game, no consultation to be allowed. That the pieces were not to be handled in Mr. Bird's absence from the board. That each player was to be ready immediately on Mr. Bird's appearance at his board either to make his move, or to request him to pass on.

The match lasted till past midnight, and at its termination the score stood as follows:—Mr. Bird had won nine games, the Club four games and two were drawn. The successful players on the part of the Montreal Chess Club were Mr. Howe, Mr. Barry, Mr. Atkinson and Mr. Saunders. The members who drew their games were Mr. Shaw and Mr. Hall.

At the end of the game Mr. Bird said the Montreal Chess players had made a larger score than those of New York, for there he had played in the same way against twenty antagonists, winning nineteen games and losing one.

His manners as a Chess player are most agreeable and in every way calculated to give confidence to his opponents.

On Tuesday evening, the 23rd, at 9 p. m., the Club met for the purpose of contesting four simultaneous games with Mr. Bird, each game to be played on the part of the Club by three members at each board in consultation. The boards were respectively lettered A, B, C, D. Dr. Howe, Mr. Barry, and Mr. Saunders had charge of board A; Mr. Hicks, Mr. Henderson and Mr. Watkins, board B; Mr. Ascher, Mr. T. Workman and Mr. Shaw, board C; and Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Hall and Mr. Barry, board D.

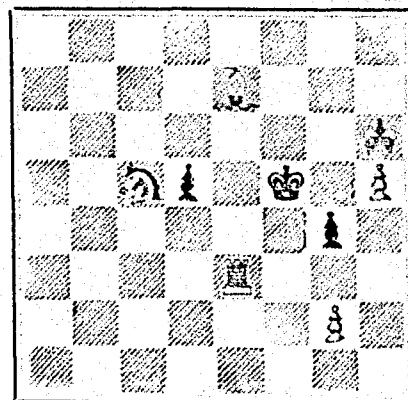
The result of the match which terminated at a late hour, was as follows:—Board A, game not finished and adjourned; board B, scored a game for the Club, and boards C and D, were defeated.

We have good reason for saying that in the opinion of Mr. Bird the play on the part of the Montreal Club may compare favourably with that of any other body of players with whom he has contested during his visit to this continent.

PROBLEM No. 107.

By M. J. MURPHY, Quebec.

BLACK



WHITE

White playing, mates in three moves

GAME 154TH.

Between Messrs. Zukertort and Minchin, in the late blindfold match in which the former gentleman played simultaneously against sixteen members of the West End Chess Club, London, Eng.

Evans' Gambit.

WHITE.—(Mr. Zukertort.) BLACK.—(Mr. Minchin.)

1. P to K4
2. Kt to K B3
3. B to B4
4. P to Q Kt4
5. P to Q B3
6. Castles
7. P to Q4
8. Kt takes K P
9. P takes Kt
10. Q to Q3
11. Kt takes B
12. Q to K B3
13. Q to K Kt3
14. B to K R6
15. Q to Q Kt4
16. B to Q3
17. B takes R
18. P to K R3
19. P to K B4
20. B takes B
21. Q to K B3
22. Q to R5
23. Q to R4
24. R to K B3
25. P to K Kt4
26. R to K Kt3
27. R takes P
28. P to B5 (a)
29. Q takes R P (ch)

And mates in two moves.

NOTE.

(a) A beautiful move under any circumstances, but in the present instance it is deserving of the highest praise.

SOLUTIONS.

Solution of Problem No. 105.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| WHITE. | BLACK. |
| 1. Kt to K Kt3 | Kt takes K (best) |
| 2. K to K6 | K to Q8 |
| 3. K to Q3 | P moves |
| 4. R to B3 mate | |

There are other defences.

Solution of Problem for Young Players, No. 104.

- | | |
|-----------------|------------|
| WHITE. | BLACK. |
| 1. R to K B5 | Kt takes R |
| 2. Kt to Q B4 | Any move |
| 3. R to P mates | |

PROBLEMS FOR YOUNG PLAYERS NO. 101.

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| WHITE. | BLACK. |
| Kt to Q R2 | K to Q Kt3 |
| R to Q B4 | Q to Q5 |
| R to K B4 | Pawns at Q Kt4 |
| Kt to Q Kt7 | and Q R5 |
| Pawns at Q3 | |
| and Q Kt2 | |

White to play and mate in four moves.

LOST!

ON THE
6th NOVEMBER,
A PARCEL OF FORMS OF

NEW TEN DOLLAR BILLS

OF THE
Consolidated Bank of Canada

(NOT COUNTERSIGNED)

DATED MONTREAL, 1st JULY, 1876.

The Bank has not yet begun to issue any new notes. The only notes in circulation at present, are the notes of the City Bank and Royal Canadian Bank. A reward will be given for the return of the forms, which are of no value to the public. Any person attempting to use these forms, as notes, will be prosecuted.

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