

WILLIAM BLACK AND HIS METHOD OF WORK.

If Mr. William Black were an Irishman I should feel inclined to pay tribute to his nationality by saying that he is most at home when he is out; which is an easy way of saying it, all the same. It is difficult to tell where he is most at home—on the deck of a yacht in the Northern seas; tramping the cliffs at Brighton; studying character in the United States and astronomy in Egypt; brooding over a favorite landscape in an artist's studio; talking politics at the Reform Club; or doing the honors of Paston House. I have seen him under most of these conditions, and have always found him the same pleasant, sympathetic companion, the same thoughtful, unostentatious, quick-witted gentleman. Tightly built, lithe of limb, strong in the arm, capable of great physical endurance, the novelist is nevertheless below the medium height. Short black hair, a thick brown moustache, a dark hazel eye, a firm mouth, a square forehead, Black gives you the idea of compact strength—a small parcel, so to speak, well packed. You might sooner take him for an artillery officer who had seen service, a yachtman, or a man who spent most of his life in out-door sports and pastimes, than set him down as an author, and particularly as a novelist.

Black might pass for a member of any profession except the clerical, or for an ordinary gentleman of the time, until you came to know him well enough to talk to him familiarly, and then you would find, as you always do in men who have made a mark on the current history of the times, in whatever direction, something extraordinary in his talk and in his appearance. You would first be impressed with the lead-like brightness of his eye, and its steadfastness; and then you would probably be struck with the fact, if you were travelling with him, that every bit of natural phenomena going on around him is an object of constant interest to him; that he knows the names of the birds you see and their habits; if you are at a sea port, then he knows every class of craft, and every rope in its rigging; if you are talking of art, or literature, or politics, that he has strong, well-informed opinions, and that he is perfectly frank and open in expressing them; and, moreover, that if you do not want to talk, he can be silent as an oyster.

It is in these moments of quiet that Black is busiest. His Muse is reflective. She indulges in long periods of incubation. At these times the novelist is possessed not by one spirit, but by many, by spirits both good and evil; and not only by spirits, but by plots, and not only by plots, but by words and sentences.

"My method of work," he says, in answer to my inquiries, "is, I think, a pernicious one, and I should be sorry to have it mentioned if it were to lead any young aspirants for literary fame to adopt it. Every man has his own way of working, and mine, I repeat, is most objectionable, and a way I warn any young man to avoid. From now until October in every year I write nothing, hardly put pen to paper except in the way of a private letter or to make an occasional note. But I am at work on my next novel. I put it into complete shape, even to the very construction of some of my sentences. I often keep these in my mind for two and three months. I am thus always ahead of my writing to the last. Of course the method has this advantage: you can 'work in' any incidents or circumstances occurring in the interval that may suit you, and you get familiar with your characters; they become, as it were, part of your family, part of your daily life, which to me seems the awful part of the business; working in this way you have your story continually on your mental shoulders, a Sindbad's Old Man of the Sea."

We are at the novelist's chambers overlooking the Thames Embankment. It is April. The afternoon is warm, the atmosphere gray. Sitting with his back to the window, my host turns now and then as if to let his thoughts wander down the river with the vessels that pass to and fro—now a lumbering barge, now a penny steamer, now a tug towing along a sort of aquatic procession.

"Do you make a summary or précis of your story before you begin to write?"

"Not on paper."

"Do you make notes of scenery, localities, atmospheric effects?"

"Yes, often very elaborate and careful notes, and especially in regard to atmospheric surroundings. If one does not correctly and completely frame a character or an incident, with all the circumstances of the time and place, one gets only a blurred page. For example, one may say, 'It was a beautiful day.' But what kind of a beautiful day? It must be described so that the picture shall be truthful and finished. Every human being in real life has a background, and must have in a novel if the story is to appear real to the reader."

"There is nothing more charming in fiction or in essay-writing," I feel impelled to add, "than the artistic use of natural effects in the illustration of character, and the development and exhibition of incidents, tragic or otherwise; the pathos that may belong to a gray morning or an evening mist, when woven in with a sad thought or a tender episode, must have often touched you who are so great a student of Nature's mood?"—JOSEPH HATTON, in *Harpers*.

TYPHOID fever, which has been so very prevalent in Paris, is now happily on the decrease.

MY POODLE.

