

DEATH WON THE GAME.

Two Great Chess Players Leave a Marvelous Contest Undecided. Eight months and a half the game had gone on. And such a game, my children Tom Penny, Britisher, against Jonathan Pym, Yankee; England against America; the Old World against the New!

Between the Club Electric of New York and the Club Eccentric of London emotion had exalted itself to patriotism. On the day of defeat the flag of the vanquished nation would float reversed from the balcony of the dishonored club and all the chessboards for six months at least remain veiled with crepe.

Such openly must be carried, and as frankly borne, these tokens of mourning and affront, which no revenge should efface. For such was the condition of the combat—the match to be the only one of its kind.

The momentous question of the battle decided upon, then arose the subsidiary question, Where should the encounter take place? They sought a ground of conciliation. But where find it?

Cornelius Kevik, the impresario, in charge of the affair, proposed to charter a steamer, which should be stationed in mid-ocean, equidistant from the American and the English, and generally get away early. The real evil is that the business of personal exhibition enlarges the very qualities of personal vanity and personal guile which it is the effort of good education everywhere to keep down.

This view is dead against the popular and superficial notion, which is that precocity is immaturity and infantile mimicry of adult airs an evidence of genius. We have had a series of infant prodigies in succession presented for our admiration by solid parents and guardians who wish to turn a penny out of babyhood, and in every case the exhibition has been painful to men and women who to the faintest conception of the responsibilities and duties that attend these young beings.

She had been taught to imitate the English chess king, to walk the stage and to draw her boneless little body up into all sorts of voluptuous mimicry, and this spectacle of innocence giving a zest to abandonment set a lewd crowd wild with admiration.

It was thought to be a marvel of genius that a child could be taught to go through some of the antics of a trained figurant, and hold its skirts up and show its pulpy little legs, and sing a slangy song and make grimaces at the men in the audience. This painful spectacle of vulgar precocity was puffed and lauded by the press, and I do not think there was a serious objection raised to it in the face of the determination to make money out of it.

If you will permit me to set down my opinion here, it is that these little ones might be in better business. I don't know that their physical health is endangered, but their future usefulness as men and women is, and you will find that the conservative sense of the community, which is never expressed in a meeting of managers, is quietly opposed to an infant school of theatricals, so long as theatricals have no higher aim than the exposure of innocence in the market place.

This brings up another matter. A movement is on foot to get up a great theatrical fair for the benefit of the dramatic fund, a very worthy concern by the way. It is proposed to make money by the fair by getting all the popular actresses to exhibit themselves in booths and avail themselves of all the privileges of their popularity to get money. At a meeting of some of the actors, Mrs. Kendall, with one of her generous impulses, said that the actresses would do anything that was required of them to help on the fund.

Jonathan Pym is still a draw between them, but was no longer an international affair.—Boston Globe.

A Potato and Rheumatism. There is a business man in this city, the very best one you would imagine to be a superlatively good one, who has in his pocket to ward off every kind of distemper. There's a duck's foot, wrinkled and black—that's for lumbago and a bit of scurvy; Bannell for a stiff neck and various other things. But one specimen which would puzzle even Agassiz himself is a little black stone which a hammer could not dent.

One short year ago this was a good sized healthy potato, which was put in Mr. G's trousers pocket to keep the rheumatism at bay. Rheumatic twinges grew fewer and less decided as the days went by, and the potato, shriveled and shrank till now you could not classify it with anything in the geological kingdom. Explain it, doctors, if you can.—Springfield Housestead.

Thin Iron. In the international exhibition of 1891 a specimen of iron paper was shown. This led to some speculation among ironmongers as to the thinness to which cold iron could be rolled. One maker produced a sheet of paper so thin that 1,800 layers of it piled upon one another measured only one inch in thickness. The thinness of the iron foil referred to may be understood when it is remembered that 1,000 sheets of the thin iron paper arranged in the thin manner measure a fraction more than one inch in thickness.

The iron paper was perfectly smooth and easy to write upon, but when held up to the light it was opaque. We are not aware of any practical use to which iron paper could be put, for, owing to its liability to rust, it would be far inferior to the paper that we are accustomed to.—Papermaker.

NYM CRINKLE'S LETTER

Some Sensible Talk About Putting Children on the Stage.

WHERE THE HARM IN IT LIES.

It is Their Moral Not Their Physical Nature That is Injured—And Physical Estate to Exhibit Themselves for Pennies at the Fund Fair.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—A movement on the part of the theatrical managers has been made to modify the law relating to the employment of infants on the stage. They held a meeting the other day and appointed a committee to draft a law and go to Albany with it.

Children have become a source of large revenue to the theaters, and the managers are more restive than ever under the occasional interference of the president of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. The rule the papers take the side of the managers. But if I could have my way there should not be a child upon the stage. It is of little consequence that they are well taken care of while in the service, and do not have arduous tasks imposed upon them, and generally get away early. The real evil is that the business of personal exhibition enlarges the very qualities of personal vanity and personal guile which it is the effort of good education everywhere to keep down.

