

Oddities.



BEARDS, and the fashion of wearing them, have excited animated controversy from time immemorial, even down to the present year of grace, 1860. The Tartars waged war with the Persians about the growth and management of the beard. The Greeks shaved off their beards lest they should afford a handle for their enemies in the time of war. The Romans did not shave till Titinius introduced a company of barbers. The Indian philosophers wore long beards to captivate the veneration of the people; so did the Druids. The Jews wore the beard, and esteemed it very highly, hence the expediency of David's insulted messengers tarrying at Jericho till their beards were grown. In ecclesiastical history we find the Greek Church inclined to beards, and the Roman Church disposed for razors. The old kings of France had their beards plaited and knotted with gold; so did the Persians. Our ancient British forefathers shaved their chins, but cultivated moustachios. The Anglo-Saxons parted it into double locks. The Norman invaders shaved close, but, soon after their settlement in England, adopted an extravagant quantity of beard. In later times we find Stubbs, in his "Anatomic of Abuses," averring that the barbers "have invented such strange fashions of moustachios, manners of cuttings, trimmings, shavings, and washings, that you would wonder to see. They have one manner of cut, called the French cut; another the Spanish cut; one, the Dutch cut; another the Italian; one, the new cut; another the old; one, the gentleman's cut; another the common cut; one cut of the court, another cut of the country; with infinite the like vanities, which I overpass. They have also other kinds of cuts innumerable; and therefore, when you come to be trimmed, they will ask you whether you will be cut to look terrible to your enemy, or amiable to your friend; grim and stern in countenance, or pleasant and demure; for they have divers kinds of cuts for all these purposes, or else they lie." Another author represents the barber asking, when he has dressed his customer's head, whether it will please him to have his beard shaven or no—"whether he will have his peak cut short and sharp, amiable like an *inamorato*, or broad and pendent like a spade, to be terrible like a warrior and soldado?" In Lyly's "Midas" the barber addresses his apprentice—"Besides, I instructed thee in the phrases of our eloquent occupation, as 'How, sir, will you be trimmed? Will you have your beard like a spade or a bodkin? a penthouse on your upper lip or an alley on your chin? a low curl on your head like a bull, or a dangling lock like a Spaniard? your moustachios sharp at the end like a shoemaker's awls, or hanging down to your mouth like goat's flukes?'" Another writer rhymes upon the beards, and with his lines we conclude our notice:—

"Some like a spade, some like a fork, some square,
Some round, some mowed like stubble, some stark bare;
Some sharp, stiletto fashion, dagger like,
That may with whispering a man's eye outpike!
Some with the himmer cut or Roman T—
Their beards extravagant reform'd must be;
Some with the quadrate, some triangle fashion;
Some circular, some oval in translation;
Some perpendicular in longitude;
Some like a thicket for their crassitude;
That heights, depths, breadths, trifurim, square, oval,
round,
And rules geometrical in beards are found."

Humour and Anecdote.

SOME time ago a professor of legerdemain entertained an audience in a village which was principally composed of colliers. After "astonishing the natives" with various tricks, he asked the loan of a halfpenny from any of his admirers. A collier, with a little hesitation, handed out the coin, which the juggler speedily exhibited, as he said, transformed into a guinea. "An' is that my bawbee?" exclaimed

the collier. "Undoubtedly," answered the juggler. "Let's see't," said the collier; and turning it round and round in examination with an ecstasy of delight, he thanked the juggler for his kindness, and putting it into his pocket, said, "I se war'n't ye'll no turn't into a bawbee again."

WHEN Washington's secretary excused himself for the lateness of his attendance, and laid the blame upon his watch, his master quietly said, "Then you must get another watch, or I another secretary."

