# Passing Notes.

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#### BY JACQUES.

Laugh where we must, be candid where we can .- Pope

Gavin Brighton again sets me a poser. After quoting the Christchurch "Press's" characterisation of the Progressive Party of the nineties as "The Seven Devils of Socialism," he proceeds: "I would ask Jacques through the 'Digger' to enlighten the Diggers and myself how to solve this problem.' " I must confess myself at a loss to discover wherein lies the problem -what it is that Mr Brighton wants enlightenment on. If he desires an exposition on devils, my answer must be that I have had no experience of them-at least, since I signed the pledge. True, I might give some interesting reminiscences. But no, I prefer to let my diabolical companions of old times rest. There are, however, several of my Invercargill acquaintances who frequently have a varied and interesting collection of them, of assorted And when we had 'em walloped, we deshapes, sizes and colours. If Mr Brighton's thirst for information is still keen, I might effect an introduction for him to one of these at the psychological moment, when he would probably receive a minute and detailed, though somewhat excited, description of them, their appearances, activities, peculiarities, etc. He would If it comes-our prayers are answered, find the experience a thing to be remem bered. But possibly it is not devils that Mr Brighton is interested in, but something else. If so, and he will say, slowly and distinctly, and with less excitement than he usually shows, what that something is, I may be able, out of the profundity of my ignorance, to enlighten, or still further befog, him. I will do either with equal gladuess.

Another friend, either with unwarrant- And ask His easy judgment on our miserable faith in my condition, or from a malicious desire to inveigle me into a | We pray that He will bless our land, our display of my ignorance, also sets me a problem. He says that his little son, We pray for-oh, in short we pray for parsing a sentence a few days ago, gave the gender of "horse" as "common." This the teacher declared incorrect, stating that it was "masculine." The youngster insisted that he was right, and fell into disgrace thereby. My friend asks me to And faith, like fiesh, is somewhat weak, decide between them. Well, it seems to me that the little fellow was on firmer | His power to save our churches yet He footing than his teacher. As a generic term "horse" cetainly includes the masculine "stallion" and the feminine "mare," and is therefore "common." Only when used in a special, distinctive sense—as, for instance, when we say "One was mounted on a mare, while the other rode a horse"-can the noun be regarded as of masculine gender. (In the case under review it was not). we say that "the horse is a friend of man," surely we do not exclude the female of the species. It is a small matter, perhaps, but it is as well that our children should receive exact instruction, even in these little things. Anyway, I do not claim to be a grammarian, and would prefer to pass the question on to Mr Rae, or some other authority.

It has long been known that there is an love between Japan and the United States. The mutterings of the press m both countries have given sufficient indication of the extent and intensity of their mutual hatred and fear: while more than one utterance in their legislatures, and on their public platforms have plainly foreshadowed the possibility of ultimate conflict between the two Powers. Still-the wish, no doubt, being father to the thought-we have always regarded the prospect of such catastrophe as more remote than immediate. At present, however, - the situation wears a very ominous complexion, and it looks as though the possibility of yesterday may easily become the actuality of to-morrow. At any moment the bolt may fall, and the two nations be plunged into a life and death struggle. For it must be war to the death, once entered into it will never be abandoned until the question of ascendancy in the Pacific is absolutely settled. The possibility is one to excite our anixous interest, for we, oursselves, must necessarily be involved, if not in the conflict itself, at least in its consequences. The direction in which victory goes will affect the destinies of Australasia, as well as the rest of the Pacific, to an extent edness of being content with that station that none can, at present, appreciate.

At the meeting of the Presbyterian General Assembly a report was adopted recommending maximum insurance on all church properties owing to the greatlyincreased cost of replacement. Will the editor, or some other digger brother, kindly accompany me on the harmonium, while I sing my latest little song entitled:

TRUST IN GOD-AND KEEP YOUR POWDER DRY.

When the world was lately shaken by the thunder of the guns,

We prayed the Lord to lend a hand to spiflicate the Huns;

clared we'd always known That He'd never fail to hearken to the

pleadings of his own. When drought has set its withering hand

on every hill and plain, And our bank accounts look dicky, when

we wildly pray for rain,

but be it understood, If it doesn't-well, of course we feel its

somehow for our good. When an epidemic strikes us we appeal

to Providence, With carefully selected words, and poli-

ished eloquence; We supplicate for succour when in peril

on the seas: And a thunderstorm or earthquake sends

us quickly to our knees.

We pray the Lord to prosper Prohibition at the polls;

able souls:

Parliament and King;

every bally thing.

