

of last week, were at Ferrières; those of the Crown Prince at Versailles, and of the Crown Prince of Saxony at Grand Tremblay. A rumour coming from Amiens states that the quarters of Mont Valérien had been blown up, and that 100,000 Prussians were annihilated. There appears to be but little truth in this report, but it is certain the Crown Prince has sustained a serious reverse in a battle fought on the banks of the Seine on the 27th. "The victory," says the despatch, "was followed by the evacuation of Versailles and Rambouillet, and the rupture of the German line of investment." Nevertheless, on the 30th, two days after, we find the Prince still occupying Versailles, and gaining a considerable advantage over the French. On the morning of that day the besieged, in force, made a sortie from the city, in the direction of Forts d'Issy and Montrouge. They attacked the sixth corps, occupying the right of the Crown Prince's army, at the same time that another large force, said to be under the command of Ducrot, advanced from the direction of St. Cloud, and attacked the 11th and 5th corps. The object of the attack was evidently to interrupt the work of the investing force. The French force drove the Prussians from their positions, and occupied them before reinforcements could come up. Immediately after the attack commenced, the Crown Prince and his staff hastened from their quarters at Versailles to the field of action. The French advanced under cover of a heavy fire from their forts. The advance posts of the 6th Corps had, in the meantime, fallen back to the main line. After nearly three hours fighting, during which the Prussian lines were unshaken, the French gave way before the heavy fire of artillery, retreating toward the forts. As soon as the backward movement commenced by the French, the 5th German Corps took the offensive, vigorously following the retreating French, cutting off their flight, and capturing many prisoners. The French troops behaved better than on former occasions, when they have attacked the Prussians, but they were compelled to retreat in disorder. The Prussian loss is roughly estimated at four to five hundred. Over four hundred prisoners were taken.

Another account says that by the recent successes of the French troops around Paris, the circle of German investment has been shattered at two points, and repelled to a distance varying from three to six miles, and the French have occupied the position taken in strong force.

There has also been considerable fighting in the neighbourhood of Metz. Repeated sallies have been by Bazaine, and the utmost vigilance is necessary in the camp of the besiegers to repel the continual attacks made upon them. Clermont and Montmédy have been captured, Soissons is surrounded, and the Baden troops relieved by the capitulation of Strasbourg, have been posted throughout Upper Alsace, to clear the country of the armed peasants and sharpshooters who are perpetrating great excesses and annoying the German army in the rear.

Late despatches state that a certain great Prussian General died within the last few days at Rheims; rumour has it that this is no other than Von Moltke, but that great care has been exercised to prevent it being known who the deceased General really is.

The escape of Gen. Bourbaki from Metz, and his visit to the Empress, has led to rumours of an intended capitulation by Bazaine and the Emperor conjointly, on the part of France, thereby ignoring the Republic. The National Defence Government is still at Tours, though it was reported that preparations were being made for its removal further West, in the event of the threatened advance of the Prussians against that city being carried out.

We clip from the Montreal Gazette the following sarcastic lines as to the doings at Niagara Falls, some of which have been such as to eclipse the fame of the great cataract by the infamy of the dwellers in its neighbourhood. Might not the Government of Ontario adopt measures to "reconstruct" these harpies? The Gazette says:

"Attention is once more invited to the beauties of social life as exemplified at Niagara Falls. Some months ago an amiable scion of the illustrious house of Davis was so rash as to shoot to death a coloured person named Price, servant of Mr. Barnett, the great rival in the show business of the patriarch Saul. The homicidal youngster, strange to say, was arrested, and committed for trial on a charge of wilful murder, and stranger still, when consigned to Welland Jail, courteously refrained from walking out of that remarkable building, as is usually the proceeding of its very temporary occupants. For the moment it would almost appear that Niagara had reformed, and was exhibiting itself in the novel aspect of a law-abiding community. A grave offence—murder is a grave offence—had been committed, and some sort of atonement was about to be exacted. Mr. Davis might even be fined for his indiscretion. So fancied the optimists, hailing with rapture the inauguration of a new and better order of things. The optimists went a little too fast, however. Saul, who was also among the prophets, judged more wisely. It was only a nigger who had been killed, and his local experience taught him that niggers were by no means likely to secure an unpleasantly serious local estimate of the value of their lives, nor, in St. Catharines at least, to exact a very costly sacrifice to their manes. And so it has proved, for the trial has just been concluded by the discharge of a disagreeing jury, and the prisoner is out on bail, still competent to carry on the feudal war. This is very gratifying indeed, and will tend powerfully to attract visitors of the Caucasian races. Rightly utilized the precedent can be made to do more for the tavern-keepers and the hack-drivers who own the great cataract than even could have Frank Thorne's suicide. Next season we may expect the advertisements to include sensation items of compelling power. For example, "a coloured man to be shot every Sunday after Divine service," would draw crowds. We throw out the suggestion deferentially for the benefit of well-skilled experts. We make no charge for the hint because, as Canadians, we cannot but feel a pride in the Niagara institution, which we are glad to invite the world to share.