Mr. D. G. GOYDER, of Ipswich, in his "Autobiography of a Phrenologist," relates the following reminiscence of Robert Bloomfield:—"Towards the conclusion of 1809, Robert Bloomfield, the poet, paid a visit to Mr. Pollard; and, to do him honour, several of the boys had pieces from his poems to learn, with a view of reciting them before him. I acquired by heart his 'Highland Drover returning from England,' and was delighted when I was told it was to be recited before him; and I did recite it before him. I have since thought how much more effectively I could have delivered it, had I then had the Scottish idiom I have since acquired. But it was a bold stroke for an English agricultural labourer and poor shoemaker to attempt a description of Scottish scenery and manners, and one part I remember amused Mr. Pollard amazingly, and on my reciting the poem to him (Mr. P.) before I was ushered into the poet's presence, he smilingly exclaimed as I uttered—

"Perhaps some huge rock in the dusk she may see,
And will say in her fondness, 'That, surely, is he!'
'Rather gigantic, that; don't you think so?' I did think so when Mr. P. pointed it out, but I had not noticed it before. The poet was a small man, about five feet five inches in height, and exceedingly modest in his demeanour. When I had finished the poem, he advanced towards me purse in hand, but I caught the eye of Mr. Pollard, and refused the proffered gratuity; and after his departure I found I had done right, for Mr. Pollard observed, 'You would see I did not wish you to accept any present from Mr. Bloomfield. Poets are a generous but a poor race; and Bloomfield is one of the poorest of them, and I am sure has nothing to spare out of his slender purse.'"

A WEALTHY but eccentric English nobleman advertised for a servant in the *Times* newspaper. A candidate called, and, making known his business, was shown up to his lordship. Among the duties which "Flunkey" said he could include as his, was blacking his lordship's boots. "Oh, never mind that," said the "dry" old nobleman, "I always black my own boots—always. But how much wages do you expect?" "Sixty guineas a-year, my lord," replied Flunkey. "Sixty guineas!" exclaimed his lordship, with consternation: "sixty guineas! Make it seventy, and I'll come and live with you!"

Small Change.

WHEN you receive a kindness, remember it; when you bestow one, forget it.

A MAN is the healthiest and the happiest when he thinks the least either of health or happiness. To forget an ill is half the battle.

HOME comprises all the space that a woman should desire to shine in.

WAR is a game in which kings or governments seldom win, the people never. To be defended is almost as great an evil as to be attacked; and the common people have often found the shield of a protector no less oppressive than the sword of an invader.

A TON of perfect pain can be more easily found than an ounce of perfect happiness; he knows little of himself or of the world who does not think it sufficient happiness to be free from sorrow.

The bending twig outlives the storm.

WE have no more right, wantonly or causelessly, to wound the minds than to wound the bodies of our fellow-beings; and in many instances the former is the more cruel of the two.

ATTEMPTS at reform, when they fail, strengthen despotism; as he that struggles tightens the cords he does not succeed in breaking.

If the spring put forth no blossoms, in summer there will be no beauty, and in autumn no fruit. So, if youth be trifled away without improvement, ripper years will be contemptible, and old age miserable.

It will afford sweeter happiness in the hour of death, to have wiped one tear from the cheek of sorrow, than to have ruled an empire, or to have conquered millions.

VICE often lurks close to virtue.

A COMMON arm-chair is a more comfortable seat than a throne, and a soft beaver hat a lighter and more pleasant piece of head-gear than a crown.

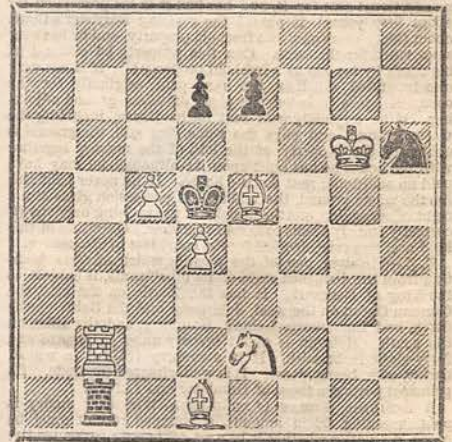
THE stomach is the chief creditor of the appetite; when appetite fails, the stomach has a lean time of it; he is compelled to compromise with his debtor for an ounce to the pound.

