

EPHEMERIDES.

An Ottawa poet, in writing a versified obituary of the unfortunate Times, of that city,—in *memoriam temporum*—appends a foot note, containing this little alliterative bit of pre-Ottawite history, which is worth preserving:

"Bytown was built by By—but by and by—
Both By and Bytown died, so bye-bye By."

The distinctive attribute of Victor Hugo's genius is sublimity. He has written pages whose grandeur is Titanic. But it may be doubted whether he ever uttered anything more sadly magnificent than on one occasion, during the late war. He was asked by an English friend: "Where are the great men of France?" "In bronze!" And the old poet bowed his head in silence.

This anecdote reminds me of another lately related to me, by a literary friend. When Grimaldi—alas! that none of us knew him—was at the height of his glory in London, the eccentric Dr. Abernethy was also one of the lions whom every body consulted, spite of his harshness and oddities. One day, a poor shrivelled individual called upon the great physician, who, after an eagle glance, growled out:

"Hypochondria, sir!"

"What am I to do then?" asked the patient despairingly.

"Go and see Grimaldi."

"Sir, I'm the man!"

Perhaps for the first and only time in his life, Abernethy was moved.

Talleyrand's sayings are so numerous that they can hardly be remembered, although nearly every one is perfect in epigram and replete with caustic wisdom. When one or another turns up in the course of reading, it ought to be put forward to refresh the memory and to apply, as need is, to present men and things. The following was uttered in the presence of Macaulay, at the table of Holland House, when the Prince de Benevento was Ambassador to England. Metternich was being compared to Mazarin.

"There is a difference," said Talleyrand. "Mazarin deceived, but never lied. Metternich lies, but never deceives."

Some makes use of this expression, "God tempests the wind to the shorn lamb," in his Sentimental Journey, published in 1788; but Herbert has the same idea expressed in his "Jacula Prudentum," 1640:—"To the shorn sheep God gives wind in measure;" and Herbert borrowed it from "Prémices," by Henry Estienne, 1594, where it is thus expressed:—"Don mesure le froid à la berbe tondu." Many people imagine that the expression is to be found in the Bible, but this—like other familiar sayings, such as "In the midst of life we are in death," (English Church Prayer-Book,) and "They roll sin like a sweet morsel under their tongues," (Matthew Henry's "Commentary on the Bible") which are also by many believed to be quotations from Scripture—is a mistake.

A preacher, a few Sundays ago, told from the pulpit this story of Chrysostom. As John the Baptist incurred the wrath of Herodias by fulminating against her conduct, so John, Archbishop of Constantinople, angered the Empress of the East by upbraiding her private behavior. And Theodosia, like Herodias, determined on revenge. She called her Ministers and ordered them to devise a form of punishment for the audacious prelate.

"The wheel," said one.

"The cauldron," said another.

"A sack full of stones and a grave in the bosquins," said a third.

"Exile to the Caucasus," said a fourth.

The oldest of the Ministers sat silent, smiling sardonically. The Empress asked his views.

"The Golden-mouthed," he said, "fears neither fire nor sword, nor water nor ice. There is only one thing he fears."

"What is it?"

"Sin!"

The Empress understood, but she durst not apply the test.

A STEELE PENN.

PARLOR FURNISHING.

Among other excellent articles in the February number of Appleton's well-conducted *Journal*, there is one entitled How to Furnish a House, part of which we here condense for the benefit of the readers of the NEWS. We can pay no higher compliment to a periodical than by making extracts from its contributions, thus testifying to its practical utility.

Paper is a very important item in the furnishing of a room, and should be selected with great care, to harmonize with the other appointments. Plain papers that have the effect of painting are generally the most satisfactory; and they should contain just the least suspicion of the tint to be aimed at.

Paper-hangings should never cover the whole space of a wall from floor to ceiling; but a " dado," or plinth-space, of plain color, either in paper or distemper, should be left to a height of two or three feet from the floor. A light wood moulding, stained or gilded, should separate this from the paper above.

It is a blessing in disguise to people when they cannot get every thing they want at once,

nor get it at the same place. Picking up here and there, at odd times, produces charming results; and furniture thus obtained has an individuality and a meaning which the upholsterer, who makes to order, fails to give it.

