

EPICEDE.

(James Laeimer Graham died at Florence, April 30, 1876.)

Life may give for love to death
Little: what are life's gifts worth
To the dead who rest with earth?

Dead so long before his day.
Passed out of the Italian sun
To the dark where all is done.

Not a kinder life or sweeter.
Time, that lights and quenches men.
Now many quench or light again.

In this heavenliest part of earth
He that living loved the light.
Light and song may rest aright.

Light, and song, and sleep at last—
Struggling hands and suppliant knees
Get no softer gift than these.

A. C. SWINBURNE.

SMITH, BROWN, JONES AND ROBINSON.

"Then that is understood," said M. N. of Calais to M. V. of the same place. "All you have to do is just to ask the name, and courteously invite the party to pass on."

The speaker was the urbane gentleman who asks you for your name when you land at Calais. The person addressed was M. V., an employe of the French Customs, who had undertaken to replace M. N. for the day and do duty for him.

M. V. is one of the most courteous and obliging officials of the port of Calais; but, like most Frenchmen, he is very touchy upon the point of his personal dignity; and, above all things, he cannot bear the notion of being made-gauche-of, or having fun poked at him, even in the mildest form.

It was a Saturday in May. The weather was delightful and the sea smooth as a mirror. There was a light favourable breeze, and the Dover-Calais boat made accordingly one of the finest passages on record, without a single case of seasickness on board.

Now it came to pass that these twenty-four gentlemen were the first to land. M. V. uttered his, "Your names, sare, iv you pleases?" with most polished courtesy to the first gentleman coming up to him, who, with a polite bend of the head, responded, "Smith, if you please."

Brown, Jones, Robinson came in their turn; then Smith, Brown, Jones, Robinson over again, and once more, without producing the least change in M. V.'s punctiliously polite invitation to pass on.

Why, indeed, should these gentlemen, who did not even know him personally, indulge in a mild joke at his expense? It was not likely. When, however, the Smith, Brown, Jones and Robinson of the sixth batch were passing him, the humiliating suspicion that he was actually being made-gauche-of by these insolent sons of perfidious Albion became strongly confirmed in M. V.'s mind.

"It is quite evident now," he muttered to himself, with his feelings of offended personal dignity bubbling up within him to the verge of boiling over; "it is quite evident that they are poking their fun at me. Ah, well, gentlemen of England, we will soon see whether we cannot put a stop to this somehow."

M. V., thus touched to the quick in his tenderest susceptibilities, and full resolved to spoil the Englishmen's suspected little game, looked no longer quite the same calmly urbane gentleman who had so courteously invited the first batches of Smiths, Browns, Joneses, and Robinsons to pass on.

So on the next two gentlemen coming up to him, who were altogether unconnected with the twenty-four confederates, and were both of them stout, fair-faced, light-haired, and auburn-whiskered unmistakable Anglo-Saxons, the indignant official almost unwittingly threw the irritation of his mind into his stereotyped inquiry.

By a merry coincidence, the names of the two happened to be Smith and Brown respectively. When Mr. Smith honestly responded to the question addressed to him, M. V. completely lost his temper.

"Ah!" he shouted with angry gesticulations, "ah, vonn ozzair sare Smiiss; and zee ozzair sare vonn ozzair sare Braouenne!" he added inquiringly.

Whereupon Mr. Brown, who did not quite understand what was said, but thought he caught the sound of his name, simply responded with perfect cheerfulness, "Yes, my name is Brown."

"This was too much. It was the last straw. It achieved the complete upsetting of M. V.'s balance of mind.

"Ah!" shouted the irate official, "you makes zee engproppair zing, gentlemen; you larif at me zee nose!"

Then he proceeded to tell them in most voluble French that such conduct was but an indifferent return for his politeness to the passengers; that it was in fact an unbecoming want of common courtesy on their part; that the asking of the names of the passengers, though it might seem to them a mere immaterial matter of form, was yet strictly enjoined by the port regulations; and that they had better conform to those regulations, as he, M. V., was determined to do his duty; also that he was convinced in his mind that the one gentleman's name was not Smith, as little as the other gentleman's name was Brown; and that they had better tell their real names.

