

two French batteries, and the French infantry, finding themselves no longer supported by their artillery, commenced to retreat towards Sedan. Once the junction completed between the Prussian and Saxon corps, the battle was as good as over. The French were entirely surrounded. At a quarter past twelve the retreat began. First one and then another French column was seen retiring rapidly towards the city. At one o'clock the French batteries on the edge of the wood of La Garenne opened fire on the advancing Prussian columns who were advancing to storm the hill north-west of La Garenne. An advance was then made by an overwhelming body of French, who compelled the Prussians to retire precipitately down the hill in order to seek reinforcements. In a few minutes more the storming party returned and again took up their position on the hill. Then came those magnificent but unavailing charges made by the Cuirassiers, where the steady fire of the Prussian infantry literally mowed down the French cavalry. This concluded the hard fighting, and was followed, as our readers know, by the arrival of a messenger, bearing a flag of truce, who came to ask for terms of surrender. The rest of the day's proceedings has already been recounted in these pages.

On another page is given an illustration of a scene on the battle-field after the first day's engagement.

#### THE OCCUPATION OF PONT-A-MOUSSON.

The little village of Pont-a-Mousson, in the department of the Meurthe, has played no inconspicuous part in the present war. Shortly after the battle of Wörth, when McMahon was defeated and retreated to Nancy, it was attacked by a body of Uhlans, who cut the railway connecting Nancy with Bazaine's headquarters at Metz. Later on it was entered by the army of the Crown Prince, and for some time was occupied as the headquarters of the King. Our illustration shows the scene in the market-place of the little town during its occupation by the Prussian troops.

#### DUDSWELL LOWER LAKE AND SPOKE MOUNTAIN, E. T.

We publish in this number another addition to the views of Eastern Township scenery which have already appeared in our pages. The county of Sherbrooke, in which is situated the township of Dudswell, is particularly rich in beautiful scenery, though of a tamer kind than is to be met with in many of the neighbouring counties. The general characteristic of the Sherbrooke scenery is low, flat ground, here and there gently undulating, and rising, in parts, into sloping hills, generally cultivated, and wearing a rich, pleasing aspect. In the vicinity of Orford, however, the country becomes uneven and broken, and presents ridges of highlands. Towards the head of the Connecticut river there are also numerous ridges of highlands, but with these exceptions the face of the country is generally level. The country is particularly rich in rivers and lakes, among which the St. Francis, the Connecticut, and the Orford lakes offer many beautiful bits of scenery, unsurpassed, perhaps, in any part of the Dominion. In fact the whole of the Eastern Townships are renowned for their unrivalled scenery, and it is to be regretted that this beautiful tract, the garden of Canada, is not more frequently visited by tourists and lovers of the picturesque.

#### GOLD RIVER, NOVA SCOTIA.

One generally associates the wild and desolate with mining scenery, and that correctly in the majority of instances, but Gold River gold district, in County Lunenburg, on the south-west coast of Nova Scotia, is charmingly picturesque in summer, and at no season without some features of interest. The gold-bearing character of its rocks was recognised by an officer of the Royal Fusiliers as far back as 1840, but no researches were made until 1861, when the first piece of quartz then broken proved the correctness of the military geologist's unheeded theory. The alluvial washing at the Owens district, about twenty miles further westward, prevented any excitement arising from this discovery, and the few areas leased were only partially worked by men whose means were limited. Several lodes were tested with satisfactory results, and the alluvium also found to contain an appreciable quantity of the precious metal. Some rich specimens of rock were, some time ago, forwarded to the Geological Museum at Montreal. The most extensive as well as most systematic explorations were commenced last year by a French Canadian Company, and superintended by Monsieur A. Michel, an expert in gold mining, known to the public by his services in South America, and in connection with the Geological Survey of Canada. The district is favourably noticed by Dr. Dawson in his "Acadian Geology," and by Dr. How in his "Mineralogy of Nova Scotia," and there is no reason to doubt that Gold River will eventually become as attractive to the miner, as it now is to the angler and the artist.

