

THE JEFFERSONIAN

Devoted to Politics, Literature, Agriculture, Science, Morality, and General Intelligence.

VOL 18.

STROUDSBURG, MONROE COUNTY, PA. OCTOBER 21, 1858.

NO. 44.

Published by Theodore Schoch.

TERMS.—Two dollars per annum in advance.—Two dollars and a quarter, half yearly—and if not paid before the end of the year, Two dollars and a half. No papers discontinued until all arrearages are paid, except at the option of the Editor.

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Chess Problem.

John and Julia's problem, by Amator. John to move and mate in two moves: John moves his arm round Julia's neck: She moves one square on whippers—check; He, noting daunted, moves right straight His lips to hers, and calls out—"mate!"

SOLUTION.

Poor Julia yields to life's constraints; Sighs, blushes, palpitate, and faints.

From the N. Y. Mercury.

THE LUCKY REPLY. A SKETCH.

BY WILLIAM LYN TRIBALL.

In all my life I have never known a more singular man than Nathan Wiswell, forty years ago a merchant, a banker, and a successful speculator in the city of Churches.

Pampered in his infancy by his proud parents and their parasites, he had early acquired an infant manner—a manner always unpopul.

During his minority had rendered him an object of dislike among his school-fellows, and almost wholly, deprived him of youthful associates—the want of whom as a consequence, had cooled his temper, and increased his haughtiness.

When he attained manhood, and assumed the responsibilities of business—a kind that made him master of the time and talents of other men—this characteristic underwent but little modification.

He never bandied words with those in his employ, and on occasions extracted the most obsequious submission. His anger and violence knew no bounds when he was crossed or contradicted.

But there was a great redeeming trait in his character, which must be particularly mentioned, as upon it hinges this very incident.

I allude to the hidden happy influence of the lucky reply which was, all things considered, the most remarkable feature of his singular conduct.

This is a peculiarity which belonged to some of the most distinguished men of former ages, as many instances have been recorded in the biographer and historian.

Not only the and liberty of individuals, but their property and permanence of nations have been affected by it in a most unexpected manner.

But no perseverer lived more susceptible to its influence than Mr. Wiswell.

He has been frequently known to dismiss men from his employ, for some real or supposed offence, and reinstate them within an hour afterwards, because of chance remarks uttered in anger, which tied him at the moment.

Marion, his only daughter, was seventeen, graceful and good looking, and deeply in love.

The object of her attachment was a young man, fit nothing to recommend but an unblemished character and fine business talents.

These out to have been sufficient, but Mr. Wiswell was not so easily as his sensible daughter.

Thaddeus Maguire was a clerk in the bank, and Mr. Wiswell was a stockholder. In acutancy sense, therefore, the difference between them was very considerable.

But Thaddeus, like his devoted lady-love, that, as they were united to each other in a firm, that his poverty ought not to be the ground of objection.

Mr. Well thought otherwise, and when he covered the attachment, enjoined his daughter to have no intercourse with her penniless lover, whom he dismissed with angry reproaches.

But the force of love is not often cooled by opinion, and it was not in this instance.

In Mr. Wiswell's mansion there was a little baron, with a single window that looked out upon the garden, and a single door that opened from the hall.

It was neat, little, out-of-the-way place, quiet of which was seldom disturbed as by the lovers, who, on that account, chose it for their stolen interviews.

About seven o'clock one evening—a beautiful summer evening—they sat together before the open window, engaged in conversation.

By chance Mr. Well stood underneath the umbrella of a luxuriant lily an unobserved listener.

"I think," said Marion, continuing the conversation, "that I persuade him to make us happy."

"I wish you may," said the youth, earnestly.

"He has no daughter, care for but myself," she continued, "when he sees that my happiness depends upon our union, I am sure he will consent."

"If he will, Marion," replied the youth, "I am the very last person who would advise an elopement, which is to be deprecated."

"Yes," said Marion, "but suppose—? 'Ob, it is a course I should not hesitate to pursue, replied the youth to her half uttered interrogatory, 'if there was no other that led to happiness.'"

"And in that event I shall not falter!" returned the maiden.

"You are a brave girl Marion."

"But I apprehend a different result!" she replied.

"I have very grave doubts, my love."