Now Mr. Smith, altogether innocent of French, and but little more enlightened by the introduction in broken English to M. V.'s excited objurgation, simply could make out that the gesticulating official before him was highly incensed; why, he could not possibly guess. So turning to an amused bystander—one of the twenty-four confederates, in fact, who had lingered behind in the expectation that some such scene was not unlikely to be the upshot of his and his companions' joke—Mr. Smith began to address that gentleman, with a look of inquiry.

"What the dickens—" "He was not permitted to proceed further; for M. V. shouted angrily at him.

"Ah, sare, Voltaire Dickens! Vat for you zey Smiiss, sare? Vat for you larif me at zee nose, sare?" Then rounding his excited address off with an emphatic French oath, he turned fiercely upon Mr. Brown, asking him impudently who he was.

"He wants to know what you are," he said to his perplexed countryman, "what trade or business," changing thus the who to what with *malice prepense*.

Mr. Brown angrily replied, "What's that to the cursed frog-eater? However, I am a fishmonger, if he must know." Now M. V.'s extensive knowledge of English apparently did not extend to frog-eater and fishmonger. So he turned with a look of bewilderment to the volunteer interpreter, who cheerfully gave a French version of Mr. Brown's remark, with a few touches of extra colouring maliciously thrown in, which wrought the irritation of the incensed Frenchman to a still higher pitch.

"I gif you frogges, I gif you fisses, sare. Blaggair!" he cried angrily. He then asked in French whether the two gentlemen who chose to call themselves Smith and Brown had any visiting cards or letters upon them, or any other papers that would show that they were really entitled to these names.

On this being explained to the two passengers, they at once put down their travelling bags and proceeded to produce from their breast-pockets goodly-sized pocket-books, the contents of which they thrust indignantly under the eyes of the astounded M. V., who, seeing a number of letters, bills of lading, invoices, &c., to the addresses respectively of T. Smith and W. Brown, was fain at last, however reluctantly, to yield belief to the evidence of his sense of sight, and immediately presented his most courteous apologies to the two Anglo-Saxons, simply remonstrating mildly against Mr. Smith having given the name of "Voltaire Dickennes," which imputation, when explained to him by the officious interpreter, that gentleman indignantly denied.

While this scene was being enacted, most of the other passengers, both ladies and gentlemen, had unceremoniously made their way past the official, who now declared that he was quite satisfied and need not detain the remaining passengers for the sake of a mere matter of form.

He left the landing-stage much exercised in his mind, and pondering deeply upon the mysterious dispensation and distribution of names among the English.

"You see," he said, that self-same night to his friends at the cafe, "it is a most extraordinary thing, most strange and astounding, but it is a fact notwithstanding, that all these English are called either Smiiss, or Braouenne, or Dzones, or Robinsonne. I would not believe it, as I could not think it possible, but I have had to-day placed before me the most convincing proofs of the fact. They are indeed the most incredibly eccentric people, these English!"

FORT WALSH.

The building of Fort Walsh, one of the most important posts in the possession of the North West Mounted Police Force, was completed in September, 1875. It is pleasantly situated on the banks of Battle Creek which traverses the valley of the Cypress Hills, so called from the extensive growth of cypress trees that grace their sides.

THE SOFTAS.

It is fair to compare the Turkish Softas to the students of a complete American University, such as Ann Arbor, Yale, or Harvard, or still better, to those of a German University in a small town, says Heidelberg or Jena. They are the theological, legal, and literary students of the Turkish metropolis, connected with some well-endowed Mosque, for instance that of Mehmed, Achmed, or St. Sophia, and are to Turkey what "Young America" is to us.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

TIETIENS is to return in the autumn. CELLARIUS, inventor of the polka, recently died in Paris. It is said that SALVINI, the tragedian, has lost his great popularity in London, and that it is no longer possible to have Shakespeare interpreted through the medium of a foreign tongue.

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 J. W. S., Montreal—Letter received. Many thanks. We shall be glad to hear the result of the match.

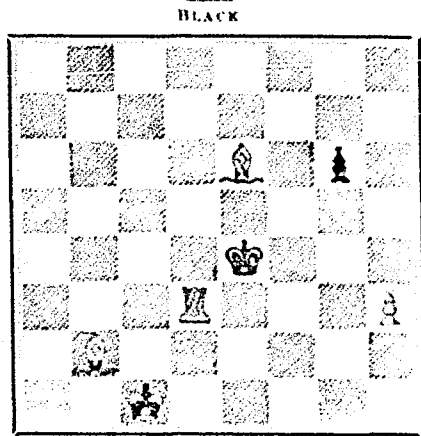
W. A., Montreal—Letter and Problem received. Many thanks. We entirely agree with you that end games furnish a class of Problems of a most interesting nature.