But, stay! There's one exception (I had nearly quite forgot)

Ye ken a fire's a dreadful thing, and churches cost a lot;

and though we all admit

mightn't think of it. So friends, if we'd be certain we must

make ourselves secure; Though faith is very beauttiful, 'tis wiser

to insure. But piety and prudence may be joined, as

you can see,

In prayer, supplemented by a thumping

What is the matter with England? may teach. Blink it as we may, we cannot dispose of the fact that she stands virtually friendless among the nations to-day. That those we lately fought against should hate us is natural, but it is not these I mean. The trouble is that those who were our friends and fought shoulder to shoulder with us in the great struggle are one by one turning their backs on us. American sentiment is (if reports are trustworthy) openly hostile to us, and the French press is beginning to revive its old taunt of 'Perfide Albion.' Russia has more than once, of late, declared her hatred of England and the overthrow of Venizelos (our greatest friend in Greece during the war) would suggest that the Greeks don't like us, either. A considerable, if not the major, portion of the Italian nation is Anglophobe, and, though Spain doesn't count for much in the world's affairs, she is by no means friendly to us. Ireland, India and Egypt all loathe us, and are trying to shake off our rule at any cost. In short, we do not seem to have a single friend among the Powers and peoples to-day with, perhaps, the solitary exceptiton of Japan. And the bonds that bind us to her are very frail, and any moment she may change from seeming friends to enemy. What is the matter with us?

Bill had the paper in his hand when he came over last Sunday morning.

"Jax," he queried, "why the 'ell should you and me be so poor?"

I murmured something about the bless-

in life to which the Lord has appointed

"Rats," ejaculated my friend, "it's every man's dooty to get as rich as the good Lord'll let 'im, especially when it's so easy. I've just struck a plan, Jax, that'll make me as rich as Rockefeller in no time, an' it's just like fallin' off a log. All yeh gotter do is foller the advertisin' columns in the papers. Then go around an' snap up all the bargainsan' they are nearly all bargains-an' sell 'em at what they're really worth-which is always an' 'elluvalot more'n their present price. (The sellers an' their agente will tell you so, themselves). Look at this, forinstance. "A beautiful little bungalow, with every convenience an' electric light an' everything, throva away at £1500, an' easily worth £2000 of any man's money." There you are, a clear chuck-in of £500, an' no trouble. Then 'ere's a bisness, showing a clear profit of £1000 a year, an' offered, lock, stock an' barrel at the ridiculous price of two hundred quid. The man who misses such a thing should try to get into Seacliff; it's the proper place for 'im. Then look at the splendid snips in secon'-'and motor cars "recently over-'auled an' fitted with every improvement; an' every one cheap at double the price asked." An' so on right down the list; generous benefactors everywhere wantin' to pour money into your pocket, if you will only 'old it open. What's the good of bein' poor? I'm fed up with it, an' am going to start out on the get-richquick track to-morrow. I'll just buy everything offerin' an' sell it at its proper price. I know it looks like takin' advantage of the simple land agent an' motor dealers, but I can't 'elp that. I gotter get rich."

And he walked off with a "The world's mine oyster' look on his face.

With the smashing of Wrangel it would seem that Bolshevism has firmly and finally established itself in Russia, so that, if what the dailies have been telling us is true, it were about time that we commenced shivering. For my own part, however, I refuse to believe that there is any cause for alarm. We have based our judgment of the movement on its methods, forgetting that the means of achieving reform are always determined 27.23, 28.32, 23.18, 15.19, 18.14.—W. by the nature and extent of the opposi- | wins. tion encountered. No one who has read anything of Russian history will dare say that the revolution was not justified; no one who was not present during the chaotic period of transititon from the old order to the new can form any opinion as to whether the Bolshevists have shown unnecessary cruelty or not. The system' may not appeal to us, but that it is suitable to Russian conditions and the temperament of the Russian people is proven by its success. Hitherto, we have only looked on the ugly surface of it, but deep below that there may be a wealth of good that will yet operate to Russia's salvation. Anyway, the "Reds" are now in a position to set their house in order, and in a little while we may be able to judge of it more fairly by its fruits. If it is evil, small fear but that the rest of the world will reject it, if it is good, we may yet profit by some of the lessons that it

#### CANTEEN FUNDS.

The Utilisation of the Canteen Funds of the N.Z.E.F. was the subject of a question to the Minister of Defence by Mr T. E. Y. Seddon, M.P., recently in Parliament. The Hon. Sir R. H. Rhodes replied that the total amount to the credit of the N.Z. E.F. Canteen Funds was approximately £70.000. The whole of this sum had been paid into the Consolidated Regimental Canteen Fund Account, and a portion of it had been invested by the Treasury on behalf of the fund. It was proposed to introduce legislation during the present session authorising the Government to set up a special committee to administer the fund on behalf of ex-members of the N.Z.E.F. Consideration could then be given to the honourable member's suggestion that the Trentham Scholarship Fund should be supplemented from the Canteen Fund Account.

