

PARIS CHRONIQUE.

DIPLOMATIC STRAWBERRIES — ART — ATMOSPHERE — THE SALON — CHARITY AND MUSIC — MICHEL LEVY — CHEAP LITERATURE — FASHIONS.

PARIS MAY 15.—You have doubtless read a good deal in the English papers of the so-called French scare. Do not believe a word of it. The rumors of war may or may not have been true. It is generally believed here that they were not true, but even if they were, they did not affect the Bourse to any appreciable extent, and that only for a few hours. I have one circumstance to prove that there was no room for apprehension, and I think you will allow that it is as forcible as many more showy ones that might be adduced to the contrary. Not later than last week, the German Ambassador, Prince Hohenlohe, assisted at a dinner given by Marshal MacMahon, at the Elysées. Every body noticed that he asked for a second dish of strawberries. Now, is it in the nature of things even Teutonic, that an ambassador who asks for strawberries a second time, should the next day demand his passports?

You have often heard of the art-atmosphere of European cities. I believe that it almost unknown in America. Here it is palpable, tangible, it surrounds you and takes you in. The art event of the month of May is the Salon or Picture Exhibition. Would you be surprised if I told you that thousands upon thousands visit it every day, most of them in full dress, out of respect for the occasion, and that the crowds are as great as at a public ball! And it is not merely curiosity that impels most of them. They inspect the pictures, study them, observe a religious silence around the master pieces, and some of the shrewdest sayings are heard there. Of course, I am not going to attempt a description of the Salon which contains 3862 entries, 2019 of which are oils, 1620 sculptures, and the rest water colors, pastels, miniatures, engravings, architectural drawings and engravings. Doré is not a regular exhibitor, but this year he is represented by two immense canvases, one entitled "Dante and Virgil in the Seventh Circle" and the other "Judas Iscariot communing with the Chief Priests." Battle pieces and patriotic themes are also frequent, the chief merit of which is their mournful earnestness, altogether free from brag or the idea of vengeance. Principal among these is the "Sacrifice à la Patrie" of Merson. Although the style is slightly academic, yet the execution of the figures betokens the most serious and conscientious study. In front of a temple which forms the back ground of the painting, is stretched out on the altar of fatherland the corpse of a young man. His mother kneeling and with hands thrust in her disheveled hair, abandons herself to a wild grief, while a beautiful symbolic figure elevates a chalice into which have flowed so much blood and so many tears. On the right, Glory, beneath laurels of gold and fire-colored draperies, blows a trumpet. In the foreground are seen a young tree torn up by its roots, a number of useless arms, broken eagles and a little genius bearing the inscription of Horace: *Bella matribus detestata*. Gerome, Meissonier and other masters are well represented, either through their own works, or through their pupils. The romantic school also shows well with Carolus Duran, Bonat and others.

It is fashionable to think that the French are penurious. But in matters of charity, they certainly belie that opinion. The ladies of Paris have raised hundreds of thousands of francs in behalf of the poor during the winter, and Madame de MacMahon has given them a noble example in that respect. But even in their charities the French like a little amusement and a little art. Instead of a cold, silent subscription list passing around, they favor a dramatic representation or musical soirée. Thus, last Saturday, there was a grand representation at the opera for the benefit of the two unfortunate aeronauts who perished in the balloon Zenith. Such artists as Faure, Gaillard, Villaret, Belval, Mme Krauss, Mme Miolan-Carvalho and others lent their precious services. Verses written expressly for the occasion by Victor Hugo carried the audience by storm. The proceeds were some 25,000 francs. This sum added to that received by the papers and the Society of French Aeronauts will form a total of 150,000 francs, or \$30,000, no mean support for the aged father of Croce-Spinelli and the two orphan children of Sivel.