I have seen a good deal of the children on the stage and have never seen one who was not a mere name of a "band of union" between the Old and New Worlds. This is how it was that for eight months and a half Jonathan Pym and Tom Penny had disputed by dots and dashes for the glorious title of "Universal Champion of the Noble Game of Chess."

At 12 o'clock, say, Tom Penny would telegraph to Jonathan Pym. And one hour later Jonathan Pym would respond. Dating from Oct. 15, 1893, the game for a long while had been indifferently played, the end of December Tom Penny showed signs of weakness, throwing the partisans of Jonathan Pym into a state of excitement that set them to quarreling among themselves like political "bosses."

But suddenly, in the middle of January, the English chess king kicked the variety show and to draw her boneless little body up into all sorts of voluptuous mimicry, and this spectacle of innocence giving a zest to abandonment set a lewd crowd wild with admiration.

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A Difference. Recently a girl in one of the public schools of this city was asked by her teacher to explain the difference between the words balance and remainder. Her answer was, "You can say a man lost his balance and fell, but you cannot say a man lost his remainder."

UNCLE SAM HAD SAND

INSTANCES OF AMERICAN FIRMNESS IN FOREIGN COMPLICATIONS.

Strange as It May Seem, There Was a Time When Yankee Vigor Was Contrasted with England's Slowness in Protecting Her Citizens Abroad.

[Special Correspondence.] NEW YORK, Feb. 1.—Apropos of the affair with Chili, there is one error very prevalent in the United States. It is usually shown in words like these, "See how quick England is to act when any of her citizens are meddled with abroad, but the United States can't be kicked into a fight!" It is taken for granted that England is ever on the alert; the United States always passive.

Well, maybe so, of late, but it was not always so. Indeed, there was a time when England's caution was unfavorably contrasted with the promptness of the United States. All Christian Europe sounded the praises of the Yankees when they promptly refused further tribute to the Barbary powers, when Commodore Decatur sailed into the Bay of Algiers, and after "some very pretty fighting," as an Irish orator called it, compelled the release of American captives, there was a hubbub "in parliament and outdoor."

Before this, however, to wit, in 1801-4, the Americans had whipped Tripoli into a good humor, and Decatur, serving as assistant to Commodore Preble, made his famous night attack on the Philadelphia (Feb. 16, 1804), destroying that vessel. In this same war General William Eaton led his army of 600—only nine Americans in the band—the Libyan army, and on the 26th of April, 1805, army and fleet captured Derne, the first time the stars and stripes ever waved in triumph over a foreign foe. There was no slurring American promptness then, and that episode in history is too much neglected by Americans.

Every one remembers the American patriot sympathized with France, and went on with their high handed acts. At length Marshall, Gerry and Pinckney obtained an audience with Talleyrand, who bluntly told them that the United States must make a large payment in money. "Never!" was their reply.

"Then," said Talleyrand, "persistence in your refusal means war." "War be it then," said Pinckney. "Millions for defense, sir, but not one cent for tribute."

And war came, but it did not last long. The French made the sober second thought, and in the end the United States for England on substantially the same points. Though not mentioned in the treaty of Ghent, the points were settled for all time. "Free ships make free goods," and "No search and seizure" in case of persons on free ships in the open sea. This principle was a little awkward when it worked the other way in the Trent case, in 1861, but that case was settled on American principles.

It was during Jackson's administration that the last of the complications growing out of the Napoleonic wars was settled. The Neapolitan government under Joseph Bonaparte and Murat had confiscated several American ships and cargoes, and the claims amounted in 1822 to \$1,734,591. Naples had refused payment. Jackson, as usual, wrote his "By the Eternal," sent John Nelson, his secretary, as minister to Naples, and put Commodore Daniel Patterson in command of the Mediterranean squadron. It was arranged between these two that the warships should arrive in the Bay of Naples one at a time.

Minister Nelson went first in the Brandywine. King Nelson, his minister, minister to request with contempt. Soon the frigate United States floated into the bay and came to anchor. Four days later came the 60-gun frigate Concord. Two days later came the John Adams and then the 39-gun cutter Enterprise. The United States minister, Nelson, a combative and energetic negotiator, and finally the money was paid. News of this triumph reached the United States in the hottest part of the presidential campaign, and soon a number of residents were abroad.

In New York city at the time was a famous baker, a combative and energetic negotiator, and an ardent "Jackson man," and the Whigs thought it would be great fun to get him to make a speech. So they called him out one evening, and he said: "Feller citizens, I can't make no speech but I'll tell you this Jackson fellow is a knave, he's a scoundrel, he's a traitor, it is known to you all that the emperor of Italy took some of our ships, and John Quincy Adams was president, and he set down and wrote him a mighty nice letter—a real pretty letter—for, to give him his due he a real write—and he asked for the ships. And I'll tell you this Jackson fellow is a knave, he's a scoundrel, he's a traitor, it is known to you all that the emperor of Italy took some of our ships, and John Quincy Adams was president, and he set down and wrote him a mighty nice letter—a real pretty letter—for, to give him his due he a real write—and he asked for the ships. 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