People who are not in slavery to the carpet-idea can do great things with a little money; while those who are need expect nothing beyond the orthodox yards of flowers and foliage, or geometrical patterns, done in wood. A room with a grand, new-looking carpet in it, and very little else, is a dreary place enough; while one with scarcely any or no covering at all, but plenty of other things, can be made cozy and delightful. Let it be straw matting and home-made rugs, or painted floor and ditto; but, until a parlor is provided with a few good pictures, flowers either cut or growing, and, at least, a white-clay figure, or group of some kind, it has no right to a carpet. These things educate, and the carpet does not; no one ever called a carpet a leap-hole of the soul!

Very few carpets are properly used; men with slippers on their feet, and tacks in their mouths, pull and stretch it into every possible corner, so that not an inch of space shall be left uncovered, and obligingly notch out places for the various recesses, until the expensive fabric is utterly spoiled for any other room than the one to which it is fitted. It is very ugly, too, arranged in this way—being far more picturesque as a large square, or oblong rug, bordered and trimmed with fringe, and showing all around it a yard or so of dark, polished floor.

A bordering of inlaid wood-work, known as parquetry, is very pretty, and not much more expensive than first-class Brussels carpet. Such a floor-covering has a sort of old-time and Eastern look about it, and may be taken up and shaken with comparative ease—a few nails along the edges keeping it in place when down.

A crimson carpet of very small pattern, in two or three soft shades of the same color, is very pretty with a dark floor-border—particularly with a pale pink or cream-colored paper, with corner lines of crimson in it. With this carpet the furniture-covering should be ashes of roses, ornamented with crimson fringe and brass-headed nails; the sofas of divan shape, well stuffed, but no wood-work visible; the chairs may be bought at a chair-factory in a skeleton state, and either transformed into enameled wood by painting with three coats of dead-white and varnishing, using a little dead-gold judiciously, or ebonyized by substituting black paint for white.

BRELOQUES POUR DAMES.

AWAY down in the corner of many a woman's heart lurks the sentiment:—"No bonnet, no church."

A young lady in Texas, who advertises for a husband, says she can talk philosophy as well as rock the cradle.

A MAN who can govern himself and his wife and child has got as far as the rule of three in the matrimonial arithmetic.

LADIES are like watches—pretty enough to look at; sweet faces and delicate hands, but somewhat difficult to "regulate" after they are set a-going.

HERBERT SPENCER says the gold ring worn by married women is the sign of the iron ring that was worn about the neck or ankle in olden times, and indicated the submission of the wearer.

The papers relate an anecdote of a beautiful young lady, who had become blind, having recovered her sight after marriage. It is no uncommon thing for people's eyes to be opened by matrimony.

The other day in an up-town New York residence, a ring at the door was heard, and the servant girl, calling to her mistress, said:—"Please, mum, go to the door, an' if it's anybody for me, tell 'em I'm engaged."

"WILLIAM," observed a Milwaukee woman to her husband, "Mrs. Holcomb feels pretty badly now, since the loss of her child, and I wish you would drop over there and see her. You might say that all flesh is grass; that we've all got to go the same way; and see if she is going to use her dripping-pan this afternoon."

A LADY sends to a Chinese laundry a washing list, among the items in the following:

1 Filled White Petticoat—
No Starch.

When the washing is returned, the bill contains the following items:

1 Filled White Petticoat..... 20 cents.
No Starch..... 10 cents.

VARIETIES.

THE STORY AS A MAN TELLS IT.—Yesterday morning a woman living on Napoleon street was seen on the walk in front of the gate heaving the snow right and left, and she had only got fairly settled to work when a boy lounged up and remarked:

"I'll clear off the walk for 10 cents."

"I guess I'm able to do it," she replied.

"But see how it looks," he continued.

"Here you are a perfect lady in look and action, highly educated, and yet you grovel in dust, as it were, to save the pitiful sum of 10 cents."

"You grovel along and mind your own business," she curtly replied, still digging away.

"It's worth 10 cents," he said as he leaned

against the fence, "but I'm a feller with some sentiment in my bosom. Now, we'll say 5 cents, or just enough to cover the wear and tear o' my bones. Give me the shovel and you go in, get on your sealskin sacque and best jewelry, and while I work you stand out here and boss around, and talk as if you owned the biggest part of North America, while I had nothing, and was in debt for that."

She looked at him sharply, saw that he was in earnest, and when she passed over the snow-shovel she put two nickles in his hand. He looked after her as she went in, and then sadly mused:

"Oh! Flattery, thy surest victim is a woman homely enough for a scare-crow!"

OLD SI AND HIS WIFE'S TROUBLES.—"Ef you'd bin down ter my house las night you'd seen a pannyraimer!" said Old Si.

"How is that?"

