

OUR PUZZLER.

10. CHARADE.

A curious illness my first doth show,
To which the grumblers are always heir;
My next is a cousin, or uncle, or aunt;
My whole is of earthenware.

II. LOGOGRIPE.

Along the road, in days gone by,
It tolled so slow and wearily,
What is it that I mean?
Add but a simple letter, pray,
Then see, it travels on its way
With speed untired, I ween.

12. CHARADE.

Sing me a song that is my first,
For my second is sad and sore;
For the joy that is past I still hunger and thirst,
It will never return to me more.
Weary and worn, though I wander free,
For my whole that I loved ran away from me.

13. ENIGMAS.

Now list to me, I am a comical wight,
Always wand'ring away, both by day and by night;
And at running, I'll wager I beat any man,
Tho' I can't boast of legs, like humanity can,
And am apt to fall down, giving vent to loud cries—
But again I rush on without stopping to rise;
And though I do this all the live-long year through,
I am confined to my bed, I declare unto you.
I've a head that is large, but no ears and no eyes,
And a mouth that is still more capacious in size.
And now, gentle reader, consider me well,
And my name I am certain you'll very soon tell.

14. CHARADE.

I sat by the side of my love,
Admiring her first passing fair;
And praising the delicate second,
Encircling my first that was there.
I told her a present I'd bought,
When a modest blush to her face stole;
Not waiting to know what she thought,
I placed round my first my bright whole.

15. VERBAL PUZZLES.

Two L's, one H, one O, one A, and one R,
Will give the name of a distinguished etcher.

16. CHARADE.

My first is placed in Chancery,
And often wears my second;
My whole to keep my second safe
A useful place is reckon'd.

17. ENIGMA.

In battle-fields and fields of peace I'm found;
I cause much bloodshed, or I staunch the wound
I may be of a cereal kind, or hard
As steel itself, and held in much regard.
Within your waistcoat pocket I may be,
And mend a pen, or grow on grassy lea.
I am considered sharp—a man may be;
If you are both, then you can answer me.

18. ENIGMA.

A very crooked thing am I,
Of almost every size;
And in a child's first copy-book
My form you'll recognise.
I'm found in almost every ship
That ever puts to sea;
And yachts and boats of every size
Have all a place for me.
I am to all fresh water fish
An instrument of slaughter;
When once they got within my clutch,
They never hope for quarter.
Now ladies, at your toilettes, you
A friend in me possess;
Tho' like a vain and silly girl,
I'm much attached to dress.

19. CHARADE.

My primal you will often see
In meadow fields or flowery lea,
Or in the restless times of old.
My second, wheresoever seen,
Is always incomplete, I ween;
It is what dearest friends must do
Some time or other, false or true.
My total, in a fortress strong,
Is oft a scene where hundreds throng.
It may be broken down, and s'bw
A scene of massacre and woe.

20. DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

My first, it was worn by the clergy of old.
My next, an Italian, conspiring and bold.
My third, you can feel it, but never can see.
My last, where the fair and the rich only be.
The primals will show a treasure dear,
Which help my finals to make Christmas
[cheer.

ANSWERS.

- 182. WORD PUZZLES.—1. Deer; 2. Room; 3. Pat; 4. Door; 5. Lever; 6. Trap; 7. Drab; 8. Live; 9. Salta.
- 183. PUZZLE.—V. I. S. A. G. E.
- 184. PHONETIC CHARADE.—Fan-at-tick (fanatic).
- 185. METAGRAMS.—1. Dean, bean, lean, lean; 2. Harry, tarry, marry, Larry; 3. Lark, mark, hark, bark, sark.
- 186. ANIMALS.—1. Antelope; 2. Boar; 3. Rabbit; 4. Monkey; 5. Jackall; 6. Gnu; 7. Buffalo; 8. Ape; 9. Leopard; 10. Wolf; 11. Morse; 12. Crocodile.
- 187. CHARADES.—Semi-circle; 2. Brother-in-law.

MARK TWAIN AND THE NOBILITY.