You have doubtless heard by telegraph of the death of Michel Levy, the famous publisher. In a commemorative paper written by George Sand to the *Univers Illustré*, the remarkable views of this successful man on cheap literature are given. "It is possible, even probable," said he, "that the cheapening of books will at first give vogue to frivolous and mediocre works. But such reading will lead to an inevitably good result. It will make men anxious to read, will give him the habit of reading and this habit will become a necessity. I intend before ten years are over, that the appearance of a new book will be expected as impatiently as a dinner to the hungry man." Ten years had not elapsed before Michel Levy's prediction was verified and thus his theory on the value and importance of mediocrity in the arts was established. He became the publisher of all the great French authors. He leaves a fortune of 17,000,000 francs, but as yet the heirs are not known, because the will cannot be found. The publishing business will be carried on by his partner and brother Calmann Levy.

Marshal MacMahon has returned to take up his residence at Versailles. The Palais de la Présidence has been splendidly refurbished during the holidays, and the first reception is announced for the 20th. Before leaving, the Maréchal gave

a charming garden party in behalf of the Sainte Clotilde orphanage.

Last week the principal modistes in Paris were all occupied with court trains for Queen Victoria's Drawing Room. There is a particular stamp about Court dresses made in Paris; they are not so rich looking as those made in England, they are not overcharged with ornamentation, but they are singularly graceful. Among several of the robes of truly formidable dimensions I noted one especially of black net, powdered all over with gold; the train was black faille, trimmed with gold lace, and bordered with a thick black ruche, and rows of gold braid; in the centre of the train there were three lace pannes, with several rows of gold braid. The faille bodice was ornamented with lines of gold braid, and the headdress was composed of feathers, a maize rose, and bows of gold braid.

Straw is likely to be a formidable rival to jet as a summer trimming. Straw embroidery, straw fringe, and even a material made of straw, are in preparation for July and August. The material consists of a network made from tubes of straw cut in small pieces, and the meshes marked with a jet bead, and from this tabliers and cuirasses are made in a single piece, and worn over pale shades of silk. Besides this network made from tubes of straw strung together, there are gauze and summer silks embroidered with straw and jet beads intermixed. Fringes are made to match; black veils are embroidered with yellow straw, and white veils with black; there are straw parasols, and fans are also embellished with straw. This caprice will probably be ephemeral, but large quantities are being manufactured.

Never was there more demand for embroidery of all kinds than at present; but the variety affected by the fashion consists of shaded flowers, worked in the softest shades and colours on narrow bands of black velvet. These bands look like insertion, and are used for trimming many dresses, but particularly black faille ones. The bodice is striped all over with these bands, which are considerably narrower than those on the skirt. On white barégé dresses the embroideries on velvet are most effective. For small dinner and evening dresses white barégé is both pretty and appropriate, and is frequently very elegantly trimmed. The bodice of one dress that came under my notice was composed of very fine Bruges guipure, the side pieces alone being white barégé; the sleeves were guipure, and the front breadth was divided into three wide guipure bands, each terminating with a point, and one separated from the other with a narrow band of barégé, ornamented with white silk and silver braid. The edge of the skirt terminated with a row of narrow Bruges guipure, an insertion, and three rows of silk and silver braid. Pale pink or white faille is worn beneath as a slip.

An interesting sale of autographs was recently held in Paris. The prizes of the more important ones were: Balzac, \$30; Lucretia Borgia, \$40; Bossuet, \$33; Fénelon, \$36; Francois II., first husband of Mary Stuart, \$40; Franklin, \$20; Lafontaine, \$109; Louis XIV., \$20; Marat, \$20; Melancthon, \$32; Montesquieu, \$40; Peter the Great, \$41; Madame de Pompadour, \$35; Racine, \$50; Robespierre, \$24; Scarron, \$46; Voltaire, \$20; Washington, \$44; and Weber, \$23. MIRAMAR.

MARGINALIA.

The Duke of Argyle has fenced in a deer forest six miles round.

In some of the French cities the person whose house gets afire has to pay the expense of the engines coming out.

A French exploring expedition will try to cross Africa next year from the Congo to the White Nile.

