THE LITERATURE OF SMOKING.

Nothing has been more belauded, nothing more abused. than smoking. At one time it has been all the fashion, at another it has been altogether tabooed; ignored as completely as it is ignored in the pages of Shakespeare; idolised as com-pletely as it was idolised by Dr. Parr; cast off as ruthlessly as Blackstone cast off the Muses he had woodd. Poets, divines, orators, and historians have waxed eloquent in its praises, and not less eloquent have been the furious invectives hurled against it. It has been one of those things — there are not many—on which every one has had definite opinions. Those who have written or spoken for or against it have been equally unmeasured in the phraseology they employ. King James the First thundered the first volley in his famous " Counterblast to Tobacco," and this was followed by a "Volley from Parnassus," by an anonymous writer, whose wrath seems to have outstripped his power of expression. An undertone of grumbling in the shape of epigrams, occasional pamphlets. sarcastic notes, &c., is sometimes discernible to the curious in such things all through our literature, but these grumblers are mostly of the subterranean order, mere croakers in the nethermost mud. One renegade, however, we must notice—a man who ought to have known better—Charles Lamb. His " Farewell to Tobacco" is the expression of the only piece of ingratitude that gentle nature was guilty of-if ingratitude it was. Catullus, we know, always discovered when Lesbia was fondest of him by the heartless way in which she abused him-Perhaps the same paradoxical sentiment was guiding the infatuated Lamb when he penned the line "Filth o' the mouth, and fog o' the mind"-a plagiarism, by the way, from a great smoker, who calls silence "Frost o' the mouth, and thaw o' the mind." One of the greatest of modern poets, tolerant of everything beside, has the bad taste to be intolerant on this one subject, and hates a pipe or cigar as he would be ashamed to hate anything or anybody else in the world. But smokers can afford to smile at these black swans, as they glance over the goodly list of those who have been guilty of the same weakness as themselves. The great Dr. Isaac Barrow called his pipe his Panpharmacon, or cure for everything. Bishop Hall and Dr. Hooker were by no means proof against a quiet clay. We can see Ben Jonson and Drummond with the white vapor wreathing itself, around them, and are by no means certain that my Lord Bacon did not know from experience the truth of his own words, " Tobacco comforteth the spirits and dischargeth weariness which it worketh partly by opening, but chiefly by the opiate virtue which condenseth the spirits." Fletcher had many a quiet pipe with Beaumont, and Sir Thomas Overbury often soothed himself in a pause of his troubled life with "that delectable pastime." Scholars and students of every kind have been faithful votaries of the weed. Boxhore, the great Dutch scholar, was such a slave to it that he wore a very broadbrimmed hat, pierced a hole through it, and so supported his pipe while his hands were free, and smoked unimpeded day and night. Dently could never sufficiently thank Cumberland for initiating him into the delightful mystery of enjoying a pipe, and only regretted he had not begun earlier to learn it; he was over seventy when he had his first lesson. Porson used to dogmatically assert that when smoking went out of fashion, learning did so too, and old Dr. Parr insisted on taking his pipe with him wherever he went. "No pipe, no Parr," was his snappish and ungallant speech to a lady who objected to the fumigation of her drawing-room. The only rest poor old Hobbes got in that stormy, contentions existence of his, was when he could light his pipe in comfort, and forget all about Dr. Eachard or Wallis. Who cannot see in imagination John Milton smoking his regular evening pipe and talking between whits to gentle Elwood; or step over to the "Rose" and survey the author of "Hudibras," silent, absent, and reserved, with a history in every line of that hard, coarse face, now lit up with the flare of the live coal he has put into the bowl of his pipe? Fielding was a great smoker, and many a scene of those harum-scarum comedies of his were dashed off on his tobacco paper. Tillotson was not a little attached to his evening pipe, and Jeremy Taylor meditated not a few of his golden pages through the "wreaths of a curling mist which was born not of the meadows." Old Burton, the author of the immortal "Anatomy of Melancholy," has a curious passage on the divine plant. He knows not what to conclude of it: -" Tobacco, divine, rare, super-excellent tobacco, which goes iar beyond all their panaceas, potable gold, and philosopher's stones; a sovereign remedy to all disenses; but, as it is commonly abused by most men, which take it as tinkers do ale, its a plague, a mischief, a violent purger of goods, lands, One may read in this the experience of many "merrie, facete, and juvenile" hours with old John Rouse, of the Bodleian, in the back quad of Christ Church, for he, like Burton, was a hero of the weed. Mathematicians have generally been great smokers, though we hope for the honour of the name they did not, like Sir Isaac Newton, use the flugers of their lady loves for stoppers. All the wits of Queen Anne's time were nothing without their pipes. Steele wrote with a pipe in his mouth, and it was when wreathed in smoke that Addison shone most. Dryden, after his snuff box, loved a whiff, and the great Mr. Congreve scorned not a "churchwarden;" Ambrose Philips was elo-John has written a praises, and his namesake delightful alcaie ode in its praise. Who can forget honest Dr. Brown's a Little pipe of mighty power," and think of Daniel Defoe without his pipe? The "Speciator" always devoted an hour in the evening to absorbing a clay, and if ever his equanimity was disturbed it was when the dancing Frenchman broke his pipes. In later times tobacco has cot been popular with literary men; Shelley could not endure a pipe, nor could Edgar Poe nor Moore. Neither Macaulay, nor De Quincey were smokers. If report speaks truly, however, a good many distinguished writers of our own day keep up the traditions of olden times. The novels of Dickens did not suffer, nor perhaps do the poems of Mr. Tennyson from their devotion to the "sweete habit."-London Globe.