The following letter was recently addressed by Mark Twain to the London *Morning Post*, and that paper publishes it as a "curious specimen of transatlantic puffery":—

SIR,—Now that my lecturing engagement is drawing to its close, I find that there is one attraction which I forgot to provide, and that is the attendance of some great member of the Government to give distinction to my entertainment. Strictly speaking, I did not really forget this or underrate its importance, but the truth was I was afraid of it. I was afraid of it for the reason that those great personages have so many calls upon their time that they cannot well spare the time to sit out an entertainment, and I knew that if one of them were to leave his box and retire while I was lecturing it would seriously embarrass me. I find, however, that many people think I ought not to allow this lack to exist longer; therefore I feel compelled to reveal a thing which I had intended to keep a secret. I early applied to a party at the East End, who is in the same line of business as Madame Tussaud, and he agreed to lend me a couple of kings and some nobility, and he said that they would sit out my lecture, and not only sit it out but that they wouldn't even leave the place when it was done, but would just stay where they were, perfectly infatuated, and wait for more. So I made a bargain with him at once, and was going to ask the newspapers to mention, in the usual column, that on such and such an evening His Majesty King Henry VIII would honour my entertainment with his presence, and that on such and such an evening His Majesty William the Conqueror would be present, and that on the succeeding evening Moses and Aaron would be there, and so on. I felt encouraged now; an attendance like that would make my entertainment all that could be desired, and besides, I would not be embarrassed by their going away before my lecture was over. But now misfortune came. In attempting to move Henry VIII to my lecture hall, the porter fell down stairs and utterly smashed him all to pieces; in the course of moving William the Conqueror, something let go and all the sawdust burst out of him, and he collapsed and withered away to nothing before my eyes. Then we collared some Dukes, but they were so seedy and decayed that nobody would ever have believed in their rank; and so I gave them up, with almost a broken heart. In my trouble I had nothing in the world left to depend on now but just Moses and Aaron, and I confess to you that it was all I could do to keep the tears back when I came to examine those two images and found that that man, in his unapproachable ignorance, had been exhibiting in Whitechapel for Moses and Aaron what any educated person could see at a glance, by the ligature, were only the Siamese Twins.

You see now, Sir, that I had done all that a man could do to supply a complaint of lack, and if I have failed, I think I ought to be pitied, not blamed. I wish I could get a king somewhere, just only for a little while, and I would take good care of him and send him home, and pay the cab myself.

London, Dec. 10. MARK TWAIN.

SHERRY POISON.

Old-fashioned people in the country sometimes talk of sherry wine as if there was another kind of sherry which was not wine; and, though they are perhaps not aware of it, they are undoubtedly right in suggesting this distinction. There is a sherry—and it is this sherry which is usually sold and drunk in this country—which is not wine at all, but simply alcoholic poison. The true character of "curtous old port" is now beginning to be pretty well understood, and the consumption of this remarkable liquor is rapidly declining; but the virtues of sherry are still a popular superstition. Many people who would be shocked at the idea of drinking spirits, and especially raw spirits, think nothing of a glass of sherry; yet, in the majority of cases, the sherry is only cheap bad brandy disguised as wine. At Blackburn, the other day, a man drank four gills of sherry, and died from the effects of the dose. This event has given rise to an interesting correspondence in the *Times* as to the adulteration of sherry, and also as to whether there is really such a thing as pure natural sherry in existence as an article of commerce. One writer, with the benevolent intention of making "the question clearer to that large portion of the public who enjoy a glass of sherry," and allaying "the nervous fears of moderate wine-drinkers," stated, as the result of many hundred tests which he had performed on the *mosto*, or young wine, in Spain, that 26 per cent. of proof-spirit is the average strength naturally generated in sherry. Upon this Mr. Denman, the wine-merchant, at once pointed out that the average strength of Spanish wines as first manufactured is only about 22 per cent.; but that the sherry of commerce is rarely, if ever, imported containing less than 38 to 40 per cent. of proof-spirit, and that, by the rule for fortifying wines, wine containing 22 per cent. requires 30 gallons per cent. of proof-spirit, and at 26 per cent. 23 gallons, to bring it up to 40 per cent. This was confirmed by Mr. W. Burton, who was formerly connected with the Custom House, and who stated, as the result to many thousand tests made in the London Custom House, that the average strength of sherry as

it is imported to this country and passed into consumption, is not less than 37 per cent. of proof-spirit, and some parcels contain as much as 48 and even 50 per cent. Therefore, taking the strength of sherry in its first stage at 26 degrees of proof-spirit, more than 18 per cent. of proof-spirit must have been added to bring the strength up to the lowest average of the imported wine. It can hardly be wondered at that, after such disclosures as these, the large portion of the public who enjoy a glass of sherry should become rather nervous; and indeed it is very desirable that they should become nervous, and should take fright in good time. A wine-merchant appears to think that he has settled the question by saying that we must distinguish between pure sherry as known in England and pure sherry as known in Spain, and that the latter would be unsaleable in England. Wine-merchants are certainly not bound to keep on sale what is unsaleable; but it does not follow that they are entitled to sell any sort of noxious drug which people are foolish enough to buy. —*Sat. Review.*

