

READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.

HOW THE CZAR READS THE NEWS.

At present the Czar eschews all Russian newspapers; their peans and lamentations never reach his ears. Among the many departments of the Ministry of the Interior there is one (the *Telegraph* says) called the "Department of his Majesty's Journal," which is charged with preparing day by day a carefully worded *résumé* of some mild articles and items of intelligence meant for the Emperor's eye. A *tschinovnik* of the Censure rises from his bed in the gray of the early morning and hurries off to the department, where advance-sheets of the journals come in damp from the press. These he reads over, marking with red pencil all the passages the interest of which is not marred by injudiciousness. There are certain events as well as numerous words and phrases which a Russian Emperor, like a certain French King, must never be allowed to hear. "Fou le roi d'Espagne!" (the late King of Spain). "What does *feu* mean?" asked a French King once indignantly. "Oh, it is a title, your Majesty, taken by the King of Spain after the lapse of a certain time." The marked passages are then cut out, pasted together on sheets and handed over to the director of the department, who, after carefully considering and if needs be curtailing them, signifies his approval. The extracts are then copied calligraphically on the finest description of paper, forty or fifty words to the page, and the journal in this state is given to the Minister of the Interior or his adjunct. If this dignitary is satisfied it is passed on to the General-in-Waiting, who deposits it on his Majesty's table about four o'clock the following day. The news that slowly dribbles through this official filter is seldom of a nature to discompose the feelings of the Czar or disturb his sleep.

DRAINAGE BY EUCALYPTUS.

FOR years past the Trefontane Convent at Rome had become positively uninhabitable, owing to the malaria which attacked—in many instances with fatal results—its inmates. Senator Torelli presented a Bill in Parliament proposing that the estate annexed to the convent should be planted with eucalyptus as an experiment against malaria. The Bill was passed, and the Trappist monks planted thousands of eucalyptus plants of all species on the estate. But still the malaria ravaged, and several monks suffered severely. But it was remarked that it was only the monks who had their cells looking on the central cloister who fell victims to the malaria. This suggested the idea of planting four eucalyptus trees at the four corners of the cloister. The plants, sheltered from the winds, soon grew to a great height. The immediate result was the complete draining of the soil in the cloister, and the disappearance of malarial fever from the convent.

TRIAL BY JURY.

MR. JELF writes from the Oxford Circuit to the *Times*, making a bold declaration in favour of the abolition of trial by jury. He was impelled to do this because in three causes in which he had been counsel lately the jury had disagreed. A judge's mind, he points out, cannot be divided, and, he adds, the judge is generally right. Well, suppose this is accepted, we do not know that it follows that for all cases a judge is the most satisfactory tribunal. There are undoubtedly cases upon which twelve minds cannot agree: those are cases in which there is no obvious right and wrong. Some people may hold one opinion, some another. A positive decision in favour of either party may be an injustice. The judge is bound to decide: the jury can disagree. The latter contingency is always considered a regrettable incident, but it is not an unmixed evil. Trial by jury is a cherished institution having its drawbacks, but, on the whole, giving satisfaction. We doubt very much whether Mr. Jelf expresses the opinion of any large section of the legal profession or of the public. —*Law Times*.

ADVENTURES ON THE PLAINS.

EARLY in March, 1867, a party of friends, all old buffalo-hunters, now living and prominent citizens of Wichita and Great Bend, in Kansas, were camped in Paradise Valley, then a famous rendezvous of the animals they were after. One day, when out on the range stalking and widely separated from each other, an awful blizzard came up. Three reached camp without much difficulty, but he who was the furthest away was fairly caught in it, and, night coming on, was compelled to resort to a method frequently employed by persons lost on the plains. Luckily he soon found a superannuated bull that had been abandoned by the herd, and, killing him, took out the viscera, and himself crawled inside the huge beast, where he lay comparatively comfortable until morning, the storm having cleared off, and the sun shining brightly. But, when he attempted to get out found himself a prisoner, the immense ribs of the creature having frozen together, and locked him up as tightly as if he were in a cell. Fortunately his friends who were searching for him and firing off their rifles—which he heard, and yelled out to them—discovered and released him from his peculiar predicament. At another time two old plainsmen were away up the Platte among the foot-hills hunting buffalo, and they, as is generally the case, became separated. In an hour or two one killed a fat young cow, and, leaving his rifle on the ground, went up and commenced to skin her. While busily engaged in the work, he suddenly

heard, right behind him, a suppressed sort of a snort, and looking around, saw to his dismay a monstrous grizzly, ambling along in that animal's characteristic manner, within a few feet of him. In front, only a few rods away, there happened to be a clump of scrubby pines, and he incontinently made a break for them, climbing into the tallest in less time than it requires to write of it. The bear deliberately ate a hearty meal off the cow, and, when he had satiated himself, quietly lay down alongside of the carcass and went to sleep, keeping one eye probably on the hunter corralled in the tree. In the early evening his partner came to the spot, killed the bear, which, full of buffalo, was sluggish and unwary, and became an easy victim, and the unwilling prisoner came down from his perch. The last time I saw him he told me he still had the bear's hide, which he kept as a memento of his foolishness in separating himself from his rifle, a thing he had never done before nor since, and which no hunter should be guilty of.—*Henry Inman, in Harpers Weekly*.