"Father is passionate," she returned "but not unreasonable."

"That is decidedly rich," muttered Mr. Wiswell through his shut teeth, but too low to be overheard.

"At first he may object," continued Marion, "but finally he will consent."

"Not I, at first or finally," muttered the parent, as before.

"I feel my poverty will prove an insuperable objection," said Thaddeus.

"I know that my father would prefer a nabob for a son-in-law," replied Marion "but I prefer a gentleman for a husband."

"So then, muttered the listener again, 'my daughter thinks De Camb is not a gentleman. Pretty well, that pretty well!'"

"I desire happiness more than luxury," continued the maiden, "and if I cannot have both, will endeavor to secure the former."

"Bah!" muttered Mr. Wiswell.

"I have sometimes feared," said Thaddeus, "that the deprivations to which every poor man's wife is subjected, might occasion regret or disappointment."

"If you know the depth of my love," replied the warm-hearted girl, "you would dismiss such idle fears!"

"I have never doubted it, my dear.— And yet, from the zenith of affluence to the nadir of poverty, is a dangerous journey, full of pitfalls and precipices, and very few accomplish the descent without broken hearts and shattered constitutions."

"Oh, Thaddeus! have done with your apprehensions. I am full of hope and confidence. We are rich in each others love."

"And besides our love," replied the young man, hopefully, "I have two thousand dollars, with which to commence business."

Mr. Wiswell heard no more.

Gliding away unobserved, he hastened toward the little back parlor, crimson with passion.

"Two thousand dollars," he muttered grinding his teeth. "A pretty business such a man would establish! And yet my daughter is to be supported off its profits!"

This thought fairly maddened him.

"Let him say as much to me," he continued; "and I'll give him two thousand blows to help him carry out his good intentions!"

By this time he had reached the little back parlor, which he entered, with his bamboo staff raised above his head in a manner at once menacing and dangerous.

Yet, sudden as was his appearance, Thaddeus was not unprepared, or in the least disconcerted.

"Mr. Wiswell," he said, anticipating the outbreak of passion, "I have a very great favor to ask of you—that you will give me your daughter in marriage!"

There was an audacity in the request that completely astonished the banker, and greatly increased his indignation.

Suddenly his hand clutched the stick with a tighter grasp, and raised it several inches overhead.

His crimson face became purple, and the froth of his mouth escaped through his parted lips.

In a savage voice, resembling the howl of the march wind, more than human utterance, he shrieked in the young man's face—

"What would you do with my daughter?"

And he followed the words with a scowl of his heavy brows, darker than the summer storm-cloud and a stamp of his foot, that rumbled throughout the mansion.

Thaddeus, though pale and apprehensive, stood up before the infuriated parent, with his left arm outstretched over the crouching form of the frightened maiden; and he replied, in a tone full of feeling—

"I would love her, sir, with all my heart!"

The melifluous of this tenderness, so unlike anything expected, touched the proud heart of the aristocrat, and the demon of his rage instantly forsook his presence.

The fingers relaxed their hold, and the stick fell clattering to the floor.

The lowering brows went up like clouds of fog, when the sun illuminates the east. The scream of the March wind subsided into a human tone.

"As the Lord lives, you shall have her!"

Immediately he added, grinding his teeth, as if to show how great his anger might have been—

"But, if you had mentioned business or dollars; oh! if you had, I would have beaten you to a jelly!"

Then turning to his daughter, he continued—

"Get up, Marion; he is worthy of you, and will make you a good husband."

Mr. Wiswell picked up his cane, and left the lovers, but he left his blessing with them.

"The young rascal!" he muttered, as he strode away. "He took me by surprise. He had me at an advantage. But I'll punish him for it. He shan't have but ten thousand to begin with."

And the savage old miser fairly chuckled over the punishment he contemplated.

The Elephant Fight.

Of the hundred and fifty elephants possessed by the King of Oude, there was one with a broken tusk, that had been victor in a hundred fights. His name was Malleer, and he was a great favorite with the king. His tusk had been broken off bit by bit in several encounters; the elephants rushing against each other with such force as sometimes to snuff off a portion or the whole of a tusk. Malleer had lost his, as I have said, gradually. He was a formidable black fellow very terrible when in that excited state called *must*. During the visit of the commander in chief it was determined that a fighting antagonist should be found for Malleer, and that he should once more make his appearance on the stage as a gladiator. It was fortunately the proper season. Malleer was *must*, and another gigantic elephant, also black, and of course in a similar state, was elected to be his antagonist.