DEATH OF THE EARL OF MAYO.

The sudden death is announced from Bombay of one of the best known, if not the most brilliant peers in the public service of Great Britain. Richard Bourke, eldest son of the fifth Earl of Mayo, born in 1822, and educated at Trinity College, early distinguished himself as Lord Nans, in the House of Commons, and as Chief Secretary for Ireland under Lord Derby. He was never esteemed a man of commanding ability,

but his inexhaustible good temper, the felicity of his disposition, and a certain liberal cordiality of nature, stood him in the stead of stronger qualities. He was allied also by blood to the successful and influential family of the Jocelyns, and while he was a stout and sincere Tory, he contrived to be both liked and looked after by the Liberals. He succeeded to the earldom on the death of his father in 1867, and was sent by Mr. Disraeli to India as Governor-General and Viceroy.

James Gordon Bennett, of the New York Herald, is reported as lying dangerously ill at his residence on the banks of the Hudson. He is now about seventy years of age, and till very recently enjoyed robust health.

The new American Minister to England, Senator Morton, will not leave for England to assume his duties till the beginning of November.

THE WHY AND THE WHEREFORE OF PECULIAR NAMES—MANNERS AND CUSTOMS NOT GENERALLY KNOWN.

BY THE REV. J. D. BORTHWICK.

(Continued.)

P

PERUKE.—An old clever French writer, named Menage, who was a great collector of odd scraps of information upon all subjects, took it into his head once on a time to investigate the origin of the word Peruke. The result of his inquiry he gravely gave to the world in the following shape:—Pilus signifies hair in the Latin, and, by various progressive mutations, the word thus reached peruke: pilus, pelus, pelutus, peluticus, peluticus, peruke. In imitation of this splendid piece of etymology, Professor Porson, a wit and scholar of the first order, traced the word cucumber to Jeremiah King; thus, Jeremiah King, Jeremy King, Jerry King, Jerking, Gerkin, cucumber. Nothing could better illustrate and ridicule strained etymologies than this. But though Menage deserved to be laughed at on this point, he was a meritorious and pleasing writer. It is in connection with our present subject to mention that he was the first person to use the terminative ana, now so often employed; as in Walpoleiana, Johnsoniana, &c. The concluding ana has indeed almost become an independent word, having been sometimes used in an isolated form to designate collections of loose thoughts or casual hints upon literature, or upon things in general. In short, the term is synonymous with omniputerium, the etymology of which it would be superfluous to point out.

PETRELS (Stormy Petrels).—This bird was so called from the Scriptural fact of St. Peter walking on the water of the sea of Galilee—called Peterels, then Petrels.

PICTS AND SCOTS.—The Picts were so called, because derived from Pictich, a plunderer, and not from picti, painted; and the Scots from Scuite, a wanderer, in the Celtic language.

PORTE, SCRYMGE.—The principal gate at the entrance of the seraglio at Constantinople, is a noble structure of marble, built by Mahomet II, as recorded thereon by an inscription in gold and azure. This gate is called, by way of eminence, the Porte, from the Latin porta, a gate; and from this, one of the most prominent objects about the royal residence of the Grand Turk, does his court derive its common name. Formerly, the gate in question was guarded by fifty mutes, who conversed in signs, and the inmates of the dwelling within were as fettered captives. But, in this respect, at least, our age has seen a great and good reformation. The chains of prejudice have been thrown off, and the women of Turkey are in progress of being restored to the freedom which has been so long withheld from them. The prince, it is said, has set the example by opening the Porte, and permitting those within to enjoy, at their will, the blessed air of heaven.

PRINTING.—Various cities have claimed the honour of this invention; but it is now generally admitted to be due to Haerlem, a town in Holland. It is attributed to Lawrence Koster, an alderman in that city, in 1440. Amusing himself one day in the neighbouring wood, with cutting the barks of trees into letters that formed the initials of his name, he is said to have laid them on paper, and afterwards observed that from the sap their form was impressed on the paper. This accident induced him to make further experiments; he next cut his letters in wood, and dipping them in a glutinous liquid, impressed them on paper, which he found an improvement; and soon after, substituting leaden and pewter letters, erected a press in his house; thus laying the foundation of this noble art, which has thus gradually risen to its present excellence. The art, it is said, was stolen from him by his servant, John Faustus, who conveyed it to Mentz, and from the novelty of the discovery, soon acquired the title of doctor and conjurer.

PROTESTANTS.—The Emperor Charles V., of Germany, called a diet at Spiers, A.D., 1524, to request aid against the Turks, and to devise means for allaying the religious disputes which then raged. Against a decree of this diet, to support the doctrines of the Church of Rome, six Lutheran princes formally and solemnly protested; hence the term Protestants was given to followers of Luther, Calvin, and all other sects which separated themselves from the Romish Church.

THE PHOSPHORESCENCE OF THE OCEAN.—It is manifested by the bright scintillations of its waves and the bright green sparks in the wake of a ship, and is caused by minute organic beings, which are phosphorescent while alive.

