

THE January *Nineteenth Century* opens with an article on *The Progress of Cremation*, by Sir Henry Thompson, in which the eminent surgeon gives many reasons for the more general adoption of this method of disposing of the dead. In *The Two Paths: A Dialogue*, Mr. Frederick Harrison has some caustic criticism of recent books. Mr. Matthew Arnold has a paper on Shelley and Mr. Goldwin Smith one on American statesmen, founded on the series of biographies recently published by Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin, and Co. Mr. F. T. Palgrave writes on the *Decline of Art*. Mr. Theodor Von Bunsen on *Home Rule in Norway*; Sir W. W. Hunter on *A River of Ruined Capitals*, being an account of the Hugli, "the most westerly of the network of channels by which the Ganges pours into the sea." Mr. Algernon Charles Swinburne throws deserved ridicule on the Shakespeare-Bacon controversy in a paper entitled *The Dethroning of Tennyson*. The Hon. Mr. Justice Stephen has a rejoinder to Mr. Mivart, dealing with methods of Biblical criticism. The Bishop of Salford has a paper on *Leo XIII. and the Civil Power*, and the Duke of Argyll in *A Great Confession* deals with Mr. Herbert Spencer and the "Darwinian Hypothesis."

THE *North American Review* for February opens with a paper on the Fisheries Question, which, it is safe to say, does not meet the Canadian view, more especially as it concludes with this declaration: "The ultimate solution of all these recurring troubles with Canada will be found, no doubt, in union with the United States. Such an outcome will benefit both sides, but Canada far more than us. We can afford to bide our time, and await the inevitable result of the laws of political, financial, and social gravitation, for it is a case of inevitable destiny." *The Wonders of Animal Magnetism*, by Gilles de la Tourette, describes some of the strange phenomena of hypnotism. General W. F. Smith writes on the *Genius of Battle* and Miss Davis, Jefferson Davis' daughter, in a paper on *Serpent Myths*, shows how the old serpent worship still lingers among the negroes of the South. *The Political Effect of the Message, Capital Punishment by Electricity, Ballotting and Copyright, Georgeism making the Rich Richer, Communism and Protection* are articles of general interest. Mr. W. L. Le Sueur, of Ottawa, contributes a note on the *Foot prints of Creative Power*.

In the *Fortnightly* for January the author of *Greater Britain* continues his criticism of the British Army, comparing it most unfavourably with the armies of even the small powers of Europe. *The Old School of Classics and the New* is "a dialogue of the dead," by Professor Tyrell, in which Bentley, Madvig, Porson, Shakespeare, and Euripides take part; but Madvig and Bentley monopolize the conversation which is, of course, critical, ingenious, and interesting. In *Right and Wrong* Mr. W. S. Lilly endeavours to show that morality is nothing if not absolute, and that the rule of ethics is the natural and permanent revelation of reason, and not, as some hold, a matter of calculation and reasoning. Mr. George Saintsbury has a second paper on the *Present State of the Novel*, in which he treats principally of the French novel, and comes to the conclusion that it does not appear to be in any more healthy condition than the English. *Elk Hunting*, by Sir Henry Pottinger, *Charles Darwin*, by F. W. H. Meyers, a short paper entitled, *The Prospects of Egypt in 1888*, by Col. Duncan, *The Higher Life*, by Rev. J. L. Davies, and *Distress in London*, by Earl Compton, with some verses by Mr. Swinburne, complete the number.

ART, MUSIC, AND THE DRAMA.

TORONTO CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC.

THIS flourishing institution maintains its rank among us, and its right to the approval of the music-loving citizens. The Saturday Quarterly Concert in the Pavilion was crowded to overflowing, and the various items on a well-arranged programme were performed to the satisfaction of the large audience present. The selections were undoubtedly very trying in point of difficulty and necessity for artistic interpretation, but in nearly all the pupils a high degree of proficiency was noticed, especially among those who are mainly interesting themselves in singing. Signor d'Auria evidently possesses the power of communicating a kind of special *verve* and *vim* to his pupils, which materially enhances their performances. We might if we were critically disposed mention as a feature of the piano numbers at these concerts, that they are in almost all cases characterized by a slowness of tempo, which, while perhaps wise that the student should retain, is fraught with discomfort to the listener. The violin department appears to be increasing in popularity. The bowing of the young ladies, M. Boucher's pupils, on Saturday, was excellent, but their intonation faulty. One or two omissions were unavoidable, owing to the snowstorm and detention of pupils by the way.

MR. BELFORD'S DRAMATIC RECITALS.

LARGE and appreciative audiences greeted Mr. Belford on his re-appearance in Toronto on Monday and Tuesday evenings. On both occasions he had popular programmes which enabled him to display the full scope of his ability as a reader. All the selections were more or less familiar, but none of them were hackneyed; and Mr. Belford's fine voice and finished elocution gave a new charm even to the most familiar. Gifted with such facile power of rendering the most difficult and different selections—grave, humorous, pathetic, declamatory, it is hard to say in which class of readings he most excels. In such pieces as *Boots at the Holly Tree Inn*, *Three Years After*, and *Major Namby*, he is simply delightful. He is equally successful in declamatory and passionate pieces. His very force and

vehemence, while they stir his audience powerfully, make him at times almost unintelligible. Mr. Belford has many of the qualities of a reader of the highest rank. He has a voice of great sweetness, clearness and strength, dramatic force and insight, versatility, nerve, and, what is by no means unimportant, an easy and almost winning manner on the stage.