DR. TALMAGE'S FIRST SERMON.

AH, how well I remember the first Sunday in my first church!

The congregation gathered early. The brown-stone church was a beautiful structure, within and without. An adjacent quarry had furnished the material, and the architect and builder, who were men of taste, had not been interfered with. A few creeping vines had been planted at the front and side, and a white rose-bush stood at the door, flinging its fragrance across the yard.

Many had gone in and taken their seats, but others had staid at the door to watch the coming of the new minister and his bride. She is gone now, and it is no flattery to write that she was fair to look upon, delicate in structure of body, eyes large and blue, hair in which was folded the shadows of midnight, erect carriage, but quite small. She was such a one as you could pick up and carry over a stream with one arm. She had a sweet voice and had stood several years in the choir of the city churches, and had withal a magic of presence that had turned all whom she ever met into warm personal admirers. Her hand trembled on her husband's arm as that day they went up the steps of the meeting-house, gazed at intently by young and old.

The pastor looked paler even than was his wont. His voice quavered in reading the hymn, and he looked confused in making the publications. That day a mother had brought her child for baptism, and for the first time he officiated in that ceremony. Had hard work to remember the words, and knew not what to do next. When he came to preach, in his excitement he could not find his sermon. It had fallen back of the sofa. Looked up and down, and forward and backward. Fished it out at last, just in time to come up, flushed and hot, to read the text. Made a very feeble attempt at preaching. But all were ready to hear his words. The young sympathised with him, for he was young. And the old looked on him with a sort of paternal indulgence. At the few words in which he commended himself and his to their sympathy and care, they broke forth into weeping. And at the foot of the pulpit, at the close of the service, the people gathered, poor and rich, to offer their right hand.—*T. De Witt Talmage in Ladies' Home Journal*.

MRS. MACKAY AND HER TROUBLES.

MRS. MACKAY, wife of Mr. John W. Mackay, the bonanza king, seems to be having a good deal of trouble in getting her social position fixed upon a secure basis. For the past three or four years there have been suits from time to time against newspapers and individuals who, it was charged, had libelled Mrs. Mackay by referring to her as having been a washerwoman before her marriage with her present husband. One editor in England, who had either originated or published the report, was mulcted in damages, which Mrs. Mackay promptly promised to turn in to some charity. Still other suits have been either begun or threatened, until the prospect has been good that Mrs. Mackay would end her days in litigation for the purpose of establishing her social position. Recently the rumours have been put afloat again, and Mrs. Mackay or her husband has offered rewards for the detection of the persons who have started them. It seems that they have their origin, so far as this side of the water is concerned, with a woman suffrage agitator in Washington; and Mrs. Mackay has been advised by friends and counsel here that it will be futile to make any attempt to punish the supposed offender. It is, therefore, probable that no suits will be brought in this country for the purpose of fixing Mrs. Mackay's social status in Europe. All this will seem very amusing to the average American. Everybody knows that in this country there is no social position, except that which persons may make for themselves; and the question of their birth or employment does not enter at all into the matter, except that the latter shall be honourable.

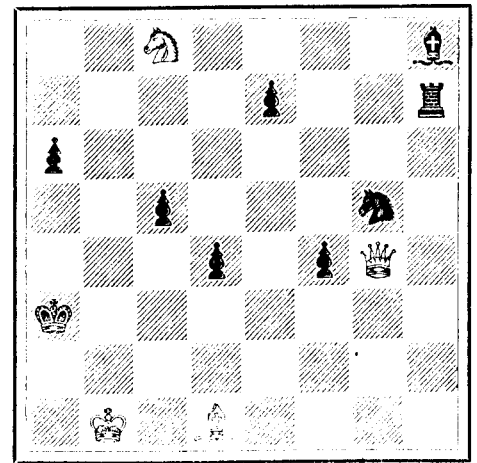
THE moral character of Jesus is harmonious in all its parts. It is a miracle of celestial beauty, blending the innocence of the lamb with the dignity of God, sweet in its benevolence, and intense and strong in its aversion to sin, and without a blemish or a fault. It has in all ages commanded the universal tribute of human thought. The most arrogant infidelity forgets its sneer in the presence of this character.—*The New York Independent*.

CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 491.

By DR. GOLD.

BLACK.



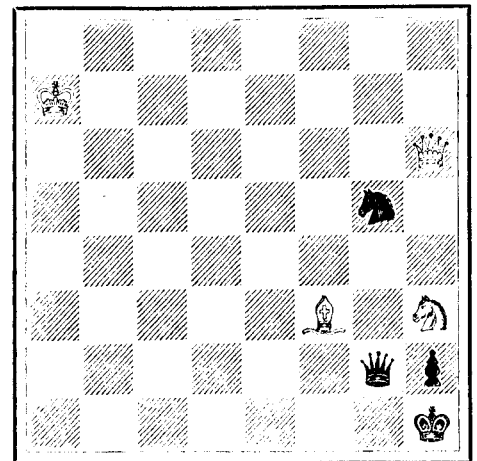
WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. 492.

By OTTO WURZBERG, Grand Rapids, Mich.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS.

No. 485.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| White. | Black. |
| 1. Q-K Kt 1 | 1. K-K 2 |
| 2. Q-Kt 7 | 2. K moves |
| 3. Kt from B 7-Q 6 mate | if 1. K-B 2 |
| | 2. K moves |
| 2. Q-Q R 7 | |
| 3. Kt from Kt 7-Q 6 mate | |
- With other variations.

No. 486.

- | | |
|------------|----------|
| White. | Black. |
| 1. R-R 3 | 1. P-B 3 |
| 2. R-Q 3 | 2. P x R |
| 3. P mates | |

FOURTH GAME IN THE MATCH BETWEEN BLACKBURN AND LEE AT THE BRADFORD CHESS CLUB.

ZUKERTORT OPENING.

BLACKBURN.	LEE.	BLACKBURN.	LEE.
White.	Black.	White.	Black.
1. Kt-K B 3	P-Q 4	26. R-Kt 5	Kt-Kt 2
2. P-Q 4	Kt-K B 3	27. K-Q 2	R-R 1
3. P-R 4	P-Q B 3	28. P-B 4	P-K B 4
4. P-K 3	B-Kt 5 (a)	29. R from K2-Kt2	R-R 3
5. Q-Kt 3	Q-Kt 3	30. B-K 2	K-K 2
6. Kt-B 3	B x Kt	31. P-R 4 (f)	R x P
7. P x B	P-K 3	32. R x Kt P	R x R
8. B-Q 2	Q-Kt-Q 2	33. R x R	K-B 2
9. P-B 4	P-Kt 3	34. R-Q 2	K-K 2
10. R-B 1	Q x Q	35. R-Kt 6	Kt-K 1
11. P x Q	B-Kt 5	36. B-Q 3	R-R 7 +
12. P-B 3	Castles KR	37. K-B 3	Kt-Q 3
13. B-Q 3	Kt-R 4	38. P-Kt 3	R-R 6
14. Castles	Q-Kt-B 3	39. K-Q 2	R-R 7 +
15. Kt-R 2	K-R 1	40. K-B 3	R-R 4
16. Kt x Q P (b)	Kt x Kt (c)	41. K-Q 2	Kt-K 1
17. P x Kt	B x B	42. R-Kt 2	K-B 3
18. R x B	KP x P (d)	43. R-Kt 8	K-B 2
19. P-B 5	R-Q 3	44. R-Kt 2	Kt-Q 3 (g)
20. P x P	R P x P	45. K-B 3	Kt-B 1
21. P-Kt 4	Q-R-K 1	46. R-Kt 3	Kt-Q 3
22. K-B 2	P-R 3	47. R-Kt 2	R-R 6
23. R-K Kt 1	K-B 1	48. K-Q 2	K-B 3
24. R-K 2	K-K 2	49. R-Kt 8	R-R 7 +
25. K-K 1	K-Q 1 (e)	50. K-B 3 (h)	Drawn

NOTES BY GUNSBURG.

- (a) If White castle early on the K side Black may get an attack.
- (b) This is not to White's advantage.
- (c) Much better than P x Kt.
- (d) Black's Pawns are well placed, if he can avert danger in centre and on K side he should obtain the better game.
- (e) The king is necessary to support pawns on kings side and should stay there.
- (f) Intending to get rid of isolated R P and blacks K Kt P.
- (g) Black tries hard to get into a playable position and by subtle play has driven hostile Rook out of his camp.
- (h) I certainly think that having got so far, and gained this position by hard play, black should have played Kt-K 5 + and 51 B x Kt, B P x B in which case black in my opinion would have good winning chances and at the same time would always keep a draw on hand.