At a signal given by the king, the two elephants advanced from opposite sides, each with his mahout on his neck; Malleer, with his one tusk, looking by no means so formidable as the huge black antagonist whom he was to fight, and who was well furnished with ivory. The moment they caught sight of each other, the two elephants, as if with an instinctive perception of what was expected of them, put their trunks and tails aloft, and shuffled up to each other with considerable speed, after their unwieldy fashion, trumpeting loudly mutual defiance. This is the ordinary attitude of attack of the elephant. He puts his trunk up perpendicularly, in order that it may be out of harm's way. His tail is similarly raised from excitement. His trumpeting consists of a series of quick blasts, between roars and grunting.

Malleer and his foe rushed at each other impetuously. The sound of their huge heads coming into violent collision might have been heard at a distance. The first blow struck, both elephants now set themselves vigorously to push against each other with all their might. Mouth to mouth, tusk to tusk, both trunks still elevated in the air perpendicularly, their feet set firmly in massive solidity upon the ground, did they push and shove, and shove and shove, not with one resolute, long continued effort, but with repeated short strokes of their unwieldy forms.—The heads were not separated for a moment; but the backs were curving slightly and then becoming straight again in regular succession, as each shove and push was administered. The mahouts, seated on the necks, were not idle the while.—They shouted, encouraging each his own warrior, with hearty good will.

At length the redoubted Malleer, one tasked though he was, began to gain the advantage. The fore leg of his antagonist was raised as if uncertainly, one could not tell whether to advance or retreat, as he still stoutly shored with all his might. But it was evident very soon that it was not to advance, but to retreat that the leg was so raised. It had hardly been set down again, when the other was similarly raised and lowered. The mahout of Malleer saw the movement, and knew well what it indicated. He shouted more frantically than ever.

At this time they were only a few yards from the banks of the Goomty, a little to the left of our balcony. The retreating elephant gave way step by step, slowly drawing nearer to the river as he did so. At length with a sudden leap backwards, he tore himself from his antagonist, and threw his unwieldy form down the bank into the river. His mahout clung to the rope over his back, and was soon seen safe and sound on his neck, whilst the elephant swam off to gain the opposite bank. Malleer was furious at this escape of his antagonist. His mahout wanted him to follow, but he would not take to the water. He glared round, wild with fury, to see what he could attack. His mahout, still urging him, with no gentle strokes and with wild shouts to pursue, at length lost his balance in his excitement, as Malleer turned savagely about, and fell to the earth! He fell right before the infuriated beast whom he had been rendering more and more wild and ungovernable. We were not left in doubt as to his fate for a moment. We had just time to see that the man had fallen, and was lying on his back, with his limbs disordered, one leg under him, and the other stretched helpless out, whilst both arms were raised aloft, when we saw the huge foot of the elephant placed upon his chest, and heard the bones cracking, as the whole body of the man was crushed into a shapeless mass! There was hardly time for a cry; the swaying of his form on the elephant's neck—his fall—the sound caused by his striking the elastic turf—the foot placed upon him, and the horrid crushing which followed—all was the work of an instant or two. But this did not sate the enraged animal. Still keeping his foot on the man's chest, he seized one arm with his trunk and tore it from the body. In another moment it was hurled high up in the air, the blood spouting from it as it whirled. It was a horrible sight. The other arm was then seized, and similarly dealt with.—*Scenes in India.*

Blessed is the woman whose husband has a wooden leg, as she will have but one stocking to knit.

The Kansas Gold Mines.

NABRASKIANS OFF FOR PIKE'S PEAK.

The gold mines at Pike's Peak. —The gold mines at Pike's Peak, some 700 miles west of Leavenworth City, are drawing scores from Kansas and Nebraska. The Florence (Nebraska) Courier says a good many are going from that vicinity. On the 26th, the following company left for the diggings: A. J. Smith, J. H. Dudley, James Crompton, Henry Springer, Haman Chapman, and A. Grater. They have two wagons, three yoke of oxen and a span of horses. They go well prepared with provisions to last them from six to eight months, arms and ammunition, picks, pans, shovels and other tools necessary to go into the mining business.