"My ole 'oman, she bought a socon'-han one oh dese hyar newly-'vented steel-spring female tenders, an'—"

"Bought what, you say?"

"One oh dese hyar patint fish traps dat a 'oman strays on an' totes 'round!"

"A bustle?"

"Dar, now, dat's de very name! Well, she tried fer ter put hit on, an' ez she hez only got nine yard of kaliker in her dress, yer kin 'magine de strugglin' dat she had!"

"Well, did she get it on?"

"Oh, yas, she got hit on jess ez eezy 'ez puttin' de harness on a street-kyar mule. De aggytashen ariz when she cum to put on her dress ober de darn contrapshin!"

"How did that work?"

"Blessid marster, dat's what I'se tryin' ter tell yer—hit didn't work at all, sah. She jess gymnasted 'round dar tell dar wuzn't room in de house fer nuthin' else but her an' dat shuck basket affa'r! I had ter help her on wid de gyarmint, honey!"

"Why, how did you manage it, sir?"

"Sho! I'se waggin' so many days not ter get de better ob a case like dat! I jess stood de ole 'oman on de table an' cotch hold ob de dress wid de waggin'-kiver grab, an' I had dat gyarmint on fore yer cood say Jack Robberson!"

"Well, and how did she get out of it?"

"Oh! oh! don't ask me dat! I went visitin' soon ez I got hit on her an' stayed tell bedtime, yer kin be bound!"

IS YOUR NOTE GOOD?—A Boston lawyer was called on a short time ago by a boy, who inquired if he had any waste paper to sell. The lawyer has a crisp, keen way of asking questions, and is moreover, a methodical man. So pulling out a large drawer, he exhibited his stock of waste paper.

"Will you give me two shillings for that?"

The boy looked at the paper very dubiously a moment, and offered fifteen cents.

"Done!" said the lawyer, and the paper was quickly transferred to the bag of the boy, whose eyes sparkled as he lifted the weighty mass.

Not till it was stowed away, did he announce that he had no money.

"No money? How do you expect to buy paper without money?"

Not prepared to state his plan, the boy made no reply.

"Do you consider your note good?" asked the lawyer.

"Yes, sir."

"Very well; if you consider your note is good, I would just as soon have it as money; but if it is not good I don't want it."

The boy affirmed that he considered it good; whereupon the lawyer wrote a note for fifteen cents, which the boy signed legibly, and lifting his bag of paper trudged off.

Soon after dinner the little fellow returned, and producing the money, announced that he had come to pay his note.

"Well," said the lawyer, "this is the first time I ever knew a note to be taken up the day it was given. A boy that will do that is entitled to the note and money, too," and giving him both, sent him on his way with a smiling face and a happy heart.

The boy's note represented his honor. A boy who thus keeps his honor bright, however poor he may be in worldly things, is an heir to an inheritance which no riches can buy—the choice promises of God.

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.—Solutions of Problems No. 102 and 103 received. There is an evident dual in each of these fine problems. Your suggestion of a Black Bishop on Q R sq. in Problem No. 103, would have prevented the defeat.

J. W. S., Montreal.—Correct solution of Problem No. 104 received. We are pleased to hear you speak so highly of this fine composition. You do not overrate it.

M. F., Watertown, N. Y.—Letter received. You shall receive an answer by post.

We learn with much regret, from the English papers, of the death of Herr Kling, the celebrated Chess problem composer. He was most successful in his combinations on diagrams, and obtained prizes at the last two Tournaments of the British Chess Association, taking the third prize in 1896, and a special prize for the best two move problem, in 1870. In 1851, he produced a work containing some of the most intricate end games occurring in the actual play of noted Chess players; and difficult stratagems, remarkable combinations and positions, and, indeed, any curiosities of the game were always sure to attract his attention. We are glad to see it reported that his personal qualities were of a nature to render him a great favourite with a large circle of friends, who will miss him as much as the Chess world at large will regret

the loss of his ability to increase the literature of the game.

One of the great attractions in connection with Chess in England during the past month, was the blind-fold match of Herr Zukertort, played simultaneously against sixteen of the strongest players of the West End Club, in London. The performance of this unprecedented feat extended over two evenings, and resulted in the loss of only one game on his part, the remainder being either won or drawn. This achievement throws into the shade all other contests of the like nature. A remarkable feature of the match was the power of the great player to run over from memory the moves of any game in which a difficulty arose, from the beginning to the point in dispute, thus clearly showing that he had the whole of the combinations of the sixteen games plainly tabulated on his brain, and ready to be recalled at any moment.