The Auckland Returned Soldiers' Association has decided to spend £1000 on the erection of a memorial in the soldiers' plot at Waikumete cemetery. The Association has a credit balance of £3000.

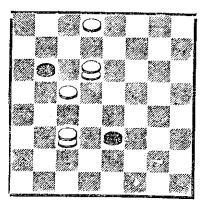
A leading Queensland grazier states that the pastoralists there are enjoying a wonderful season, the best for 38 years. Hain has fallen right through the winter, just when wanted, and everything is flourishing. The seamen's strike alone is interfering with a large export of meat.

#### DRAUGHTS.

(Conducted by F. Hutchins).

PROBLEM 37.

(Ey Fegan, per favour of Rev. J. Collie). WHITE.



BLAC...

Black 10, 24, King 23. White 19, 31, King 11. White to play and win.—Very neat.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM 36.

By W. T. Broadcast, Oldham.

(No. 53 in "Bolton Chronicle"). Black 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15. White 14, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27.

Black to play and win. 12.16 28.52 9.6 23.18 2.9 22.18 7.10 \* 16.19 32.2731.26A, 20.16 14.7 20.24 10.6 в, 19.28 7.2 26.22 27.25c, 27.23 17.1424.27 6.10

22.17

18.2 B. wins. A.-27.23, 19.26, 20.16, 11.27, 18.2, 10.15, 2.9, 25.30, 9.6, 30.25, 22.18, 15.22.—

25.22

11.20

B .- Taking the piece 11.20 loses for Black. thus:-11.20 c, 28.32 32.2324.27 18.2 2.97.26.9

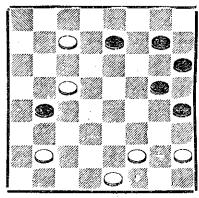
19.28 5.14 20.24 -27.3117.10 14.7 2.6 10.6 W. wins. c.--6.9, 2.6, 28.32, 27.23, 32.27, 22.18, 13.22, 6.13, 22.26, 13.17, and write wins; or if 6.10, then 2.6, 10.15,

DUNDEE.—(By X.Y.Z.).

12.16	11.16	4.8	2.7
24.19	28.24	19.15	18.14
8.12	9.13	10.19	11.18
22.18	18.9	24.15	14.9
10.14	13.22	1.6	6.10
26.22	25.18	29.25	23.14
16.20	в, 5.14	3.7	10.17
22.17	18.9	23.18	21.14
A, 7.10	6.13	c, 7.11	13.17
30.26	32.28	26.23	+ 9.6
-	. 1 4 11		

+.—Leads to the following interesting end. ing on the diagram which occurred between Messrs Ward and Alexander in the late English tourney:--

BLACA.



WHITE.

	.,		
Black	(Ward) to	play and	draw.
7.11	20.27	32.28	26.23
6.2	22.18	15.11	19.∠o
17.21	Е, 8.11	16.19	30.23
25.22	7.10	7.10	15.11
11.15	19.24	26.30	23.18
.2.7	28.19	18.14	10.6
21.25	16.23	19.23	28.24
14.9	10.15	10.15	6.1
25.30	11.16	23.26	24.19
22.17	9.6	15.19	1.6
р, 30.26	23.26	26.31	19.15
31.22	6. <b>2</b>	11.15	11.7
15.19	27.32	31.26	15.11
27.24	2.7	14.10	Drawr
11.16,	etc., draws		-

B .- Preferable to taking the single piece. c.-7.10 loses, but brings out some neat play, see var. 1.

D.—A neat sacrifice, and ensures the draw. E.—16.20, 22.18, 12.1c, 7.11, 8.12.—Drawn.

VAR. 1. 7.10 16.19 26.30 15.10 26.22 17.1425.2118.15 10.19 19.23 30.25 11.7 27.24 14.9 22.18 15.6 20.27 23.26 25.22 5.1 31.15 15.11 18.15 2.11 6.9 22.18 1.10 8.15 21.17 18.11 W. wins.

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