THE ROYAL CANADIAN ACADEMY'S FAIR.

It is no longer a secret that it is the intention of those who control the Academy to hold a quaint and interesting celebration in Toronto in the spring, having in view the laudable object of obtaining the means wherewith to raise a creditable building to be devoted to Art purposes, and to serve as a permanent home for the archives and impedimenta of this institution, founded by Lord Lorne and Her Royal Highness Princess Louise, some eight years ago.

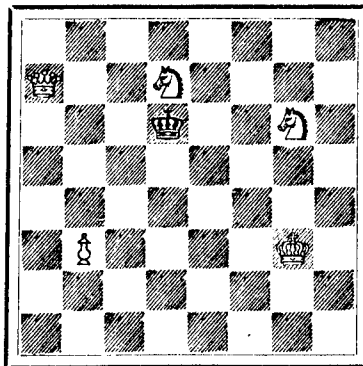
It is hoped that this may be found to be an effective means of resuscitating and reviving the local society, which has for about fifteen years struggled and languished in our midst, somewhat as a mariner contends with the elements when beset by storms, or, what to him is worse, the tantalizing calms which hinder progress. The old rooms on King Street have undoubtedly seen their best days, and experience has taught those in charge that some new movement is absolutely necessary if the position of the Fine Arts is to keep pace with the onward march of all other constituents which make up this apparently thriving and prosperous community.

It is felt keenly, perhaps even bitterly, by some of our artists that there is a tendency nowadays to overlook those who have borne the burden and heat of the day, and while there seems to be no lack of means to expend on luxury and personal display, and on the decorative and architectural arts, the artist proper who produces original pictures finds but little encouragement in his direction. Well, let us hope that the effort now to be made may prove successful, and that a stimulus may be created by the energy of the governing body of the Academy, supported by the liberality and public spirit of our leading citizens, which will result in erecting such a commodious and tasteful home for the Arts as may prove attractive to all the refined and cultured minds, not only of Toronto, but of the Province. The Council of the Granite Rink Club is putting its building at the disposal of the artists on very encouraging terms, and this should be at least a good step towards the probabilities of a popular fair. The space at command, the facilities for lighting, and the locality of the building are all favourable. We believe the programme, so far as yet arranged, is to apportion a part of the rink to the exhibition proper, opening it in April or May, meanwhile preparing the novelties and attractions of the fair, which will serve to keep up public interest of all classes, and should, if carried out, as we have reason to hope, prove an engrossing entertainment for old and young. In the hands of artists the representation of mediæval scenes and costumes should be something different to such as one expects to see in the ordinary "fancy drip" entertainment at skating rinks and balls.

In a future issue we hope to give our readers fuller particulars as to what the fare of the Fair will be.

CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 225.



White to play and mate in three moves.

Solution to Problem No. 221 (King Q S 7).—Key R—Q R 2, and R or Q mates.

No. 222.—Key Q R—B 6 (R—B 1) R ch. etc. (R x R), R x R ch. etc. (R—S 4) R—S 6 ch.

All moves that white is compelled to make in solving constitute each one variation.

Baltimore Sunday News Co. offer forty dollars to ladies for solutions during Lent.

The Columbia Chess Club publish the best weekly exclusively devoted to chess.

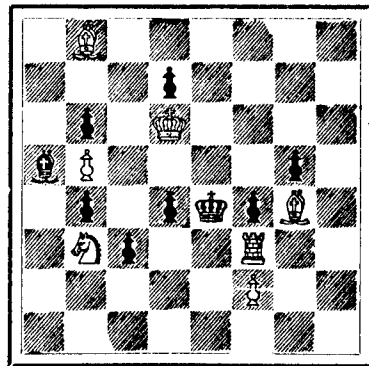
One hundred and twenty-eight players competed in the late match, "Ireland v. Scotland;" the latter won.

Capt. Dowdall wins "Hungarian Defence" from H. S. Tickell, B.A. : thus :

White.	Black.	White.	Black.
1. P—K 4	P—K 4	11. Q—B 3	S—Q 5
2. S—K B 3	S—Q B 3	12. Q—Q 1	S—K B 3
3. B—B 4	B—K 2 (weak)	13. P—K B 3	P—K R 4 (*)
4. P—Q 3	P—Q 3	14. R—B 2	P x P
5. Castles	B—K S 5	15. R—R 2 (bad)	Q x R ch.
6. Q S—Q 2	B—K S 4	16. K—B 1	Q—R 8 ch.
7. P—K R 3	B—R 4	17. K—B 2	R—R 7 ch.
8. P—K S 4 (note)	B—S 3	18. K—K 3	S x Q P ch.
9. P—K R 4 (loses)	B x R P	19. Q x S	Q—K 8 mate.
10. S x B	Q x S		(Note) Facilis est descensus Averno.

An invitation is extended to chess players who wish to participate with composition, and exchanges. Address the CHESS EDITOR. Solutions next week.

PROBLEM No. 226.



White to play and mate in four moves.