Attention is directed to the advertisement of the Christian Brothers in another column. These gentlemen have opened at the old "Bishop's School" in this city an academy for preparing boys and young men for commercial life. The success the Brothers have hitherto attained in their system of education will be a guarantee for the future,

Thess.

TO OURRESPONDENTS.

Tell in impossible for us to answer letters by mail. Games, Problems, Solutions, &c., forwarded are always vedeome, and receive due attention, but we trust that our correspondents will consider the various demands upon our time, and accept as answers the necessarily brief replies through our "column."

Alpha. Whithy.—Your letter was duly received, also correct solution of Problem Nos. 91 and 93, and Enigma No. 29. Letter will be attended to. Problem will appear in due course.

C. S. B., Montreal.—Solution of Problem No. 92 received, quite

A. T. M., Quebec.—Correct as to the first two positions of Problem No. 92: below is a complete solution of the problem. Your solution of Nos. 89 and 91 is all right.

J. A. R., Toronto.-Problems received; many thanks.

A brief "skirmish" which occurred some time ago between two members of the Montreal Chess Club.

Evans' Gambit. Black-Mr. W. Atkinson. White-Mr. G. H. Larminie. 13. Kt. ch. 14. Q. to K. 6th mate.

The following, from the July number of the Chess Record, will amply repay perusal. The attacking player gives the odds of Queen's Rook.

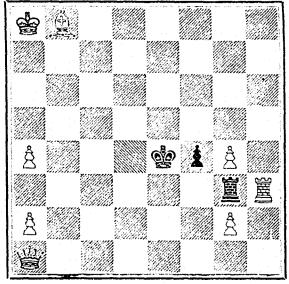
(a) Better have retired the Bishop.

(Remove White's Q. Rook.)

r.vana	vamon.
White Mr. heichhelm.	Black Mr. F,
I. P. to K 4th	P. to K. 4th
2. K. Kt. to B. 3rd	Q. Kt. to B. 3rd
3. B. to B. 4th	B to B. 4th
4. P. to Q. Kt. 4th	B. takes Kt. P.
5. P. to Q. B. 3rd	B. to B. 4th
6. Castles.	P. to Q. 5rd
7. P. to Q. (th	P. takes P.
8. P. takes P.	B. to Kt. 3rd
9. R. to K. sq.	P. to K. R. 3rd
10. Kt. to B. 3rd	B. to Kt. 5th
II. Q. to R. 4th	B. takes Kt.
12. P. to Q. 5th	p. to Kt. oth
13. P. takes Kt.	P. takes P.
14. P. to K. 5th	P. takes P.
15. R. to Q. sq.	B. takes R.
le. Q. takes P. ch.	K. to B. sq.
17. B. to K 3rd ch.	Kt. to K. 2nd
18. Kt. to Q. 5th	Q. to K. su.
19. B. takes Kt. ch	K. to Kt. gq.
D. Q. to K. Kt. 6th	P. takes Q.
21. Rt. to B. 6th mate.	

First prize Problem in the Mail. PROBLEM No. 94. By Mr. R. H. Ramsey.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in four moves.

ENIGNA No. 30. By Mr. R. H. Ramsey.

The following won the first prize as an Emgma in the Moil chees huma some time ago.

White, -K, at Q, B, 5th, Q, at Q, B, 3rd, Kt, at K, B, 8th, P, at K. B. ith.

Black .- K. at K. 5th. Ps. at K. B. 2nd and K. B. 4th.
White to play and mate in five moves.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM NO. 92. Whuc. Black. First position. 1. R takes P. 2. Kt. to K. B. 3rd 3. P. to Kt. 4th mate. B. takes R. (or m) B. takes Kt. B. to R. 5th 2. R. to R. 3rd ch. 3. P. to Kt. 4th mate. Second position. 1. P. takes P. 2. R. to Kt. 4th 3. R. to R. 4th ch. 4. P. to Kt. 4th mate. B. to K. 6th (best) B. to Kt. 4th B. takes it. Third position. 1. R. to Q. Kt. 7th 2. R. to Kt. eq. 3. R. to K. sq. 4. K. to Kt. 6th 5. R. to K. 4th mate. B. to Kt. 5th (best) B. to R. 7th " K. to R. 5th " Any move.

Solution of Enigma No. 29.

B. to R. sq.
B. to R. 8th
B. to R. 7th
B. to Q. B. 5th mate,

White.

Black. moves,

Scraps.

An International Corn and Seed Market was held at Vienna on the 5th and 6th of August.

The Khedive of Egypt has obtained permission to place his third son in the Prussian Dragoon Guards to obtain a military education.

Mr. Miall, M. P., was recently entertained at luncheon by a party ofgentlemen at the Crystal Palace, and was presented with a purse of £10,000.

A movement is on foot to form a new State to be called by the miserable name of "Nashoba," out of portions of Mississippi, Tennessee and Kentucky.

Lady Burdett Coutts has been presented by 2,000 of the working people of the east of London with an oil-painting, as a memorial of their good feeling and esteem.

A monument has been unveiled in the University of Naples bearing the inscription:—"To Pope Clement XVI., who, by the bull of the 21st of July, 1773, dissolved the Society of the Jesuits, the University of Naples dedicates this monument."

The Rev. Henry Ward Beecher is said to have remarked, in his cold, frigid way, that any one who is too plous to play croquet ought to be done up in starched linen, put in a bag, and hung up like a suit of Sunday clothes, and not let out till meeting-

Some experiments have lately been made in the arsenal at Vienna with a new explosive mixture, the "Volkman powder," which are stated to have produced very satisfactory results, and to have shown that the new mixture is cheaper and more pow-

erful than ordinary gunpowder.

A thousand boxes of "extra fine new season's Moyune gunpowder green tea, ex-Sarpedon steamship from Canton," sold two weeks since, in the English metropolis, contained forty to forty-three per cent, of iron filings and nineteen per cent, of silica, in the form of fine sand, "cleverly mixed with and added to the leaves before curling."

A Treasury circular has been issued to all the public departments in England forbidding, under penalty of dismissal, civil servants of the Crown from communicating official information within their cognisance to the press. "My Lords" have, at the same time, transmitted a form of declaration to be signed by the employés to the effect that they will observe the rule.