The Turkish Government has concluded to let Dr. Schliemann keep his Trojan antiquities, on payment of 50,000 francs.

Italy is fitting out an expedition to explore the country between Abyssinia and the Victoria Nyanza, an almost unknown region.

San Francisco boasts of having a Greek Church with the regular services according to the Greek form, and a Russian Bishop.

Gratitude—A bachelor made a will leaving his property to the girls who had refused him. "For to them I owe all my earthly happiness."

In China a liquor is distilled from the flowers of the chrysanthemum, which is regarded as an elixir vitae, and a powder of these flowers is prescribed as a cure for drunkenness.

The survey of the great interoceanic railroad across the Andes, from Buenos Ayres to Chili, has been completed. The line can be easily and cheaply constructed.

Mr. Pullen, who wrote the clever satire "Dame Europa's School," will accompany the British Arctic Expedition as one of the chaplains.

Gas made from oil is to be used for lighting railway carriages in Switzerland. It is to be supplied from reservoirs to gasometers fitted in each carriage, and capable of containing sufficient quantity for eight hours' light.

A San Francisco company which manufactures extensively paper barrels, has recently shipped some of them to China and Japan, filled with sugar, and they seemed as good when they reached their destination as when they started.

Beet sugar is made in California at seven cents a pound, including every expense. The increase in the cultivation of beet root in Europe, for the

manufacture of sugar, is said to be causing enormous losses to the cane-sugar planters in Cuba.

A girl was recently arrested in Limerick, Ireland, for causing the death of a child consigned to her care. She went out for a walk with the child, which was in a perambulator, and, meeting a friend on the quay, stopped for a gossip, and the perambulator rolled away unnoticed into the water and the child was drowned.

M. Thiers loses none of his activity as he grows old. He is said to have accepted the proposal of a deputation of the inhabitants of Belfort to become their candidate for the Senate in their Department: and he is working with great zeal upon his Memoirs, which he expects to extend to sixteen volumes. Besides this, he is engaged upon a History of Art, of which he has completed only the Italian portion.

An Englishman has just accomplished the ascent of Mont Blanc at a time of the year when no tourist had ever ventured on the attempt. Mr. Kennedy member of the English Alpine Club, set out from Chamounix on May 15th, accompanied by two guides, and reached the Grands-Mulets at four in the afternoon. The following day the party started at three in the morning for the summit, and after contending with the difficulties of the snow giving way under their feet, and of a burning sun, they arrived at the Grand Plateau. From that point the surface was firmer, so that they were enabled to attain the highest point toward noon; and there the travellers planted an alpenstock and drank a bottle of champagne "in honor of the tourist world, past, present, and to come." Owing to the intense heat the descent was difficult, but it was safely effected at eight in the evening.

A Brussels paper gives a painful account of the ex-Empress Charlotte of Mexico. Her physical health is good, but her mental condition is hopeless. She lives in constant communication with imaginary beings, and dislikes the presence of any living person. She speaks only when obliged to do so, and gives orders to her attendants in writing. She dresses herself without suffering assistance, takes a fixed walk in the park every morning when fine, frequently plays on the pianoforte, and sometimes draws and paints with decided taste. She recognizes no visitors, not even her brother, King Leopold, or the Queen. The latter always accompanies the physician on his monthly visit, when, in reply to his inquiries as to her health, the Empress coldly says she is well and immediately retires. She has become stouter, and shows a tendency to corpulency, but at present it is stated that this only increases her beauty, which is now truly striking.

[For the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.]

BOATING ACCIDENTS.

From the prevalence of Boating Accidents upon our Canadian waters a stranger might infer a general fatuity in this regard in the Canadian people. We do nothing of the sort. There are many citizens amongst us, we are sure, at the moment while we write, who have their plans for overcoming the difficulty. If they remain dumb it is because they know that their special public would be constituted of the young and the self-willed, and a spirit of reserve keeps them silent.