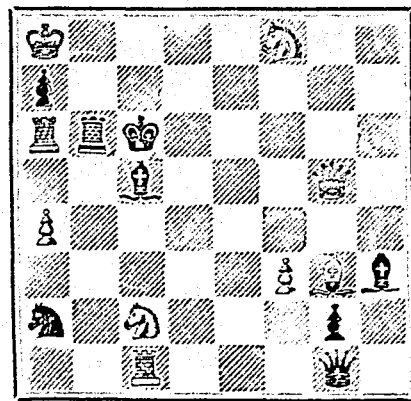
We are happy to state that Mr. Bird, the celebrated Chessplayer, of England, who has been for some time in the United States, is now on a visit to Canada. He attended the meeting of the Montreal Chess Club on Saturday last, and contested a game or two with the members present. He proposed playing twenty simultaneous games with a like number of the members of the Club, some particulars of which, should they come off, we will insert in the next Chess column. Mr. Bird exhibits all that geniality which seems to characterize the great champions of the chequered board across the Atlantic, and is willing to play any antagonist who may present himself.

PROBLEM No. 106.

By G. H. THORNTON.

(From the Westminster Papers.)

BLACK



WHITE

White playing, mates in two moves.

GAME 153RD.

Played recently at the Montreal Chess Club between Messrs. Shaw and Atkinson, the latter giving the odds of Pawn and move.

Black's K B P must be removed from the board.

WHITE.—(Mr. Shaw.)	BLACK.—(Mr. Atkinson.)
1. P to K 4	P to K 3
2. P to K B 4	P to Q 4
3. P to K 5	P to Q B 4
4. B to Q 3	P to K Kt 3
5. P to Q B 3	P to B 5
6. B to Q B 2	B to Q B 4
7. Kt to K B 3	Kt to Q B 4
8. P to Q 3	P takes P
9. B takes P	Q to Q Kt 3
10. Q to Q B 2	Kt to K 2
11. P to Q Kt 4	B to K 6
12. Kt to Q R 3	B to Q 2
13. Kt to Q Kt 5	Cashes (K R) (a)
14. P to K Kt 5	Kt to K B 4 (b)
15. Q to K 2 (c)	B takes B
16. B takes K Kt	B takes B
17. B takes B	Kt takes K P
18. Q Kt to Q 4	Kt takes Kt (ch)
19. Q takes Kt (d)	R to B 2
20. Kt to B sq (e)	P to K 4
21. Kt to K 2	B to R 6 (ch)
22. K to K sq	P to K 5
23. Q to K B 2	P to K 6
24. Q to B 3	B to B 4
25. Q takes Q P	Q R to Q sq
26. Q to Q B 5	Q to R 3
27. Q takes K P (f)	R to Q 6
28. Q to K 5 (ch)	R to B sq
29. Q to K 7	Q to Q B 3
30. R to B sq	R to K sq
31. Q to Q B 5	

And Black announced mate in four moves.

NOTES.

(a) If Black move 13, Kt takes K P, &c., he loses a piece.

(b) Again, if Black take King's pawn, he loses at least the exchange.

(c) Threatening to win a pawn at least.

(d) Kt takes Kt would have been better.

(e) If he had castled, he would have lost a piece.

(f) The capture of these pawns was not advisable, as it opened files for the adverse rooks.

SOLUTIONS.

Solution of Problem No. 104.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1. R to Q 5	Kt takes B
2. Q takes Kt (ch)	K to K R 4
3. Kt mates	

Solution of Problem for Young Players, No. 102.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1. R to Q 3	Any move.
2. Q mates.	

PROBLEMS FOR YOUNG PLAYERS NO. 103.

WHITE.	BLACK.
K at K R 3	K at Q R 5
R at K B sq	B at K Kt 3
B at K sq	Kt at K 6
B at Q 7	Pawns at Q R 3, and
Kt at Q 2	Q Kt 3 and 4
Pawns at Q R 2 and	
Q Kt 2	

White to play and mate in three moves.

"DEVINS' VEGETABLE WORM PASTILLES" are one of the greatest medical improvements of modern times. They combine what has hitherto been considered the most opposite and distinct qualities—being as agreeable to the taste as the most delicious confectionery, as delightful to the smell as fresh flowers, and more effective in their medicinal operation than any preparation hitherto discovered; they are safe for the most delicate child, and are guaranteed to remove every vestige of worms. The genuine have the word "Devins" stamped on each pastille.