

VALERIE'S CONFESSION.

(TO A FRIEND.)

They declare that I'm gracefully pretty,
The very best waltzer that whirls;
They say I am sparkling and witty,
The pearl, the queen rose-bud of girls.
But alas for the popular blindness!
Its judgment, though folly, can hurt;
Since my heart, that runs over with kindness,
It vows is the heart of a flirt!

How, how can I help it, if Nature,
Whose mysteries baffle our ken
Hath made me the tenderest creature
That ever had pity on men?
When the shafts of my luminous glances
Have tortured some sensitive breast,
Why, I softer, their light till it traces
The poor wounded bosom to rest!

Can I help it, brought from all regions,
As diverse in features of gait,
Rash lovers besiege me in legions,
Each lover demanding his fate?
To be cold to such fervours of feeling
Would pronounce me a dullard or dunce;
And so, the bare thought sets me reeling,
I'm engaged to six suitors—at once!

The first, we shall call him "Sweet William"—
He's a lad scarcely witty or wise—
The gloom of the sorrows of "Illum"
Would seem to outbreathe on his sighs.
When I strove, half in earnest, to flout him,
Pale, pale at my footstool he sunk;
But mamma, quite ready to scout him,
Would hint that "Sweet Willie" was.....drunk!

My second, a florid Adonis
Of forty-five, if a day,
Drives me out in his phæton with ponies,
Making love every yard of the way.
Who so pleasantly placed could resist him?
Had he popped 'neath the moonlight and dew
That eve, I could almost have kissed him.....
(A confession alone, dear, for you).

Next, a widower, polished and youthful,
Far famed for his learning and pelf;
Can I doubt that his passion is truthful,
That he seeks me alone for myself?
Yes; I know that some slanderers mutter
His fortune is just taking wings;
But I scorn the backbiters who utter
Such basely censorious things!

Could they hearken his love-whisper, dulcet
As April's soft tide on the strand,
Whose white curves are loath to repulse it,
So sweet is its homage and bland;
Could they hear how his dead wife's devotion
He praises, while yearning for mine—
They would own that his ardent emotion
Is something.....yes.....almost divine.

My fourth—would to heaven I could paint him
As next the High altar he stands—
A Saint John.....all the people besant him!
Pale brow and immaculate hands.
Ah! his tones in their wooing seem holy,
Nor dare I believe it misplaced,
When an arm of the Church, stealing slowly,
Is folded, at length, round.....my waist!

Behold this long list of my lovers
With a soldier and sailor complete;
Both swear that their hearts were not rovers
Till fettered and bound at my feet.
Oh dear! but these worshippers daunt me;
Their claims, their best wishes, appal;
'Tis sad how they harass and haunt me;
What, what shall I do with them all?

LATER.

As the foam-flakes, when steadfastly blowing,
The west winds sweep reckless and free,
Are borne where the deep billows, flowing,
Pass out to a limitless sea;
So the gay spume of girlish romances,
Upcaught by true Love on his breath,
With the fretwork and foam of young fancies,
Was borne through vague distance to death.

For he came—the true hero—one morning,
And my soul with quick thrills of delight
Leaped upward, renewed, and reborn in
A world of strange beauty and might;
I seemed fated from all earthly disaster;
My pulses beat tuneful and fast;
So I welcomed my monarch, my master—
The first real love, and.....the last!

PAUL H. HAYNE.

THE ANCIENT CAPITAL.

ADJOURNMENT—LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OPPOSITION—MISCELLANEOUS.

Eight men and one small boy occupy the galleries of the House this morning, and if they only knew it they would enjoy my chagrin at being still here and at work when, according to my grandiloquent prophecy, dressed up with a flowery or rather a gloomy picture of the closed and shrouded House, I should have been far away. 'Tis an old saying, but biblically true, "A prophet hath no honour in his own country." I give up and retire into the shades of obscurity, with Vennor, Brown, Menotellali and other disappointed soothsayers. Like my fellows, however, I will prophesy a certainty, and that is, that next week this time will find the House closed, &c., &c.

The Opposition have been consistent in one course this session with regard to the two leading Government measures, namely, the Railway Bill and Tax Bill, both of which they have opposed at every stage, taking a division wherever practicable, in order to place on record their solemn protest against them. This is evidently with a view of using it at the next elections.

The abolition of the Legislative Council will be another election cry, but I fancy they will have the wind taken out of their sails by the Government, who, unless I am very much mistaken, will use it for themselves, in which case the doom of the Legislative Council is sealed, as, though their fate is in their own hands, they cannot withstand public opinion which is most certainly opposed to them.