The above are all good citizens, the Courier says. It also says that S. D. Kasseran, in company with two other persons, whose names it did not learn, also started the same morning (the 23d), a company from Crescent City passed through Florence en route for the gold region. This company is composed of A. J. Williams, Charles Blake, T. McGlashan, M. A. Avery, E. A. Willoughby, W. Smith, and — Wetzell. They are all young men. The Courier also says that another party came down from some of the towns above, a few days since, for the purpose of getting an outfit. They will leave in a few days. From Council Bluffs and Omaha large parties have already gone, and others are preparing to follow immediately. There is scarcely a town in Nebraska that will not have its representatives at the mines this winter. The news from the gold region still comes in cheering, and the wildest excitement prevails all along the river.

DRIFT ROUTE TO THE GOLD DIGGINGS.—The gold fever is raging here, on account of the recent discoveries of gold deposits at Pike's Peak, near Cherry Creek, in Nebraska. One party leaves to-day, with six months provisions, for that point, and from what I can learn, several more will soon follow. From reliable reports, gold has been found there quite abundant, and persons with axes and tin pans alone have been able to realize on an average from five to eight dollars per day, and lumps have this early been found weighing from twelve to twenty dollars. The opening of these gold mines will be of vast benefit to the early settlement of Nebraska south of the Platte River. The location of the mines from Plattsburgh, at the mouth of the Platte, is about as much south of west as Fort Laramie is north of west, and distance about five hundred and fifty miles, according to Stansbury's Report. Taking Chicago as a central point, the shortest and quickest route is by railroad to Burlington, in this State, thence by railroad to Fairfield, which is twenty-five miles further west than any other railroad is now constructed in Iowa; then by the Western Stage Company's coaches, which run only on this line daily across the State to Pacific City and Plattsburgh. Time from Chicago to the Missouri river four days. From the Missouri river, at Plattsburgh, take the Emigrant Road to Salt Creek Ford, thence to Fort Kearney, 200 miles; thence following up the valley of the Platte and its South Fork 350 miles, we come to Cherry Creek, and a short distance up the valley of this stream will bring us to Pike's Peak, and the "gold diggings." Teams can be fitted out from Pacific City and Plattsburgh, containing supplies, that can average thirty miles travel per day, so that the time from Pacific City to the "diggings" cannot be more than eighteen or twenty days, or about twenty-five days from Chicago, 1050 miles of 270 by railroad, 230 by stage, and 550 by wagons.—*Pacific City Herald.*

Comets: Their History and Habits.

Now that the memorable Comet of 1858 is making such a magnificent spectacle in the heavens, and will soon disappear, a brief account of some of the most famous of these apparitions, and the theories of distinguished philosophers respecting them will, perhaps, be interesting.

In 1106 there appeared a splendid comet, visible in the daytime all over Europe. It presented the appearance of a fiery beam, stretching from the west toward the northeast regions of the heavens. The comet of 1281, noticed alike by European and Chinese historians, and popularly believed to announce the death of Pope Urban IV., which really happened in October following, had a tail which stretched across more than half the visible heavens! It is supposed to have been identical with that of 1556, and its return is now confidently looked for by astronomers.

In 1402 were seen two of the most brilliant on record, one of which spread, after sunset, a magnificent tail 90° long. Both were visible by day. In 1446, the people of Europe were thrown into consternation by the appearance of a comet simultaneously with the fall of Constantinople before the Turks. Comet and Turk were decreed together, and against the twin was launched the Pope's anathema. It exhibited a tail 60° long. To this comet, on its third subsequent reappearance in 1682, Halley gave his name, by being the first to compute its elements. Its period of orbital revolution is some 75 years. The 17th century presents a fertile record of cometic phenomena. In 1618, appeared a stranger which surpassed in its train that of 1264, having at one time a tail which measured 140°! One appeared in 1652, which Hevelius describes as being of the

size of a half-moon, though having a pale and dismal light. In 1668 another appeared, most brilliant in the south of Europe and in Brazil.