SENSIBLE TALK TO GIRLS.—Your every day toilet is a part of your character. A girl who looks like a "fury" or a sloven in the morning, is not to be trusted, however finely she may look in the evening. No matter how humble your room may be, there are eight things it should contain, viz; a mirror, washstand, soap, towel, hair, nail and tooth brushes. These are just as essential as your breakfast, before which you should make good use of them. Parents who fail to provide their children with such appliances, not only make a great mistake, but commit a sin of omission. Look tidy in the morning, and after the dinner work is over, improve your toilet. Make it a rule of your daily life to "dress up" for the afternoon. Your dress may, or need not be, anything better than calico, but with a ribbon, or flower, or some bit of ornament, you can have an air of self-respect and satisfaction that invariably comes with being well dressed. A girl with fine sensibilities cannot help feeling embarrassed and awkward in a ragged, dirty dress, with her hair unkempt, if a stranger or neighbor should come. Moreover, your self-respect should demand the decent apparelling for your body. You should make it a point to look as well as you can, even if you know nobody will see you but yourself.

In the *Spectator*, under the head of "Poetry," there appeared last week some verses purporting to be an "Epitaph on a distinguished Political Character." The epitaph, the "poet" takes care to inform us, is upon Mr. Disraeli. The lines commence—

"Here lies poor Dizzy,
In life so busy."

The conclusion is in the finest style of the author—

"When Dizzy died
Nobody cried;
And there's nobody weeping
Where Dizzy lies sleeping."

A PREACHER asked a woman if her husband feared the Lord. "Fear the Lord!" she replied; "you can gamble on that; why, bless you, he's that feared of him that he never goes out of the house Sundays without takin' his gun along."

CAISSA'S CASKET.

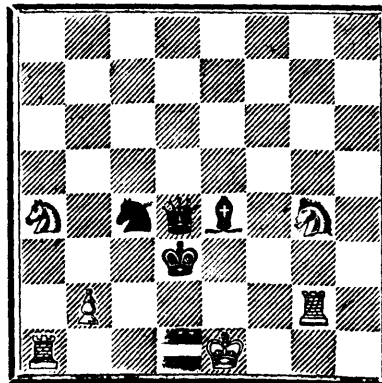
SATURDAY, Jan. 10th, 1874.

* * All communications relating to Chess must be addressed "CHECKMATE, London, Ont."

PROBLEM No. 35.

BY F. W. MARTINDALE.

BLACK.



WHITE.

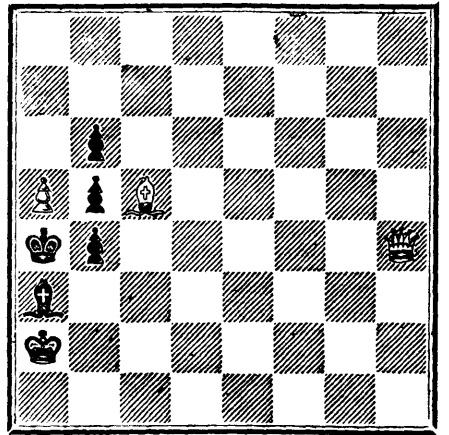
White to play and self-mate in two moves.

PROBLEM No. 36.

BY W. A. SHINKMAN.

Respectfully inscribed to Mr. Thos. D. S. Moore.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

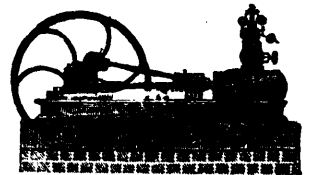
CHECK-MATE.

BY PHANTA.

Sitting in the gloaming,
Sweet, my love and I,
O'er the polished chess-board,—
No intruders nigh—
Carelessly in chatting
Pass the time away;
Much more to our liking,
Than in solemn play.

Sitting in the gloaming,
Sweet my love and I,
O'er the mingling chess-men,
Grown emboldened, I
Seize the dimpled fingers,
Hovering o'er the board,
And enraptured kisses
On their whiteness poured.

Sitting in the gloaming
Sweet, my love and I,
O'er the polished chess-board,—
No observers nigh,—
There I asked a question.
There I sought my fate,—
There I solved a problem,
There I found a MATE.



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