While writing of the Legislative Council, a little information about its manner of passing the time might be interesting. At the opening of the session they put on their new clothes, and looked fine in the presence of the Lieutenant-Governor. After that, as they are nearly all

very ancient, they inquire how many of them have died since last they met, and then they adjourn for a week, partly out of respect to the deceased and partly because they have nothing to do. After the week, they meet every day, receive any quantity of petitions sometimes, and that is indeed a gala day they get a Bill; then they look terribly important over it, and in nine cases out of ten pass it without a word. The members adjourn very early to their gallery in the House of Assembly, and then drop off one by one to pastures new. Towards the end of the session their importance increases, members of the Assembly run after them to get their Bills looked after in the Upper House; then they are in their glory. How they legislate! They amend Bills in the most delightfully innocent manner, knowing well that unless the amendments are harmless (as they generally are) they will be certainly thrown out by the Assembly. Then when the principal Government measure comes before them, then is the time to see them. Out come the Sunday coats, and, sleek as pigeons, they sit and coo at one another and pass the Bill triumphantly without dividing, and generally without opposition.

This session the spirit of discord, searching, as usual, for "mischief still for idle hands to do," has entered the sacred precinct, attracted, doubtless, by the flaming colour of the apartment, and taken up his abode within the bosoms of two members, who form Her Majesty's loyal Opposition in the Legislative Council. The full complement of members is 24, and one seat being vacant, leaves a division of 21 to 2, so the result of this Opposition would be somewhat amusing were it not tiresome, because they have the power of retarding the business in their House, and by doing so keep the members here for some days. For instance, were no opposition offered, we might prorogue to-morrow, but now we must wait till Tuesday.

The Quebec charter has been before the House once more, and was referred to the Private Bills Committee; but, owing to the determined opposition offered by the citizens' committee, the members, fearing it would retard the session for another week, threw it out, so Quebec is left with a large deficit and without power to raise money to pay off their indebtedness.

The measure for the incorporation of the Terrebonne and St. Therese Railway has been before the House three or four times this week, on an attempt to have it taken up and considered, but each time it was opposed by the Montreal members, more especially by Mr. Taillon, who raised every technical point possible, and succeeded on every occasion, so it is now finally postponed till next session.

The License Bill has bravely passed through committee, and has now gone to the Upper House, where it will be pondered over for about ten minutes and passed.

Never since Confederation has there been a session when so many points of order have been raised and rulings given by the Speaker. To say that the rulings were always correct, would not be true; but, considering his experience and abilities, Speaker Beaubien has managed to acquit himself very fairly.

The "slaughter of the innocents" has commenced, and is continuing till this evening. When they come to look for themselves they will be all dead corpses.

I was present at the dinner given to Mr. Joly. It was a magnificent affair, and can be looked on in no other way than as a perfect ovation, especially at the grand entry of ladies to the galleries, where they were received by the gentlemen all standing and warmly clapped. The speeches made were scholarly and pretty, but in no way politically important.

The members are packing up, the floor of the House is littered with Bills and Blue Books, and time tables are at a premium. The House of Assembly has finished all its work, and there will be scarcely a corporal's guard of members here on Monday. Everything is waiting on the Legislative Council, so in the meantime the House is amusing itself as best it can.

KRIS KRIKLE.

FROM OTTAWA.

The Finance Minister delivered his Budget speech on Friday evening last. He informed the House that the total value of trade had diminished not less than fifty millions of dollars, notwithstanding a growth of population and an extension in the area of territory under cultivation, which would, under ordinary circumstances, represent an increase of some thirty or forty millions.

The revenue from Customs had decreased by a little more than three millions of dollars, while the total value of imports had been reduced by one-third. The hon. gentleman very properly spoke of the present depression as being the inevitable reaction of a previous period of inflation, and ordinary persons would imagine that the reduction in the amount of imports was a natural and healthy remedy for such a disease; it was therefore curious to find the Finance Minister a few minutes later, referring in terms of congratulation to an increase in the revenue returns during the past seven months of nearly a million of dollars. This increase of revenue can only have been caused by additional imports, and I fancy few business men will be found to admit that there is anything in the present position of the country to warrant an increase in that direction.

The hon. gentleman said he did not intend to propose any new taxes to cover the deficit, first, because there were signs of improvement;

secondly, because the receipts of 1877 were below the average; thirdly, because the deposits to the sinking fund account had to some extent counteracted the deficit; fourthly, because some works entailing extra expenditure were approaching completion; and lastly, because the country would soon have an opportunity of giving its verdict on the Government policy.