MEN and women often seem to be staring others right in the face, when in reality they are staring at themselves—looking with the backs of their eyes at their own fine figures and dresses.

A SCOTCH lass thus described her mistress's ways and domestic habits with her household:—"She's vicious up' the wark; but eh, she's vary mysterious o' the victualing."

Chess.

Problem No. 159. By W. COATES, Esq.
BLACK.



WHITE.
White to move, and mate in three moves.

GAME.
Eighteenth of the series between Labourdonnais and M'Donnell.

- (BISHOP'S GAMBIT.)
- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| WHITE (Mr. M'Donnell). | BLACK (Mr. Labourdonnais). |
| 1. P to K 4 | 1. P to K 4 |
| 2. P to K B 4 | 2. P takes P |
| 3. K B to Q B 4 | 3. Q to R 5 (ch) |
| 4. K to B sq | 4. P to K Kt 4 |
| 5. Q Kt to B 3 | 5. K B to K 2 |
| 6. P to Q 4 | 6. Q Kt to B 3 |
| 7. P to K 5 | 7. K Kt to K 2 |
| 8. K Kt to B 3 | 8. Q to K 4 |
| 9. Q Kt to K 4 | 9. P to K R 3 |
| 10. Kt to K B 6 (ch) | 10. B takes Kt |
| 11. P takes B | 11. P to Q 4 |
| 12. K B to Q 3 | 12. K Kt to B 4 |
| 13. Q to K sq (ch) | 13. K to Q sq |
| 14. Kt to K 5 | 14. K Kt takes Q P (a) |
| 15. P to Q B 3 | 15. Q Kt takes Kt |
| 16. Q takes Kt | 16. Kt to Q B 3 |
| 17. Q takes Q P (ch) | 17. K to his sq |
| 18. B to Q Kt 5 | 18. B to K 3 |
| 19. B takes Kt (ch) | 19. K to K B sq |
| 20. Q to Q B 5 (ch) | 20. K to Kt sq |
| 21. B to K B 3 | 21. Q to K Kt 3 |
| 22. Q to Q 4 | 22. P to Q B 4 |
| 23. Q to K 5 (b) | 23. Q R to K sq |
| 24. K B to K 2 (a) | 24. P to K B 6 |
| 25. K to B 2 | 25. P takes B |
| 26. Q B to K 3 | 26. P to Q Kt 3 |
| 27. P to K R 4 (d) | 27. Q B to Q 2 |
| 28. Q to Q 5 | 28. Q takes P (ch) |
| 29. K takes P | 29. B to K Kt 5 (ch) |
| 30. K to Q 2 | 30. R to Q sq |

And M'Donnell resigned.
(a) Apprehensive of 16. B to K 2. The following shows that 14. Kt to Kt 6 (ch), with a view of winning the exchange, would have lost Black the game.

15. K to Kt sq
16. Kt takes R
17. Kt takes Kt (ch)
18. K to Q 2 (best)

And White mates in three moves. Black's proper move was 15. R to K sq, which would have given him an evident advantage.

(b) The last two moves with the Queen are not good. He ought to have played 22. Q to K B 2, or 22. P to Q Kt 3.

(c) This is clearly fatal. Almost all the commentators recommend here 24. Q takes B P, but in that case Black might have obtained an almost winning attack by 24. P to K Kt 5, &c. The correct course was to play 24. K to B 2, after which, White, with ordinary care, ought to have won without much trouble. If Black then check at Q B 7, White would have interposed the Queen. If, again, 24. B to Q 2, the reply would be 25. Q to Q 6. And finally, if 24. R to K Kt 5, White would play 25. K B to K 4.

(d) This, again, was far from being well played, but did not affect the ultimate result.