In 1680 came one of the most remarkable on record; and to it belongs the glory of having come under the God-like gaze of Newton, and of having furnished him with data for proving that the movements of comets depend upon the same principles as control the planets in their orbits. This body passed within 150,000 miles of the sun, and at a speed of 880,000 miles per hour! then swept off into space again toward its farther goal, 80,000,000,000, or, according to other calculations, 400,000,000,000 miles distant!

In 1689 a comet shone which drew a train of light 68 degrees long. There are grounds for supposing this to be identical with that of 1843.

The eighteenth century was distinguished by two comets of remarkable aspect. In 1744, came into view one of the few recorded to have been seen in full sunshine. On the 1st of February, it was more brilliant than Sirius; on the 8th it equaled Jupiter; on the 1st of March, at 1 o'clock p. m., five hours after its perihelion passage, it was visible to the naked eye. Another in 1769 spanned the heavens with an immense train of light. The first comet of 1811 was remarkable for the length of time it remained visible. That of 1843 is regarded as one of the most wonderful of modern times. It was visible in Bologna, Italy, at noon, two diameters of the sun's disc east of the sun, while passing its perihelion, being then only 96,000 miles distant from that luminary, and its speed 266 miles per second, or 1,317,600 per hour; so, that in twelve minutes it must have passed over a space equal to the distance between the earth and its moon! When its distance from the sun allowed it to be visible after sunset, it presented an appearance of extraordinary magnificence, especially in tropical latitudes. Some astronomers have computed it to have a period of 3,767 years! In July, 1844, one appeared, which has been estimated to have a period of 100,000 years! In 1846, Biela's comet, which is one of the class of "comets of short period," revolving in about 6½ years, startled observers by dividing itself in two, and so passing on its path out of sight! The estimated number of comets of which we have account, is upward of 600, nearly all of which are telescopic, and have no tails, though some have appeared with as many as six!

The fewness of their visits and the vastness between, the enormous extent of the orbits of some of them, stretching, perhaps, far beyond the limits of our solar system, coming up from the unfathomed depths of space to gleam a few brief days in our sky, and then diving down again out of telescopic sight on their long but swift journey, it may be to other planetary systems, never to be beheld again by the denizens of our earth, the wonderful tenacity of their substance, and the variety of the hypotheses which different philosophers have offered to account for the phenomena they present, make them an object of sublime interest to the astronomer.

Comets more, commonly, in elliptical orbits of great eccentricity—those of "short period" having their orbits within that of Neptune.

The star-gazer is ever on the lookout for these erratic strangers, poring over the open page, whose letters are worlds, peering, with his far-searching lenses, everywhere between the twinkling, constant little stars, too happy if some wayward little body come dancing into the field of his instrument, and make him its first discoverer. It grows rapidly sailing out of one constellation into another, and gradually assumes, as it nears the sun, a sort of nebulous hood. This enveloping hood soon lengthens out behind it, forming a train of thin light, which is largest and brightest a little after the passage of the perihelion. This train is always on the sun—a generalization not made by European observers till the time of Apian, 1531, though understood among the Chinese as early as 871. The nucleus or head of a comet when viewed through a powerful glass has the appearance of an irresolvable nebula, or patch of fog, the lens having the effect to diffuse rather than define its outline. The tail has the same hazy character and is of inconceivable tenacity, the smallest telescopic star being visible through it without the slightest appreciable diminution of light, though, according to Herchel, the thickness of this cometic matter, in the comet of 1811, was 15,000,000 miles!

The tail of comets vary in length as seen from different places. That of 1650 had a train 60 deg. long, as measured at Paris, and 90 deg. at Constantinople. That of 1709 extended, on the 9th of September, over 43 deg. at London, 53 deg. at Paris, 60 deg. at the Isle of Bourbon, and 75 deg. at Teneriffe—showing that the length of the tail depends upon the state of the atmosphere. The length is often enormous—the comet of 1843 being estimated by Prof. Pierce to have a train streaming out 200,000,000 miles into space, or once and a half the distance of the sun from the earth! and all this formed in some three weeks!