POLES, (BARBERS) painted red and white.—Originally surgery and shaving were carried on in London by the same person. In 1512 an Act was passed to prevent any besides barbers practising surgery within the city and seven miles round. In 1540 they were united into one corporate body—but then all persons practising shaving were forbidden to intermeddle with surgery, except to draw teeth and let blood—whence BARBER-SURGEONS. They became separate companies in 1745—the surgeons removing to their Hall in the Old Bailey and then to the Royal College in Lincoln's-Inn. Barbers, however, continued to let blood and draw teeth until not a very great many years ago, as many men living still remember the great heaps of teeth in the window of Middle-ditch, one of this class, Great Suffolk Street, Southwark.

PONTIFF.—Pontiff, as every one knows, is a synonym for the Pope, or head of the Roman Catholic Church. Pontifex, from which it springs, bore a precisely similar signification, being applied to the high-priest of the heathen religion, in

the older days of the city of Rome. What does the reader think the word Pontifex or Pontiff signifies, in its plain, true, and original acceptation? A bridge-maker! Pontem facere, in the Latin, signifies to make a bridge; and from this, according to the usual fashion of compounding words in that language, came pontifex, a bridge-maker or builder. All trace, however, of this sense of it merged early in that of high-priest, though in what the change had its origin is doubtful. Some etymologists think that the chief priests in Rome had the charge, attached to their office, of repairing and maintaining in good order a certain bridge of the city, and others say that one high religious official built a splendid bridge at his own cost, and had the name of Pontifex perpetuated, in connection with the priestly office, in token of public gratitude.

PORTER.—Porter got its name from being chiefly used at one time by the class of people in London called by that title.

PUNIC.—(Punic Wars).—The wars between the Romans and the Carthaginians were called "Punic" from the term Pœni, applied by the former to the latter on account of their Phœnician origin.

THE BATTLE OF COURCELLES.

While McMahon was engaged in the series of combats preliminary to the great battle at Sedan, Bazaine was making every endeavour to escape from Metz. He had already been defeated and driven back in a series of engagements with the blockading force, but on the 26th August he gained a slight advantage at Courcelles-Choisy, eighteen kilometres east of Metz. Having mustered his troops in force on that side of the city he fell upon the enemy's camp early in the morning and put them to rout. He was unable, however, to follow up his advantage, and was compelled, after hard fighting, to return to his old position. The great feature of the battle at Courcelles was the charge of the Prussian cavalry, resembling in every respect the celebrated charges of the French cuirassiers at Sedan. One charge was made after another, but the firing of the French was so steady that the Germans were compelled to retire.

HYDRATE OF CHLORAL.—Recent medical journals report favorably on the use of the hydrate of chloral for the purpose of allaying brain excitement and producing sleep. It induces sleep with more certainty than opium, and without the injurious effects resulting from the latter. It has curative properties, but on account of its quieting influence it has been called the king of narcotics.

In the eight principal towns of Scotland as many as 2,363 deaths were registered in August. The Registrar-General states that increase of population being allowed for, this is 242 above the average of the month for the last ten years, and, excepting August, 1868, is the greatest number recorded in any month of August since the Registration Act came into operation. The (annual) rate of mortality was 14 per 1,000 persons in Perth, 22 in Aberdeen, 23 in Edinburgh, 31 in Glasgow and Dundee, 34 in Paisley, and 35 in Greenock and Leith. Of the 2,368 deaths, no less than 1,187, or 50 per cent., were of children under five years of age. The zymotic (epidemic and contagious) class of diseases proved fatal in 617 persons, thus constituting 27 per cent. of the mortality. This rate was exceeded in Dundee and Greenock, from the fatality of diarrhoea in these towns. The most fatal of the epidemics was diarrhoea, which caused 258 deaths, or 12.1 per cent. of the mortality.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. L. PRENTISS, MONTREAL.—Our artist has carried out your suggestion, as may be seen by reference to cartoon on last page.

CHESS.

ENIGMA No. 3.

By Mr. E. T. B., Quebec.

White—K. at Q. 8th., Rs. at Q. 5th., and Q. Kt. 5th., B. at K. 8th., P. at K. 4th.

Black—K. at his 3rd., Ps. at Q. 3rd., K. 4th. and K. Kt. 3rd.

White to play, and mate in three moves.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 18.

White. 1. R. to Q. Kt. 6th Black. Any move. 2. Mates.

Temperature in sun shade, and barometer indications for the week ending Tuesday, Oct. 4, 1870, observed by John Underhill, Optician to the Medical Faculty of McGill University, 299 Notre Dame Street.

Table with 4 columns: Day, 9 A.M., 1 P.M., 6 P.M. Rows include Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday.

Table with 4 columns: Day, Max., Min., Mean. Rows include Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday.

Aneroid Barometer compensated and corrected.

Table with 4 columns: Day, 9 A.M., 1 P.M., 6 P.M. Rows include Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday.