

through Italian odours to burn the lips of the rejected scion of a coroneted race.

If I were not afraid of offending the proprieties I should say "How is that for high." The general tone of the book indeed may be described as a thing after the gorgeous picturesqueness of Ouida's writing, without Ouida's genius to redeem what is ridiculous in it.

The concluding chapters are the best in the book, which, however, are wanting in reality and spirit by the affectation there hinted at. (Boston, Roberts Bros. Montreal, Dawson Bros.)

The same publishers have issued a revised edition of Dr. Abbott's well known little work "How to tell the parts of speech."

LAME CELEBRITIES.

"There goes the celebrated Mr. C., the lame lawyer," remarked a lady to her companion, as he passed them in the street. "Excuse me, madam," said he, turning sharply, "you are mistaken; a lame man, not a lame lawyer."

It is curious to note how many of this class have been afflicted with lameness, from Vulcan and Mephistophiles, who, if not literary in themselves, were the cause of literature in others down to our own period.

Esop was the common but of all his companions and contemporaries, but his wonderful fables give abundant evidence that he accepted ridicule most philosophically, and always returned it with compound interest to his tormentors; and the same may be said of Socrates.

Lord Bacon truly says, referring to personal deformity:—"Whoso has anything fixed in his person that doth induce contempt, hath also a perpetual spur in himself to rescue and deliver himself from scorn; also it stirreth in him industry." But, at the same time, to this cause may doubtless be attributed the bitter sarcasm and satirical cynicism of Byron, Pore and Scarron.

It has been said, though never proven, that Shakespeare was troubled with a slight limp, which perhaps was what confined him to third-rate parts as an actor, and also accounts for his well-known shyness, a weakness common to all thus afflicted. He would often make long circuits, in spite of his lameness, through back streets, to avoid recognition.

So I made lame by fortune's dearest spite, etc. And strength by limping away disabled, etc.—Sonnet LXXVI.

The lameness of Lord Byron is well-known, and his excessive sensitiveness concerning his club-foot. He would frequently endure torture in endeavoring to disguise his limp, of which he actually seemed to be ashamed.

Samuel Foote, the great dramatist and actor, was very lame, but his own cheerful disposition enabled him to make light of it. One of his best plays is "The Lame Lover," in which the author himself enacted the lover.

Sir Walter Scott chose literature as a profession rather than enter the army, for which he had a decided preference, because of his lameness, to which fact we probably owe his wonderful novels and poems. His son having expressed a wish to enter the army, he wrote to his friend Southey, the poet: "I have no title to combat a choice which would have been my own, had not my lameness prevented."

The case of Talleyrand was parallel. He too was destined for the army; but, as with Scott, his lameness prevented, while it gave the world one of the greatest diplomatists of his time. On one occasion, on being questioned by a man who squinted most abominably, concerning his leg, recently broken, he replied: "It is quite crooked, as you see."

There is an anecdote extant of Lord Palmerston, who was afflicted from his birth. Lady Byron once asked him how he had managed to survive the many administrations of which he had been part and parcel. "Lady Byron," replied the premier, "you must know that from my birth I have hobbled through life."

Charles Matthews the great comedian and author, was also quite lame and naturally very shy. In "Life and Correspondence of Charles Matthews," written by his wife, she says that "he looked sheepish and confused if recognized, and his eyes would fall and color mount if he heard his name even whispered in passing along the streets."

Of our own writers may be mentioned the eccentric Joaquin Miller, the "Poet of the Sierras," who is lame in the left leg and right arm from gun-shot wounds received in one of his Western experiences that he delights to celebrate in glowing verse.