We have seen the programme of the Philadelphia Tournament, but it does not materially differ from what we gave last week, except that no statement is made with reference to the value of the prizes, which it appears will be regulated by the amount collected, and full particulars will not be published until after the 15th day of July next.

The proposal for a great match between London and New York is still spoken of, but nothing definite has yet transpired.

A match by correspondence of two simultaneous games between two players of the Montreal Chess Club, and two prominent members of the Quebec Chess Club has been carried on for some time past. One game has already been won by Quebec, but we have been respectful not to publish it till the other game is decided.

PROBLEM No. 78. By M. J. MURPHY, Quebec.



White to play and mate in four moves. The two subjoined games were played recently in London, England, between Mr. Macdonnell and Major Martin. We are indebted to Laed and Water for them.

GAME 107th (Evans Gambit)

- WHITE—(Mr. Macdonnell) BLACK—(Major Martin) 1. P to K 4 P to K 1 2. Kt to K B 3 Kt to Q B 4 3. B to B 4 B to B 4 4. P to Q K 4 B takes P 5. P to Q B 3 B to B 4 6. P to Q 4 P takes P 7. Castles P takes P 8. Q to K 3 Q to B 3 9. P to K 5 Q to K 5 10. Kt takes P K to K 2 11. B to R 3 (ch) P to K 4 12. Kt takes P B to Q K 2 (ch) 13. Q to R 4 B to R 4 14. Q R to Q sq K takes B 15. B takes Kt K takes B 16. Q to R 3 (ch) P to Q sq 17. K R to K sq K to R 3 18. Kt to B 4 Kt takes Kt (ch) 19. Kt to Q 3 R to K sq 20. Q takes Kt Q takes Kt (ch) 21. Kt takes B (ch) K takes R 22. R takes P (ch) Resigns 23. Q takes P (ch)

NOTES—(Condensed)

- (a) Dr. Zukertort undoubtedly the highest authority on the Evans Gambit, recommends this move. Mr. Black favours B to K 2, and Mr. Wormald prefers Q Kt to K 2. We believe the move in the text to be the most effective of the three. (b) This is by no means satisfactory, but, on the other hand, the usual move (P to Q R 4) appears to be a better. (c) An excellent stroke. If Black now captures the Q with B, he will be mated forthwith. (d) If P takes Kt would have been better play, although in that case White could have continued with Q to K R 3, with a winning attack.

GAME 108th.

- WHITE—(Mr. Macdonnell) BLACK—(Major Martin) 1. P to K 4 P to K 1 2. P to K B 4 P takes P 3. Kt to K B 3 P to Kt 4 4. B to B 4 B to Kt 2 5. B to K R 4 P to K R 3 6. P takes P P takes R 7. B takes R B takes R 8. P to Q 4 Q to B 3 9. Kt to B 3 Kt to K 2 10. P to K Kt 3 P to Kt 5 11. B takes P P takes Kt 12. Q takes P Q Kt to B 4 13. Castles Kt takes P 14. R takes Kt Q takes R 15. B takes P (ch) K to Q sq 16. B takes Q B P (ch) And (a) Black resigned

NOTE.

(a) Black's game does not appear to be absolutely hopeless, but White's passed pawn would probably have cost him a piece in the long run.

SOLUTIONS.

Solution of Problem No. 76.

- WHITE. BLACK. 1. Q to K 2 P takes Q 2. Kt to K 4 mate if 1. K takes Kt or B takes R or P takes B 2. Kt from Q 6 to Q R 5 mate.

Solution of Problem for Young Player No. 75.

- WHITE. BLACK. 1. Kt to Q 6 (ch) K to K 4 2. B to K B 4 (ch) K takes B or (A) 3. Q to K K 3 mate (A) 2. K to Q 5 3. Q to Q B 4 mate

PROBLEMS FOR YOUNG PLAYERS No. 76.

(A position occurring in actual play.)

- WHITE. BLACK. K at K R 3 K at K R 4 R at K B 5 K at Q R 4 B at Q Kt sq Pawns at Q R 5 Pawns at K B 3 K R 4 and K R 3 K R 3 and K R 4 White to play and mate in three moves.