One day last week I was marketing about the town of Dieppe, and wondering why under Protection everything was two-thirds the price paid in our own blessed Free-trade country—saddle of mutton for instance tenpence a pound, bread sixpence for an immense loaf as big as a year old baby, fresh butter thirteen pence a pound, and other things in proportion—when I saw a Poodle. Now I like Poodles, so I inquired, and finding that this one belonged to a grocer who lived hard by, I interviewed the grocer. I found him conversing with a friend of his—a peasant who had come in from the country to sell some pigs, that being market-day. As he was telling me stories of the Poodle and making him do his little tricks, the peasant said, "Ah, I have a much finer dog than that, and if Monsieur wanted to buy one, I would sell him." Monsieur said that he would at any rate like to see the dog; and it was arranged that he should be brought next day for inspection.

The next day accordingly the peasant appeared with a very splendid young Poodle of the "Mouton" kind. The dog was extremely dirty, his hair matted in great lumps all over him and all unkempt and uncared for; but he had so fine a carriage and so intelligent an eye, more like a woman's than a dog's, that I was taken with him at once. "He's called Fawk," said the man, "an English name, because these dogs as Monsieur knows are English or Scotch, which is the same thing." It was news to me that Poodles were an English race, but I asked why he was named "Fawk," being prepared to find that my lamented friend Guido Fawkes had retained in France the admirers he had so completely lost in England. "Well, we call him Fawk because it means Renard, and he is as clever as a Renard." "Oh, I see, Fox." "Why, yes, Fawk, as you say."

The peasant wanted a hundred francs, but after some bargaining sold him to me for sixty, while a stray friend of his volunteered to get the animal beautifully shaved as he should be for another ten. So the bargain was struck, and the dog was sent off to be washed and barbered. The result proved, when he was brought back, to be so far disappointing that the dog looked rather worse than before. Meantime, however, I had by chance heard of one who was described to me as a real artist in shaving Poodles, and having found him and induced him to undertake the business afresh the first thing in the morning, I made the dog comfortable for the night in the passage at the foot of the companion ladder. He had already become endowed with the new name of "Froggie," and seemed disposed to be friendly; but he was still much distressed at finding himself away from home and friends, and howled pretty continually for some hours. Finally he seemed to take somewhat to me. So long as I was close to him he stopped howling altogether, but as soon as I left him he began again, the howls dying away gradually as I once more approached him, when he nestled up to me as though to appeal to me personally for protection against all those fearful strange men and things by which he was surrounded.

At daylight the artist came. He looked over the dog and the barbarian trimming that had been given him with sighs and groans. "Ah! les malheureux!" said he, "me l'ont-ils aimé! Tenez, Monsieur, they have disengaged his eyes in an absurd manner. They should have let the hair come down in a point along his nose, à la Marie Stuart; then it is absolutely necessary that a Mouton should have moustaches, here, à la Bismarck, you know. It will be difficult to arrange him properly, but I will do what I can, and I answer for it that you will not know him. I can tell you one thing. You may pride yourself on having one of the best of his race. His head is magnificent, and when he is properly arranged en lion, with his mane washed and combed, you will nowhere find a better. It is a splendid dog, un maître chien."

Now it was high water at twelve that day, and I, being bound out and having to get out of the harbor by three o'clock at the latest, had stipulated that whatever was to be done to the dog must be done by two o'clock. But at two o'clock, when I had got into the outer harbor, no dog came, and after fuming and fretting some time, as I saw the water falling, I went ashore and to the artist's house. Here I found him with his wife and five children—all clean, smart, and well-looking—and Froggie lying on his side upon a table, submitting himself motionless to the shears, but taking in everything nevertheless out of the corner of his bright brown eye. He wagged his tail without moving his body when he saw me, and the artist began to apologize for being late, and said, "There, as Monsieur must go, there was the dog. He regretted not to be able to finish him, but at least he was less disgraceful than he had been."

Therewith the artist rose, Froggie jumped off the table and shook himself, and we hurried down to the ship. Froggie is now lying on the cabin floor, with his eye steadfastly fixed on me. He is fast friends with the crew, who put him through circus performances and flying jumps through a life-belt on deck; and he is very fond of peering down the fore-castle hatchway at the hour of meals. But he regards me as his particular friend and refuge against the strange world; he has to be tied up to prevent him from jumping overboard after me whenever I go away without him, and he seems to be then only truly happy and at peace when he is within reach of me. So that I think him a charming beast.

MARSHAL MACMAHON is seriously ill.

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

J. W. S., Montreal.—Paper to hand Thanks. Solution received of Problem No. 406.
P. H.—Correct solution received of Problem No. 410. (S. Lloyd's.)

Annexed we give a table showing the number of games already ended in the Cincinnati Correspondence Tourney.