#### KING WILLIAM AND BISMARCK.

(From Murat Halstead's letter to the Cincinnati Commercial.)

The real master of those imposing legions, whatever may be said of rank or title, is the big man Bismarck, whose good English I heard the other day at St. Avold, and whose restless, daring, and piercing eye especially told his character, and was the indication of his force of intellect and will.

By the way, I believe there was not much said in the brief letter from St. Avold about the personal appearance of the King and Bismarck. The King's headquarters were in the Post Office, fronting a small square paved with stone, and overlooked by a weather-beaten church tower. Walking through the square, we happened to see the King at the window, looking out as if he wanted to see what might be worth observing. His Majesty reminds me of Gen. Burnside. His razor gives his portly chin that delicate polish, that perfect cleanliness and soft brilliancy that the steel imparted to our General's facial foundation. Then he is bald like Burnside, and wears moustache and whiskers in the same style. He lacks, however, the upper part of that dome of bald head that gave our General's photographs such a fine finish. Then the King is erect and tall, like Burnside, and gracious too.

Bismarck may be taller than the King, as I believe he has the reputation of being, but he is so burly, and is surrounded by such tall men, that he has not the appearance of the great height that I expected. When I saw him he was in uniform, wearing a dragon's sabre. In the midst of the splendid uni-

forms surrounding him Bismarck's was not notable. His cap was white with, I think, a red band; and he moved about, casting his eyes here and there, and jerking his sheathed sabre with sharp energy, like a man whose nerves were strung until they were tingling by the excitement of immense and pressing affairs. An officer who spoke English had been conversing with us, and when we left him to walk away, Bismarck called him and asked him what we were about. Being told who we were, he strode direct to us. When he was manifestly coming to us, I was at a loss to conjecture what fell purpose he might have formed, but no doubt having nothing better at the moment to do, he chose to be polite to two American journalists.

He is said to be fully aware of, and to enjoy especially, his great reputation in England and America, and as he speaks English quite well, it is a pleasure to him to give himself the exercise. His appearance gives some warrant for the rumours that his health is bad. His complexion indicates an unreliable sanitary condition, but the excitement of the war will no doubt carry him through.

Did I mention in another letter (I believe that I did), the curiosity with which the King looked, from his easy chair at the window, upon his Chancellor, with his left hand on the handle of his sabre, conversing with a couple of strangers whose toilets had been very imperfectly made. The old fellow had on his Burnside look.

We saw the King again at Faulquemont, taking as a point of observation, a bridge for the turnpike over the railroad. It was nearly sundown. The wagon trains were filling adjoining fields, and the smoke of the bivouac fires of half a dozen regiments of infantry and some batteries and cavalry, was settling in a blue haze on the little valleys south and west. The road on which the King was coming could be seen for two or three miles, white as a chalk mark, gradually descending toward us, and made very conspicuous by the usual rows of tall poplars. The teamsters still on the road, and filling it as far as we could see, turned aside, giving room for the King's escort and carriages. The cavalcade came on full tilt; the guards in steel jackets and flowing plumes and drawn sabres staying by, every man erect, and staring straight ahead, the horses trotting together as if they were a monstrous machine worked by steam power. As the first carriage whirled by there was a slight cheer, but not for the King. Some said it was for Moltke. Perhaps it was, but all that I could make out plainly was a very long and slender pair of boots, miraculously polished. The King came along presently, bowing easily in return for the greeting he received; and after him was another tempest of cavalry, and a whirl of the waggons containing the luggage of His Majesty, and then the teamsters cracked their whips and tore into the road, swearing as teamsters always do, and got up a diabolical confusion, in the midst of which officers galloped and whirled their horses, yelling like mad, in the vain effort to out-curse the teamsters.