The prevalence of these disasters calls earnestly for an effectual remedy, and in the first place we ought to look for the active cause of these accidents.

If I were to describe a small Canadian sailboat as constructed with the greatest beam, the greatest outwater, and the greatest sheer possible to one model, I believe the picture would be so easily recognized that the form might be almost repeated by a builder in England without any visual reference.

Now this model for a boat has undoubtedly great elements of stability, independent of its sailing qualities, but it does not by any means comprise all the elements of stability, and those which we overlook form all the danger. If our boats are to be prevented from capsizing in future, they must be differently ballasted from what they are now. They should have fixed ballast, and that in exact sufficiency and rightly placed. These boats are not "crank" in build, but they are often "crank" in behaviour under canvass, because they are improperly ballasted, and because too much sail is often crowded upon them. The quantity of sail that will suit fair weather and the vanity of an amateur, will be excessive in a sudden squall. The boat will capsize under it. Stability is actually secured in the school-boy's toy-boat, because he places the leaden ballast all along the keel. We see no reason why a sailing or rowing boat should not be ballasted exactly in the same way, but, not being boat-builders, we will not take a particle of responsibility in saying so. The plan in use is to do without scientific ballast altogether in a small boat, and to overload her with upper ballast in the shape of persons, into the bargain. We thus secure unstable equilibrium, mitigated only by aqueous support when on the tilt. There are two other prevalent dangers: and these may be described as "want of trim" or "shifting ballast" created by moving about in the boat unscientifically, and "ignorance of navigation" on a river of rapid currents. Those who have not yet learned to understand boats should not attempt to sail them alone. Are we going to have the satisfaction of beholding a little more thought and care in the season now begun? Are the boat-builders going to help us, instead of merely humoring the whims of their customers?

And, finally, are our Legislators going to make provision that the limit of number to be carried by a small boat shall be distinctly inscribed on some part of the vessel where it can be seen and followed? These things will be better than the tenderest bewailings even of good and honest hearts.

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

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

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The problem we publish in this number was sent to us for insertion by a kind friend in the United States. It is not difficult of solution, but is a curiosity in Chess on account of its symmetrical construction. Mr. Wheeler, we understand, is favorably known as a composer of Chess problems.

We believe it was stated at the Chess gathering in Montreal at the last Congress, that the best games of the Tourney, and, also, the problems which took prizes, were to be published as soon as they could be got ready. We have no doubt a small work of such a nature would be acceptable to all Canadian Chess players.

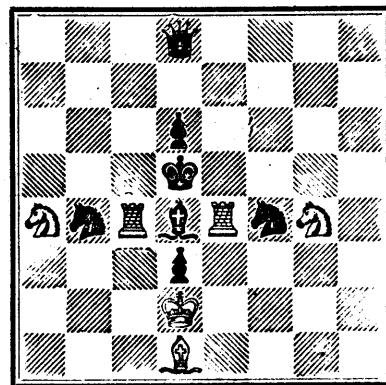
The publishing of works on Chess seems to be a successful undertaking elsewhere, if we may judge from the number which are constantly making their appearance. It is now said that Mr. Bird, the well known English player, will shortly publish a collection of "Chess Masterpieces." The selection will consist of about 150 games played since 1849, and every game will be a specimen of the highest order of play.

What lover of the game would not be anxious to be in possession of such a fund of amusement and instruction!

PROBLEM No. 23.

By C. H. Wheeler, Englewood, Ill.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

SOLUTIONS.

Solution of Problem No. 21.

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|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| BLACK. | WHITE. |
| 1. R takes K P [ch] | 1. R takes R |
| 2. P to Q 7th | 2. R to Q 5th |
| 3. K takes R | 3. P to Q 7th |
| 4. K to K 5th (or A) | 4. P to Q 8th and wins |
| 4. P Queens | 4. P Queens, Checks, and wins |

Solution of Problem for Young Players, No. 20.