We congratulate Mr. Ferris, the Conductor, on the success, so far, of an enterprise which we feel sure occupies a large portion of his time and attention.

Games ended in Cincinnati Commercial Correspondence Tourney to November 6, 1882.

PLAYERS.	WINNER.	OPENING.
1. Boivin, Greenfield.	Greenfield.	Minio.
2. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
3. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
4. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
5. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
6. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
7. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
8. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
9. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
10. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
11. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
12. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
13. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
14. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
15. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
16. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
17. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
18. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
19. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
20. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
21. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
22. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
23. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
24. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
25. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
26. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
27. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
28. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
29. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
30. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
31. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
32. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
33. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
34. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
35. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
36. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
37. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
38. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
39. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
40. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
41. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
42. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
43. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
44. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
45. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
46. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
47. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
48. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
49. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
50. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
51. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
52. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
53. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
54. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
55. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
56. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
57. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
58. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
59. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
60. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
61. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
62. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
63. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
64. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
65. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
66. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
67. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
68. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
69. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
70. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
71. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
72. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
73. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
74. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
75. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
76. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
77. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
78. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
79. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
80. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
81. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
82. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
83. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
84. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
85. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
86. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
87. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
88. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
89. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
90. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
91. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
92. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
93. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
94. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
95. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
96. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
97. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
98. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
99. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.
100. Robertson, Ryell.	Robertson.	Philidor's Defense.

A few days ago Captain Mackenzie played at the Manhattan Chess Club twenty games simultaneously. There was a large attendance of the members of the club and also of strangers, and great interest was manifested in the proceedings.

In contests of this nature there always occur a sufficient number of expected and unexpected events to afford scope for the amusement and excitement of the onlookers, but it is not often that such a treat is furnished as the following, which we take from *Turf, Field and Farm*.

"One of the amusing incidents of this bloodless contest was found in the game of Mr. 'Little.' This gentleman, to whom Captain Mackenzie, Messrs. Delmar Teed and others are in the habit of yielding the odds of the queen in off-hand games, made a most extraordinary fight, parrying all of his walking opponent's attack with rare skill and judgment, till at midnight he had acquired for himself a position which gave promise of eventually proving victorious over the captain's science. The spectators crowded around his board and encouraged him to persevere, which he did 'up to a certain point,' when, by a hidden and subtle coup the captain won a piece by force, which so demoralized Mr. 'Little' that his nerve deserted him, and his resignation was gracefully tendered in a few more moves."

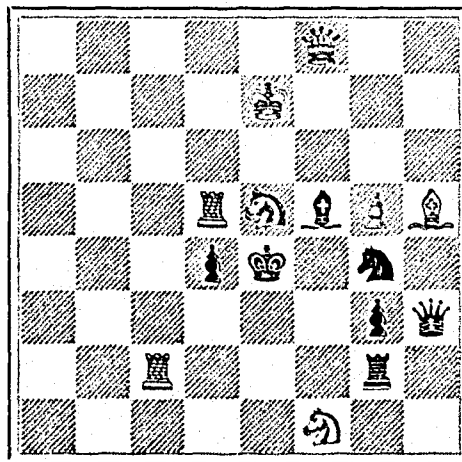
As every one predicted, the match between Steinitz and Martinez was won by the former, the score at the close standing 7 to 0 in favor of the former. Mr. Steinitz is now playing a match with Mr. Thompson, of Philadelphia, where the champion will remain for some time. From thence it is announced he will go to Cincinnati and other cities, including St. Louis, provided the players there wish a visit from him. Before his return to Europe he will probably play a match with Captain Mackenzie.—*Liberal Democrat, St. Louis*.

Mr. Max Judd, the present holder of the St. Louis challenge cup, has been challenged by Mr. William Haller to play a match for it. Under the rules governing such contests, the former has to give the odds of Knight.—*Cincinnati Commercial*.

PROBLEM No. 411.

By Robert H. Seymour.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 408.

White. 1 B to Q Kt 4
2 Q to K 5 ch
3 Q or B mates

Black. 1 Kt to Q 3
2 Any

GAME 409TH.

From *Turf, Field and Farm*.

The sixth game in the match at Philadelphia, between Mr. Steinitz and Mr. Martinez.

(Evans Gambit.)