VON MOLTKE ON THE FRENCH ARMY.—An interesting letter appears in the *Salut Public* of Lyons, relative to the instruction which Prussian and French officers are respectively obliged to possess. The writer says:—"McMahon is supposed to have adopted tactics which are not new—namely, to act above all with his artillery, said to be formidable, and to spare his men as much as possible. Napoleon I., of whom General de Moltke is only the pupil, never proceeded otherwise. He it was who first imagined the great concentrations of troops by rapid marches. M. de Moltke, his fervent admirer, has always manifested the greatest contempt for our strategy. I remember having heard quoted some of his very words addressed to a French officer on a mission to Berlin: 'Do not talk to me of your military education in Africa. If you have never been there, so much the better: when you become general you will be glad of it. The war you have been carrying on for forty years against the Arabs is a guerillie of an inferior order. Never any skillful marches, no feints, no counter-marches, rarely any surprises. With that school you will do nothing more than form other schools like it. The first great war will demonstrate your inefficiency, and were I not in presence of a man of your merit, sir, I should not hesitate to laugh at your ignorance of the trade to which you devote yourselves. Amongst you—do not deny it—a pioneer is almost a ridiculous person, and in general the working man is one of mean intelligence. Here, on the contrary, the most conscientious studies are in the order of the day, and the lowest captain knows as much as your staff officers who are so brilliant in the ball-room. Have you even a superficial smattering of the elements of the military art on leaving your special schools? I am tempted to doubt it. Come now,' continued General de Moltke, taking the other by the hand, 'I wager that you do not know what is the most valuable piece of furniture for the chamber of an officer in garrison. Come with me.' So saying, the old Prussian led his interlocutor into a small bed-chamber suited to a sub-lieutenant; a small bed without curtains, three straw chairs, shelves of books from the floor to the roof, and in the middle of the room a black wooden board on an easel; the ground strewn with morsels of chalk. 'It is with this that we beat our adversaries every morning,' murmured the old tactician, who was destined to give afterwards so severe a lesson to General Frossard, the professor of the Prince Imperial. 'And for drawing, here is all we want,' and M. de Moltke exhibited some geographical maps. What a singular conversation, when one thinks that it took place in March, 1870, for I copy it literally from a letter dated the 21st of that month. What may we not have to say about the lessons to be derived from it? We shall profit by them at a later period."

#### ON EDIBLE EARTH.

To the list of the earth-eating people the Javanese must be reckoned; a fact brought to our knowledge by Alexander von Humboldt. From the specimens of which I have had the opportunity of seeing, it is to be inferred that earths of very different external appearance, and of different character, are eaten. One deposit of such edible earth, possessing an intensely red colour, exists in the neighbourhood of Surabaja, between strata referable to the time of the latest tertiary.

This earth is formed into thin cakes, having a diameter of from 1 to 1½ inches; it is then dried over an open fire, and in this condition is brought into the market. It is perfectly smooth to the touch, and is composed of materials in the finest state of subdivision. By a chemical analysis, to which I subjected it, after removing the thin stratum of soot which settled upon it during the process of drying over the fire, I convinced myself that it does not contain the slightest trace

of an organic substance. The analysis gives the following result:—

Silica.....	50.63
Alumina.....	21.32
Iron oxide.....	10.47
Water.....	12.97
Lime.....	2.40
Magnesia.....	0.33
Potash.....	1.02
Soda.....	0.23
	99.37

Of the water, 6.36 per cent was driven off below red heat. The remaining 6.61 per cent disappeared only when the test portion was heated to bright redness. From the analysis it is apparent that the earth consists of a clay rich in iron; in which is still retained small quantities, yet undecomposed, of the minerals from which it derived its origin. In this way the trifling percentage of potassa and soda may be accounted for. Taking away the accessory alkalis, and so much of the silica as they demand, there remains behind a clay containing silica and iron.

Humboldt suggested that the probable explanation of the earth-eating habit might be found in the desire to fill the stomach, and thus, in a measure, to allay the pangs of hunger. This view of the subject may be satisfactory when applied to those rude people who devour it in great quantity; but it will not apply to the case of the Javanese, who make this use of but trifling quantities. With these, it is much more probable that the physical properties of the earth alone are sufficient to furnish the cause we are seeking.