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|--------------------------|-----------------|
| WHITE. | BLACK. |
| 1. K Kt to R 4th | 1. P to Q 3rd |
| 2. Q Kt to Q Kt 8th | 2. P to K B 3rd |
| 3. Kt takes P at K B 5th | 3. P to R 5th |
| 4. B takes Q P [ch] | 4. K takes Kt |
| 5. P to K 4th checkmate | |

PROBLEMS FOR YOUNG PLAYERS, No. 21.

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|---------------|---------------|
| WHITE. | BLACK. |
| K at K R sq | K at K R sq |
| Q at K 4th | Kt at K B 3rd |
| B at K Kt 2nd | P at K Kt 2nd |
| B at Q B 3rd | and K R 3rd |
| Kt at K B 8th | |
- White to play and mate in three moves.

GAME 27th.

Played recently by two of the members of the Montreal Chess Club.

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|-----------------------|--------------------|
| BLACK. (Dr. H—) | WHITE. (Mr. H—) |
| [Sicilian Game.] | |
| 1. P to K 4th | P to Q B 4th |
| 2. K Kt to B 3rd | P to K 3rd |
| 3. P to Q 4th | P to Q 4th |
| 4. P to K 5th | Q Kt to B 3rd |
| 5. K B to Q Kt 5th | Q B to Q 2nd |
| 6. B takes Kt | B takes B |
| 7. Castles | B to K 2nd |
| 8. P to Q B 3rd | P to Q B 5th |
| 9. P to K R 3rd | P to K B 4th |
| 10. K Kt to R 2nd | K to Q 2nd |
| 11. P to Q Kt 4th | P to Q 4th |
| 12. Q B to Q R 5th | P takes P |
| 13. B takes P | B takes B |
| 14. P takes B | Q B to Q R 5th |
| 15. Q to Q 2nd | P to Q Kt 4th |
| 16. Q Kt to B 3rd | K Kt to K R 3rd |
| 17. P to K B 4th | K R to K Kt sq |
| 18. K Kt to B 3rd | K Kt to K B 2nd |
| 19. K to K B 2nd | P to K R 3rd |
| 20. P to K R 4th | Q to K 2nd |
| 21. P to Q R 3rd | K Kt to R sq |
| 22. K to K 3rd | P to K Kt 4th |
| 23. R P takes P | R takes Kt |
| 24. Kt takes P | R takes Kt |
| 25. P takes R | Q takes P [ch] |
| 26. K to K 2nd | Q takes Kt P [ch] |
| 27. K to K B 2nd | Q to K Kt 5th [ch] |
| 28. K to K sq | Q R to K Kt sq |
| 29. Q to K B 4th | Q to K R 6th |
| 30. K R to K B 3rd | Q to K R 6th [ch] |
| 31. K R to K B sq | Q to K R 7th |
| 32. Q to K B 2nd | Q to K R 6th |
| 33. Q R to Q B sq | R to K Kt 7th |
| 34. Q to K B 3rd | R to K Kt 6th |
| 35. Q to K R sq | R takes Kt |
| 36. R takes R | Q takes R [ch] |
| 37. K to K B 2nd | Q takes Q P [ch] |
| 38. K to K Kt 2nd | Q to K 5th [ch] |
| 39. R to B 3rd | Kt to K Kt 3rd |
| 40. Q to K R 7th [ch] | Kt to K 2nd |
| 41. K to K B 2nd | B to K 2nd |
| 42. R to K Kt 3rd | B to K 5th |
| 43. Q to K R 6th | Q to K 7th [ch] |
| 44. K to K Kt sq | Q to K 8th [ch] |
| 45. K to Kt 2nd | P to Q B 6th |
| 46. Q to K R 4th | Q to Q 7th [ch] |
| 47. Q to K B 2nd | P to Q 5th |
| 48. K to Kt sq | Q takes Q |
| 49. K takes Q | P to Q 7th |
| 50. R to K Kt sq | B to Q 8th |
- And Black resigned.