The most remarkable of all perhaps when his terrible deformities are considered in connection with his powers as a writer and his fortunate faculty of being jolly under the most adverse circumstances that would cast Mark Tapley in the shade, was Paul Scarron, the

most celebrated of French satirists. He was born in Paris, of good family, in 1610, and died in 1660. His father took a second wife, and Paul was driven from home by his stepmother. His youth was passed in reckless riot, and excesses of all kinds destroyed his constitution. At the age of twenty-seven, during a carnival frolic, disguised as a savage, he was hunted by the mob and forced to hide from pursuit for several hours in a marsh. Sciatica and rheumatism set in, succeeded by a complication of disorders, and he was pronounced incurable. At thirty years of age he draws this grim and vivid picture of himself:—"My person was formerly well-made, though little, my disorders have shortened it a foot; my legs and thighs formed an obtuse angle, and at length an acute angle; my thighs and body form another angle, and my head reclines on my breast, so that I am a pretty accurate representation of the letter Z; in a word I am an abridgement of human miseries. This I have thought proper to tell those who have never seen me, because there are some facetious persons who amuse themselves at my expense and describe me as being made in a different way from what I am. Some say I am a "Cul de Jatte;" others that I have no thighs and am set on a table in a case; others that my hat is appended to a chord, which, by means of a pulley, I raise and let down to salute those who visit me. I have therefore got an engraving in which I am accurately represented; indeed, among your wry-necked people I pass for one of the handsomest." He passed through many privations and sufferings, but was at length relieved by a pension from Cardinal Richelieu and another from Anne of Austria. His great work is "The Roman Comique," a comic romance, relating the adventures of a company of strolling comedians, abounding in grotesque description and keen satire. Till his death he continued burlesque writing, his "Vergil Travesti" being the most celebrated. With a knowledge of the severity of the author's afflictions at the time he wrote, his unalterable gaiety in the midst of so many misfortunes cannot but be wondered at and admired. GEORGE BIRDSEYE.

GALASHIELS CRAFTINESS.—The Kelson Courier says:—Here is an interesting account of the craftiness of our Galalean neighbours. That the Scotch are "canny," even unto cuteness, the following may tend to show. Sometime ago a railway was being made in the neighbourhood of Galashiels, and it was arranged that each of he numerous navvies employed should pay one penny a week to a medical practitioner, so that they might have his services in the event of accident, or medicine in the case of illness. During the summer and autumn neither illness nor accident occurred. But when a severe winter followed, all at once the "navigators" began to call on the doctor for castor-oil. Each brought his bottle, into which an ounce was poured, until the oil was exhausted, and the doctor forced to Edinburgh for a further supply. When that, too, was getting done, the doctor one day quietly asked a decent-looking fellow what was wrong with the men that they required so much castor-oil. "Nothing wrong at all, doctor; we grease our big boots with it!" Mem.—From that day the doctor arranged that all castor-oil should be drunk on the premises.

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

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

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. W. S., Montreal.—Papers to hand. Thanks. Student, Montreal.—Correct solution received of Problem No. 321. E. D. W., Sherbrooke, P. Q.—Sorry Problem No. 332 was so indistinct. The position is as follows: White, K at Q 3, Q at K R 4, B at Q B sq, Kt at K 3, Pawns at K 2 and Q Kt 4. Black, K at K 5, B at Q B 6, Pawns at K R 7. White to mate in two moves.

The British Chess Magazine for June is a very interesting one, and fully realizes all that was anticipated from the skill of its well-known editor and his coadjutors. The annotated games form a valuable part of the contents, and we know of no better course of study, which we could recommend to the chess student, than, with board and men, to play over each with a determination to learn the why and wherefore of every move leading to an important combination.

Chess news and Chess jottings are full of interest, and the Problem World must be a delightful one to those who live in that sphere.

The following letter from the Philadelphia Times has claims upon the attention of chessplayers on both sides of the Atlantic. We have no doubt of the acceptance of the challenge conveyed in this letter, if not by the gentlemen whose names are mentioned, at all events, by others well able to maintain the credit of the old country players, and we may look forward to as much interest being shown in the result of this contest, should it take place, as was manifested in the late match between Liverpool and Calcutta. The fact that it is intended to be a trial of chess skill between two countries, each taking a prominent place in promoting the cause of the royal game is sufficient, we hope, to recommend it to all the chess players.

PHILADELPHIA, June 4, 1881.