The hon. gentleman reminds one of the oft quoted Judge whose decisions were generally good, but his reasons for such decisions invariably bad—he might very well have summed up his reasons in one sentence, viz., that it would be too risky to go to the country at the next general election in the face of increased taxation.

Hon. Mr. Tupper criticized very severely the statement of the Finance Minister, whom he accused of destroying all the growing industries of Canada. He advocated high protective duties as the best means of securing reciprocity from the Americans, with a special tariff for goods coming from Great Britain or British possessions. He said that Mr. Brown had admitted to the Americans that Canada had nothing to give them in return for reciprocity.

Mr. Cartwright, in replying, reminded Dr. Tupper of a certain treaty made in Washington, and asked by whose advice that "shameful capitulation" was acceded to by which Canada was stripped of those means which might have been offered as an equivalent for reciprocity.

The debate was then adjourned till Wednesday.

On Tuesday, the Hon. Peter Mitchell, who seems to be pretty combative this session, had a little skirmish with the Premier over the question of a dredge which the Hon. Peter wanted sent to the mouth of the Miramichi River. Mr. Mackenzie said that if he found one was wanted he would send it.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell.—"Then I suppose we shall not get it." (Order.)

Hon. Mr. Mackenzie.—"I did not say so."

Hon. Mr. Mitchell.—"It looks like that." (Order.)

Hon. Mr. Mackenzie.—"I did not even imply that."

Hon. Mr. Mitchell.—"That at any rate was what I inferred from your remarks." (Order.)

The unfortunate reporters for the *Hansard* were again pitched into by Mr. Plumb, who complained that in many instances both his language and his meaning were distorted. I should scarcely think that hon. members need be under any apprehension that the language used by them during the debate on the Address will be distorted, as it would puzzle the most ingenious reporter to make it worse than it was originally.

Mr. Pouliot (Temiscouata) complained of the indignities suffered by his oppressed countrymen during the construction of the Intercolonial Railway. The Government surveyors had acted in a manner scarcely less objectionable "than the Russians had acted in Bulgaria." Many of these Cossack-like contractors had even left their bills unpaid!

He further complained that no French-Canadians were employed on the Intercolonial, and demanded justice.

Now I was once, for my sins, condemned to travel on the Intercolonial from Halifax to Montreal, during which pilgrimage I had to recruit exhausted nature at some of the refreshment stations kept by Mr. Pouliot's countrymen. If therefore a tyrannical Government should refuse him the redress he demands, let him devote all his energies to getting the rest of the refreshment rooms on the line into the hands of his compatriots; he will then be amply revenged—on the stomachs of his enemies.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell, who was evidently on the "rampage," after exchanging a few passing amenities with the member for Montreal Centre in which he had rather the worst of it, moved for a "return in detail of the expenditure incurred from the Treasury of Canada for the expenses of the journey of His Excellency the Governor-General and suite to British Columbia and back in the year 1876, and the expenses of the visit to Manitoba in 1877."

Hon. Mr. Mackenzie objected to the motion. He looked upon it as an insult to the Governor-General, and should ask his friends to vote it down.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell dared the Premier to vote it down. He denied that any insult to the Governor-General was implied in the motion. He was acting from a sense of public duty. Strange rumors were abroad as to the amount charged, and the facts ought to be made known. It was in the interests of the country that the large expenditure in connection with the viceregal office should not be perpetuated.

A very painful discussion then took place, in which Messrs. Holton, Tupper, Masson and several others took part. It was generally agreed that the motion was ill-timed and in very bad taste, although clearly within the right of a member of the House.

The honourable member for Northumberland, with the usual obstinacy of a man who feels himself to be in a false position, refused to withdraw his motion, but was ultimately induced to accept an amendment of Mr. Holton's of a less objectionable nature.

There is little doubt that a heavy expense was incurred by the trips to British Columbia and Manitoba, and it is also quite probable that some extortionate charges were made by parties over whom His Excellency could exercise no control; but however this may be, there is no question as to the fact that the attention called to the resources of Canada by the speeches made by Lord

Dufferin during his progress would more than compensate for an expenditure of five times the amount.

Mr. Piché has written a very ingenious if not ingenious letter to the Speaker in explanation of his letter to *La Minerve*. He reminds one very much of Touchstone, "Your *If* is the only peacemaker; much virtue in an *If*." ARGUS.

DOMESTIC.

SAUSAGE MEAT FRIED IN BACON.—A very taking little dish for breakfast, which is also pretty to look at, may be made as follows: Take some small balls of sausage meat no larger than the yolk of an egg, and skewer a roll of fat bacon round each. Fry lightly; take out the skewers and serve with croissants and fried parsley.