The insensible subtlety of the diffused cometic matter may be inferred from the fact that they have been sometimes known to pass within close proximity to planetary bodies without deranging the

motions of the latter in the least perceptible degree. Biell's comet of 1770 dashed into the midst of the system of Jupiter's satellites without at all affecting their movements. A curious calculation is recorded of Sir Isaac Newton, that if a globe of common atmospheric air, one inch in diameter, were expanded so as to have an equal degree of rarity with the air situated at elevation of 4,000 miles above the earth's surface, "it would fill the whole planetary regions as far as the sphere of Saturn, and would extend a great deal further." Now, if this enormous extent of attenuated matter can be conceived to be endowed with luminous properties, whether from reflecting the sun's rays, or from its own inherent physical constitution, we can form approximately, some sort of a realising sense of the nature of the magnificent feather which now adorns the starry heavens. On this point the speculations of philosophers are interesting.

Before the time of the Tycho Brahe, European observers had not ventured to refer cometic apparitions to regions beyond the moon's orbit, and supposed them indeed, to be substances generated within the earth's atmosphere. The Danish astronomer, however, from observations upon the comet of 1577, proved that these bodies move in orbits beyond the earth's satellite, and were therefore of permanent structure; and independent of the earth.

From observing that comet, as they emerge from the depths of space, are nothing but mere specks of nebulousity, which is gradually prolonged into a train as they approach the sun, it was inferred that comets are, in the normal condition, spherical masses, like planets, and that their tails are due, in some unknown way, to the sun. Some early observers supposed the tail was owing to the passage of the sun's rays through the nebulousity of the head, producing an effect similar to that seen when a beam of the sun pours through an aperture into a darkened room. The Cartesian school referred the effect to the refraction of light, in its passage from the comet to the eye of the observer, through the celestial ether disseminated through space. If this theory be true, it has been significantly asked, why have the planets and fixed stars no tails? Marion thought the effect proceeded from the same cause as that which produces the aurora borealis.

The illustrious astronomer, Kepler, who flourished early in the seventeenth century, was the first to offer a rational explanation of this phenomenon. He supposed that the constituent matter of the comet is broken by the action of the solar rays, and the lighter particles impelled to immense distances. Newton conjectured that, as the nebulous particles of the comet become heated by the sun, they communicate a portion of their heat to the contiguous particles of ethereal fluid composing the sun's atmosphere. These particles so heated (by reflection, as it were), suffer a corresponding diminution of density, and are repelled from the sun, carrying with them the more volatile particles of the cometary body, just as an upward current of air causes smoke to ascend. But all hypothesis must be vague where there are so few well-ascertained data. The great discoveries made of late in electrical forces promise to throw new light upon this profoundly interesting subject.

The close approach of some comets to the sun in their perihelion passages, as for example, in the case of the great comet of 1843, before mentioned, and the immense distances to which they sometimes recede from him in their apelia, immeasurably beyond the utmost known limits of our solar system, have led astronomers to infer that comets are subjected, in the course of their orbital revolution, to an amazing degree of heat and cold.

Newton calculated that the comet of 1680 was subjected, at its perihelion distance of 150,000 miles, to a degree of heat 2,000 times that of red-hot iron! While, according to Herchel, the comet of 1843, which passed within 96,000 miles of the sun, received, at its perihelion, an amount of heat equivalent to that of 47,000 suns blazing in our sky! It can scarcely be supposed that matter can be subjected to such a degree of heat without having its structure destroyed. Laplace availed himself of Black's beautiful discovery of latent heat to avoid this difficulty, and taught that when a body is passing from a liquid to a gaseous state, its particles, as they become successively volatilized, abstract from the body large quantities of caloric, and so serve to moderate the temperature of the condensed portion; and, conversely, that this latent caloric is given back by the volatilized matter in the course of its return to a liquid state. So that a comet, whether swinging in its orbit a few thousands of miles from its local source of heat and attraction, or many thousands of millions of miles distant, may preserve an approximate constancy of temperature under the operation of this beautiful law of compensation.

Astronomers often differ widely in their calculations of a comet upon its first appearance; and as, according to Prof. Norton, not more than one half of all the comets which are recorded to have appeared during the last two thousand years have returned twice to their perihelia, it must be admitted that the amount of well digested knowledge of their motions and physical constitution can be but small.—This much, however, seems to be con-