

CASSELL AND COMPANY have in press *John Bull, Jr.*, by P. Blouët better known under his pseudonym of Max O'Rell, who considers this his best effort in his specialty of political satire.

MR. IGNATIUS DONNELLY now expects to issue his well-advertised *Shakespeare Cryptogram* during the current month. Nearly 800 pages are printed. There will be a limited edition de luxe sold for \$25.

THE eleventh volume of Rev. Joseph Cook's Monday Lectures, comprising those delivered during the winter of 1887, will shortly be issued from the Riverside Press under the title of *Current Religious Perils*.

MESSRS. A. C. McCLURG AND COMPANY have in press for early publication *Witnesses to Christ; A Contribution to Christian Apologetics*, by William Clark, M.A., Professor of Philosophy in Trinity College, Toronto. This volume will contain the Second Annual Course of Lectures on the Baldwin Foundation, delivered before the Hobart Guild of the University of Michigan in November and December, 1887.

BISMARCK is the subject of a brief but timely paper which is to appear in the *March Century*. The author (the article is anonymous) is of the opinion that so long as Bismarck is Chancellor—that is, so long as he lives, for no new Kaiser will be likely to take the responsibility of displacing him—things will probably continue to run in their accustomed course. The question is, who or what is there to replace Bismarck when he too disappears?

JAMES WOOD DAVIDSON, at one time literary editor of the *New York Evening Post*, and the author of several works well-known in the literary world, has recently completed a book which is to bear the title of *The Poetry of the Future*, in which he presents some such sharp criticisms of the poetry of the past and of the present, and some such radical ideas concerning poetical evolution that it will not be strange if he finds himself presently in the midst of a literary "hornet's nest." Some chapters of his criticisms will appear in *Literature*, Alden's new illustrated weekly magazine.

DAVID R. LOCKE, widely known as "Petroleum V. Nasby," died at Toledo, Ohio, on the 15th ult., aged fifty-five. The *Nasby Letters*, begun by Mr. Locke in April, 1861, had an enormous vogue, and were no doubt very influential in making opinion against slavery and disunion. They were published first in the Findlay (Ohio) *Jeffersonian*, and afterwards in the Toledo *Blade*, of which Mr. Locke eventually became the proprietor, and for years were widely copied by papers all through the North and West. Mr. Locke was an active journalist. He also did much lecturing, and had made successful ventures as a playwright. He left a large estate.

MRS. S. A. CURZON, author of *Laura Secord, and other Poems*, is contributing a well-written drama to the *Canadian Advance* (Toronto). It is a dramatic story of the time of Louis XIV., founded on the action of the Intendant of Canada, the illustrious Talon, who, in order to procure wives for the disbanded troops and unmarried colonists, procured a large immigration of marriageable young women of good character, to whom a handsome dowry was paid. On the arrival of the annual ship-load of candidates for matrimony couples were married "by thirties at a time." Mrs. Curzon vividly describes the character living in the old French inn, the priests who come for Marie, the maid, and the hunchbacked witless lad, and presents an interesting picture of French-Canadian life in the early days of New France.

MUSIC.

THE CHORAL SOCIETY'S CONCERT.

NOTWITHSTANDING the fact that the melodies and choruses of *Eli* are almost an unknown quantity in Toronto, the friends of Mr. Edward Fisher's society, as well as a representative portion of the musical public, assembled in full force on Thursday last, in the Pavilion. *Eli* is not perhaps a thrilling or highly original oratorio: it is more, in common with *Naaman*, an exercise in the oratorio form of composition; still in honour of the memory of so talented a conductor and painstaking a composer as Sir Michael Costa, it deserves to be occasionally heard. Mr. Fisher was as careful and conscientious as usual, and did everything in his power to promote the accuracy and energy of the performance. The orchestra was well up to the local mark, and included some of our best players as well as a few from outside. The chorus-singing was satisfactory as a whole, and the solos were admirably taken by Mdme. d'Auria and the American contingent. Babcock is one of the finest singers on the continent undoubtedly. The Choral Society, firmly established in the affections of many of our best-known citizens, deserves to prosper, and is now, we understand, or soon to be, engaged in the work of preparation for the Grand Musical Festival of 1888.

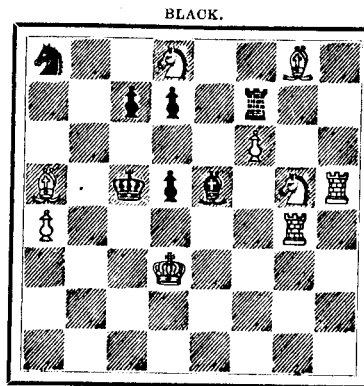
THE Mutual Life Insurance Company, of New York, the annual statement of which appears in another column, affords, if any company does, what is of first importance to the insurer, absolute security. Its assets now amount to nearly \$119,000,000, while its annual income from premiums and other sources exceeds \$21,000,000. Messrs. T. and H. K. Merritt are the Toronto agents.

THE Annual Report of the Western Assurance Company, published elsewhere in our columns, exhibits a very satisfactory year's business. Though the year was not generally a profitable one to Fire or Marine Insurance Companies, the Western's large revenue enabled it to pay all losses, and have a profit on the year's transactions amounting to nearly \$100,000. The Western is an old company, and has a good directorate and able management.

CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 231.

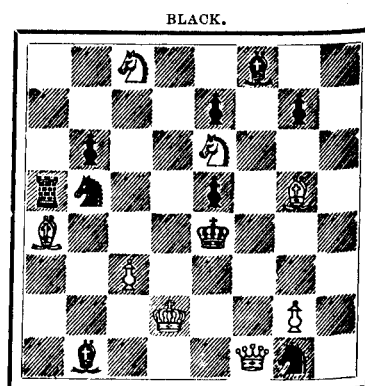
By J. Mcgregor.



White to play and mate in two moves.

PROBLEM No. 232.

By O. F. Reed, N.Y., from "100 Gems of Chess."



White to play and mate in three moves.

SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS.

- No. 225.
- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| White. | Black. |
| 1. Kt-Kt 8 | K moves. |
| 2. Q-K 3 or Q | K 7 moves. |
| 3. Q mates. | |

- No. 226.
- | | |
|----------------|--------|
| White. | Black. |
| 1. B-B 7 | P-Q 6 |
| 2. R-K 3 + | P x R |
| 3. P-B 3 + | K-B 5 |
| 4. K x P mate. | |

Correct solutions received to Problems 227 and 228 from Chas. W. Phillips, Chicago. In Problem No. 229 the white and black sides of the board are wrong and should be changed.

GAME BETWEEN MR. Mcgregor AND MR. DAVISON IN THE TORONTO CHESS CLUB TOURNAMENT FOR 1888.

SCOTCH GAMBIT.

MR. Mcgregor.	MR. DAVISON.	MR. Mcgregor.	MR. DAVISON.
White.	Black.	White.	Black.
1. P-K 4	P-K 4	22. R-Q B 2	P-K Kt 4
2. Kt-K B 3	Kt-K B 3	23. P-K Kt 3 (d)	B-Q 5
3. P-Q 4	P x P	24. Q-K Kt 2	B x Kt
4. Kt x P	Kt x Kt	25. R x B	P-Q B 4
5. Q x Kt	P-Q 3	26. Q-K B 2 (e)	B-Q B 3
6. Q-Q 1	B-K 3	27. K-Kt 1 (f)	B x P
7. B-Q 3	B-K 2	28. R-K 1	K R-K 1
8. Castles.	Kt-K B 3	29. R x B	R x R
9. Kt-Q B 3	P-Q B 3	30. B x R	R x B
10. P-K B 4	Kt-Kt 5	31. K-Kt 2 (g)	Q-K 4
11. Q-K 2 (a)	B-Q 2	32. R-B 2	R-K 8
12. P-B 5	Kt-K 4	33. Q-K B 3	R-K 6
13. K-R 1	P-K R 4	34. Q-B 2	Q-K 5 +
14. B-K B 4	B-K B 3	35. K-R 2	R-K B 6
15. P-K R 3	Q-K 2	36. Q-Q 2	K-B 2
16. Kt-Q 1	Castles Q R	37. Q-Q R 5 +	K-B 1
17. P-Q B 4	R-K 1	38. Q-Q 2	R x B P
18. B x Kt	B x B	39. R-B 3	R-Q B 8
19. Q-K B 2	K-Kt 1	40. Q-Kt 2	Q-K 8
20. R-Q B 1 (b)	Q-K B 3	41. R-B 2	P-K R 5
21. Kt-Q B 3 (c)	R-K 2		

White resigns.

NOTES.

- (a) P-B 5 would give White a winning position.
 (b) Surely R-K Kt 1 is better.
 (c) P-Q Kt 4 is much the better move.
 (d) We prefer P x P passing.
 (e) White should press the game on the Queen's side.
 (f) Giving up his most valuable Pawn.
 (g) Weak; this and his next move leaves White's game hopeless.

KEENE.—Mr. Keene's repertoire for the first half of next week does not contain any play which he produced when here in the spring, but consists of the three strongest tragedies in his repertoire, "Richard III.," "Julius Caesar," and "Othello." Keene is not only kindly remembered here for his own brilliant portrayals, but also for the strong supporting company which he always brings, and which this year is said to be the greatest that ever supported a tragedian in America. There are certainly no finer legitimate artists than Joseph Wheelock, Arthur Elliott, and Miss Anna Boyle; while, in addition to these, all the old favourites of last season's company are retained. This will prove a very brilliant engagement, and one which should test the capacity of the house. Sale of seats opens on Thursday morning, and there is no advance in prices.

JACOBS AND SHAW'S OPERA HOUSE.—"Passion's Slave"—a new drama, abounding in comedy, sensation, emotion, song, and music, and mounted with a car-load of special scenery—will be the attraction at Jacobs and Shaw's Opera House next week, commencing with the usual Monday night performance. The story told in the drama is a strong and plausible one of man's slavery to his passions, and the degradation he can bring upon himself by his unguarded actions, allowing humility by self-sacrifice and noble bearing to regain its former position. The mechanical and light effects used in the play are new and novel, and said to be something of a deviation from the usual contrivances employed. The piece will be well cast, the names of Hamilton Harris, J. Gordon Edwards, Carrie Rose, Fanny Lewis Burt, Theresa Burrows, Jeppe and Fanny Delano, and the Black Diamond Quartette appearing in the cast.