FISH CURRY.—Put the fish (of which you desire to make curry) in a bowl for an hour or two in salt and water. Fry in butter two sliced onions until well browned; put the butter and onions into a stew-pan. Cut into pieces the fish, and cover it with water. Mix with a little vinegar a tablespoonful of curry powder, and gently stew all together until tender. Serve like meat curry, with rice round the edge of the dish.

MILK SOUP.—Materials: Four large potatoes two leeks, two ounces of butter, three tablespoonfuls of crushed tapioca, one pint of milk. Put the potatoes and leeks, cut in four into a saucepan, with two quarts of boiling water and the two ounces of butter, a teaspoonful of salt and pepper to taste. Boil an hour, run through a colander, and return it to the saucepan; add the milk, sprinkle in the tapioca, and let it boil fifteen minutes.

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

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

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. W. S., Montreal.—Letter received. Many thanks. Student, Montreal.—Solution of Problem No. 162 received. Correct.

J. H., Montreal.—Problem received. It shall appear in our next Column.

M. J. M., Quebec.—Solutions of Problems Nos. 160 and 161 received. Correct. We are sorry not to find on hand any more of your valuable Chess compositions. R. T. B., Kingston, Ont.—Letter received. Have sent it to the Conductor of the proposed Correspondence Tourney.

G. B. S., Arkona, Ont.—Letter received. Will try to send you a copy of the rules of the Montreal Chess Club. We heartily wish you success in your enterprise. E. H., Montreal.—Solution of Problem for Young players No. 160 received. Correct.

T. S. N., Barbour's Mills, Lycoming Co., Pa., U. S.—Correct solution of Problem No. 160 received.

We are happy to say that there is every chance of the proposed Canadian Correspondence Chess Tourney being a success, so far as a sufficient number of competitors is concerned. Although the circulars have only been issued a few days, Mr. Shaw has received applications from thirteen gentlemen who are willing to enter the lists, and there is every reason to believe that the full number will be secured, as soon as answers are received from all those to whom notices have been sent. In several instances, those sending in their names have stated that they do so from a desire to promote the growth of interest in the noble game in our Dominion, and we heartily congratulate them on entertaining such a patriotic feeling. Independent of this, however, the contest will afford each competitor a fair amount of healthy excitement, as well as plenty of profitable exercise in Chess play with some of the best players in Canada.

The Chessplayers of Montreal will be pleased to read the following, which we copy from the February number of the *Westminster Papers*.

"On the 28th of January, the City of London Club celebrated Mr. Bird's return to England with a supper. Mr. Gastineau presided, and Mr. Manning occupied the vice chair. Amongst those present, besides the guest of the evening, were Messrs. Boden, Duffy, Blackburne, MacDonnell, Porter, Delannoy, H. F. Down, R. Clark, &c. After supper Mr. Gastineau in the warmest terms proposed the health of Bird, and the toast was received with a demonstrative exhibition of applause, whereto were added musical honours rendered in the most vigorous manner possible.

Mr. Bird in the course of an unaffected speech spoke of the gratification afforded to him by such a reception, and then proceeded to give a few details of his American experiences. He considered that he had experienced much kindness at the hands of many in the States, but he particularly instanced Mr. Perrin and Mr. Barnes, of these two gentlemen he evidently had the highest opinion.

Mr. Bird then went on to speak of his stay in Canada, and he grew extremely enthusiastic concerning the Chessists of that colony.

He especially expressed his appreciation of Mr. Thos. Workman, of Montreal, and mentioned that in a couple of months that gentleman would be in England."

The Photo Chess Board which was to have been ready for printing some time ago, illustrated with portraits of distinguished Chessplayers and composers, has been delayed, owing to the want of four photographs to fill the spaces.

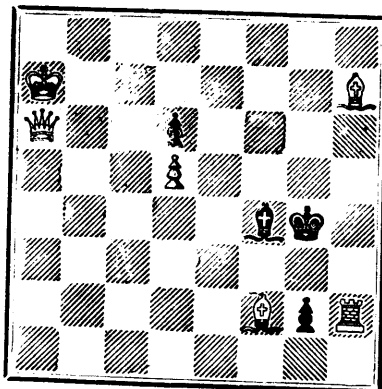
The four gentlemen whose portraits are required have not yet responded, and hence the delay.

PROBLEM No. 164.

(From Land and Water.)

By MR. A. E. STUDD.

BLACK.



WHITE
White to play and mate in three moves.