Upon rubbing it, not the slightest grittiness is perceptible, and on being moistened with water it forms a smooth and unctuous mass. The enjoyment derived from eating it seems to reside in the similarity of the sensations it produces, with those derived from the eating of fatty substances. In many parts of Wurtemberg the quarrymen have the habit of eating the smooth, unctuous clay which collects in the fissures of the rocks. The term "Mondschmalz," which they apply to it, would seem to refer to the enjoyment they experience in the process of eating.—Prof. C. W. C. Fuchs.

"Lothair" is an old hero of Mr. Disraeli's. In Heath's "Book of Beauty" for 1835, among some other equally worthless contributions, is a sentimental story, "by the author of Vivian Grey," which derives its name of "The Carrier Pigeon," from the mode of communication adopted by the enamoured Lothair and his fair correspondent, who is not a Corisande, but an Imogene.

#### CHESS.

The following little game (lately contested in Quebec) presents a novel variation of the French opening:

White—Mr. E. T. B.	Black—Mr. J. W.
1. P. to K. 4th	P. to K. 3rd
2. P. to Q. 4th	P. to Q. 4th
3. Q. Kt. to B. 3rd	B. to Q. Kt. 5th
4. Q. to K. B. 3rd	Q. to K. B. 3rd
5. P. to K. 5th	Q. takes Q.
6. Kt. takes Q.	Kt. to K. 2nd
7. K. B. to Q. 3rd	P. to K. R. 3rd
8. B. to Q. 2nd	P. to Q. R. 3rd
9. P. to Q. R. 3rd	B. takes Kt.
10. B. takes B.	B. to Q. 2nd
11. Castles (K. R.)	B. to Q. Kt. 4th
12. B. takes B.	P. takes B.
13. P. to Q. R. 4th (a)	P. takes P.
14. B. to Q. Kt. 4th	Q. Kt. to B. 3rd
15. B. to Q. B. 5th	Castles (K. R.)
16. P. to Q. Kt. 3rd	P. takes P.
17. B. takes Kt.	R. takes R.
18. R. takes R.	P. to Kt. 7th
19. R. to Kt. sq.	R. to Q. R. sq. (b)
20. B. to K. R. 4th	R. to R. 8th
21. Kt. to Q. 2nd	Kt. takes Q. P.
22. K. to B. sq.	Kt. to Q. Kt. 4th (c) wins.

a Hastily played,—under the misconception that he could presently regain the pawn with a superior position.

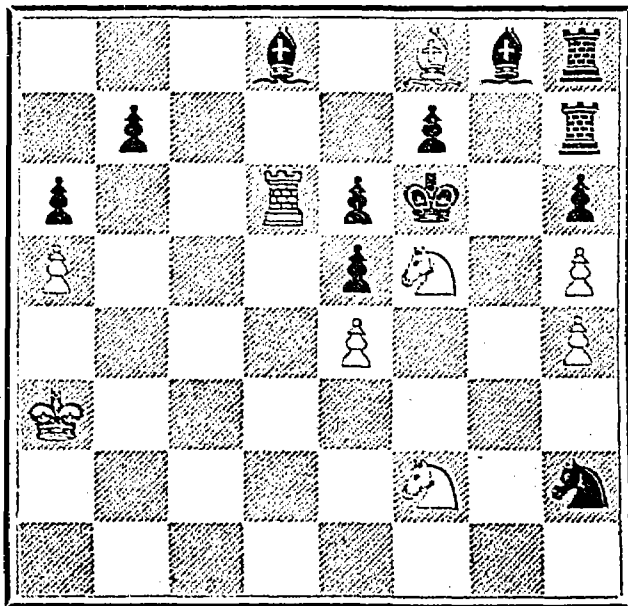
b Surrendering a piece: but the attack is irresistible, and redeems the "partie" from the tameness of the beginning.

c Threatening next move to attack the Rook: 22. Kt. takes Q. B. P., however, a very tempting move for Black, would have lost; for White might then have played 23. B. to K. 7th, and could afterwards bring his King to the rescue.

#### PROBLEM No. 18.

By J. W.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and mate in two moves.

#### DIED.

At Terrebonne on the 19th inst., HENRY, eldest son of HENRY MASSON, Esq., at the age of 7 years.