WHITE.—(Mr. Martinez.)	BLACK.—(Mr. Steinitz.)
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 K Kt to B 3	2 Q Kt to B 3
3 B to B 4	3 B to B 4
4 P to Q Kt 4	4 B takes Kt P
5 P to B 3	5 B to B 4
6 Castles	6 P to Q 3
7 P to Q 4	7 P takes P
8 P takes P	8 B to Kt 3
9 B to Kt 2	9 K Kt to B 3
10 P to K 5	10 P takes P
11 B to R 3	11 B to K 3
12 Q Kt to Q 2	12 P to K 5
13 R to K sq	13 P takes Kt
14 Q to Kt 3	14 Q takes P
15 Kt takes P	15 Q takes P ch
16 K moves	16 Castles (Q R)
17 R takes B	17 P takes R
18 R to K B sq	18 Kt to K 5
19 R takes Q	19 Kt takes R ch
20 K moves	20 R to K 5 ch
21 Q takes R	21 Kt takes Q discov. check and wins.

GAME 410TH.

The seventh game played in the match at Philadelphia between Mr. Steinitz and Mr. Martinez.

(Steinitz Gambit.)

WHITE.—(Mr. Steinitz.)	BLACK.—(Mr. Martinez.)
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 Kt to Q B 3	2 Kt to Q B 3
3 P to K B 4	3 P takes P
4 P to Q 4	4 Q to R 5 ch
5 K to K 2	5 P to Q Kt 3
6 Kt to Kt 5	6 B to Q R 3
7 P to Q R 4	7 P to K Kt 4
8 K Kt to B 3	8 Q to R 4
9 K to Q 2	9 B takes Kt
10 P takes B	10 Kt to R 4
11 P to Q B 3	11 Kt to K B 3
12 B to Q 3	12 Kt to K Kt 5
13 Kt to K 5	13 Kt to K B 3
14 Q takes Q	14 Kt takes Q
15 K to B 2	15 P to K B 3
16 Kt to B 3	16 P to Q B 4
17 P takes P	17 R to B sq
18 P to Q Kt 4	18 Kt to Kt 2
19 R takes P	19 Kt to Q sq
20 P to B 6	20 P takes P
21 Kt takes P	21 Q takes P
22 B to Kt 5	22 B takes P
23 Kt to Q 4	23 Castles
24 B takes Kt	24 R to Q sq
25 B to Q 5 ch	25 K to R sq
26 Kt to Q B 6	26 R takes Kt
27 B takes R	27 B to B 4
28 B to Q 5	28 Kt to Kt 2
29 P to K R 4	29 B to Q 3
30 P takes P	30 P takes P
31 R to R 6	31 B to K 4
32 R takes Q Kt P	32 P to Kt 5
33 R to K 7	33 B to Q 3
34 R takes B	34 R takes R
35 B takes P	35 R to Kt 3
36 B to K 5	36 P to K R 4
37 R to K 8 ch	37 K to R 2
38 B to Kt 8 ch	Resigns

A PRUSSIAN GRACE DARLING.—At Pilau, in Prussia, there lives a woman who has for some years consecrated her life to the noble and dangerous task of rescuing persons from drowning. Whenever a tempest comes on, day or night, Catherine Kleinfeldt, who is the widow of a sailor, is ready with a boat, in which she puts out to sea, and frequently goes farther than any other, in order to give help to those who may be shipwrecked. More than 300 individuals have been saved by her efforts; and, accustomed for twenty years to make voyages with her husband, she possesses a skill and hardihood that render these efforts unusually successful. When she is seen, the greatest respect is paid to her, and the sailors regard her as their guardian angel; the very children of the fishermen go upon their knees to her, and kiss the skirt of her dress. The Prussian and other Governments have decreed her medals, and the Principality of Pilau has made her an honorary citizen for life. She is about sixty years of age, with an athletic figure of great strength (a Grace Darling enlarged into gigantic proportions), she has a masculine countenance, which, however, is softened by the benevolent expression that it constantly wears.

FREE! FREE!! FREE!!!

New Descriptive Catalogue and Price List of

Plays, Dramas, Farces, Guide Books, Scenery Paper, Ethiopian Dramas, Tableau Lights, Colored Fire, Pantomimes, Wigs, Beards, &c.

In fact everything for Amateur Theatricals.

SAMUEL FRENCH & SON, 38 East 14th St. N. Y.

Cadbury's COCOA ESSENCE.
PURE, SOLUBLE, REFRESHING.

It is often asked, "Why does my doctor recommend Cadbury's Cocoa Essence?" The reason is that being absolutely genuine, and concentrated by the removal of the superfluous fat, it contains FOUR TIMES the AMOUNT OF NITROGENOUS or FLESH-FORMING CONSTITUENTS of the average of other Cocos which are mixed with sugar and starch. Beware of imitations, which are often pushed by Shopkeepers for the extra profit.