Having exhausted the attraction of "Babies" and "Barmalds," the proprietor of the North Woodwich Garden announces as his forthcoming novelty "A Grand Beard and Moustache Show" for next Wednesday, when "prize medals" will be awarded by a jury of ladies to those competing gentlemen who publicly exhibit their hirsute adornments on the occasion.

Skeleton		of a	lady	newspaper		correspondent's				letter:				
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Music and the Drama.

Stockholm wants a good national opera, and the director of the Opera House has offered a prize of nearly \$3,000 for the best operatic work, in three acts, on a national subject.

The Schumann Festival at Bonn took place on the 17th and 18th inst.

The following are the dates fixed for the British Musical Festivals: Birmingham, August 26, 27, 28 and 29; Hereford, Sept. 9, 10, 11 and 12; Bristol, October 21, 22, 23 and 24; Glasgow, November 5 and following days; Edinburgh, November 10 and following days.

Mme. Christine Nilsson-Rouzaud has left town for the Isle of Wight, and will afterwards go to Paris and Geneva prior to leaving for her American tour at the end of next month. Her return to Her Majesty's Opera for the season 1874 will be in May, when Bulfe's "Talismano" is to be the first novelty to be produced.

Mile. Murska has created a great sensation at the Imperial Opera House in Vienna, in the German adaptation of the "Hamlet" of M. Ambroise Thomas, as Ophelia.

The following is a return of the works executed, the number of representations of each at Her Majesty's Opera during the recent season:—Gounod: "Faust," 9 times, Verdi: "Rigoletto," (; "Travlata," 3; "Trovatore," 36. Bellini: "Norma," 2. Meyerbeer: "Huguenots," 5. Donizetti: "Favorita," 6: "Lucia," 5: "Lucrezia Borgia," 3. Flotow: "Marta," 4. Rossini: "Semiramide," 5. Mozart: "Nozze di Figaro," 2. Ambroise Thomas: "Mignon," 5.

According to half a dozen English correspondents, there has been trouble between the Queen of England and the Queen of Song. Nilsson had been asked to sing at the first of a series of private concerts given by the Queen, but not at the second, at which the Shah of Persia was to be present. This irritated her, and she declined on the plea of a previous engagement. According to court etiquette, an invitation from the sovereign is a command, to which all other affairs must give way. A few days later, the Court went to the opera, but left at the end of the first act. These two fancied affronts were more than the high-tem-pered Swede could bear. She cancelled all her engagements, grows cooler she will look at her conduct in a different light.

The London Echo says: "But few pieces de circonstances have been produced on the Spanish stage during the present political crists in Spain. Two only have obtained some success, "The Triumph of the Republic" and "The Crown and Phrygian Cap." The former is a complicated and confused piece: the latter, Corona y gorro frigio, is simpler. Two beautiful maldens, one representing the Monarchy and the other the Republic, are equally beloved by a youth, who cannot make up his mind which to choose. At length a worthy but very tedious old man, who represents Time, shows him some historical tableaux vivants—extremely well done—which are, of course, unfavourable to Monarchy. His indecision vanishes; he gives his heart hand the course and discourse the second or the course and discourse the course the c wholly to the Republic, whereupon the scene opens, and discloses another representing the Republic of the United States. The young man kneels before a hideous landscape, the principal features of which are viaducts, factory chirmeys, railway stations, and telegraphic posts; while his divine betrothed blesses him with a smile, displaying the whitest teeth that ever adorned an Andalusian mouth. The greatest success is, however, enjoyed by the allegorical ballets, which consist simply of what is sometimes cuphoniously termed a French quadrille, performed by monks and nuns, which is interrupted by the entrance of the principal ballerina, dressed as the Republic, and her partner is a Catalan volunteer, who execute a solemn dance in praise of Liberty

Presence of mind, remarks the Alta Culifornia, is a great gift,