To the President and Members of the St. George's Chess Club, of London:

GENTLEMEN.—In order to promote a more general interest in chess and strike a new key in the politics of the game, the Philadelphia Chess Club, through its first-class players, invites Messrs. Steinitz, Zukertort and such other first-class players of your club as may be selected to a match of two simultaneous games by Atlantic cable, the general features of conduct to be the same as in the Liverpool Calcutta contest and such rules as may be mutually agreed upon. Trusting for an early response, we remain, with much consideration, yours truly. (Signed) D. M. MARTINEZ, President of the Philadelphia Chess Club. G. REICHELTM, Secretary pro tem.

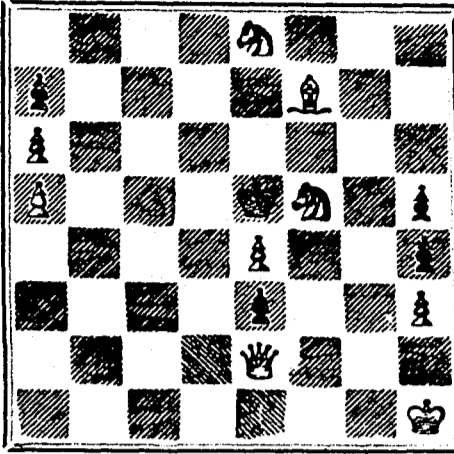
The match in St. Louis between twelve amateurs and Capt. Mackenzie, two games each, at the odds of the

Knight, has resulted in the disastrous overthrow of the amateurs. Of the 24 games, Captain Mackenzie won 21, lost 1 and drew 2.—Turf, Field and Farm.

PROBLEM No. 334

By J. G. Finch.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

GAME 461ST.

Played in London, Eng., two years ago, between Messrs. Blunt and Potter, the latter giving the odds of P and two moves.

(Remove Black's K B P.)

- White.—(Mr. Blunt.) 1. P to K 4, 2. P to Q 4, 3. Kt to Q B 3, 4. B to Q 3, 5. Kt to B 3, 6. Castles, 7. P to K 5, 8. Kt to Q Kt 5 (a), 9. B takes B (cb), 10. P to Q Kt 3, 11. Q to Q 3, 12. Kt to R 4, 13. B takes Kt (cb), 14. B to R 3, 15. P to K B 4, 16. K to B 3, 17. R to Kt 3, 18. P takes P, 19. R to K B sq, 20. B takes Kt, 21. Kt to B 3, 22. Kt to K sq, 23. R to K 3, 24. P to K R 3, 25. Q to K 2, 26. P takes B, 27. R to Kt 3, 28. K takes r. Black.—(Mr. Potter.) 1. P to Q 3, 2. P to K 3, 3. Q to K 2, 4. B to Q 2, 5. P to K Kt 3, 6. P to Q 4, 7. P takes Kt, 8. Kt to B 3, 9. P to B 3, 10. P to K R 3, 11. Q to Kt 2, 12. Kt to K 2, 13. P takes B, 14. R to K Kt sq, 15. Castles, 16. K to Kt 2, 17. P to Kt 4, 18. P takes P, 19. Q to R 3, 20. B takes B, 21. P to Kt 5, 22. B to R 5, 23. R to K R sq, 24. Q to R Kt sq, 25. B takes Kt, 26. P takes P, 27. P takes P (b), 28. Q to R 7 (cb) and win.

NOTES.

- (a) Playing Black's game. (b) An excellent move, which settles the matter.

SOLUTIONS.

Solution of Problem No. 332.

- 1. Q to K R 4, 2. Mates acc. 1. Any

Solution of Problem for Young Players No. 330.

- WHITE. 1. Q to Q 3, 2. Mates acc. BLACK. 1. Any

PROBLEM FOR YOUNG PLAYERS, No. 331.

- White. K at K B sq, Q at Q B 6, B at K B 2, Kt at K B 7. Black. K at K B 6, B at K B 5, Kt at Q Kt 4, Pawns at K 5, K Kt 5 and Q 2. White to play and mate in two moves.

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