AFFAIRS IN EAST AFRICA.

THE most favourable view that can be taken of the results of Stanley's expedition is that something has been done at the closing stage to promote the ends of civilization. As an organized process of rescue it was a signal failure; but as a diplomatic expedient for extending the influence of the British East Africa Company in the interior it may have accomplished some useful purpose. That company is rapidly acquiring a great African Empire. To its original concessions has recently been added the occupation of a coast-line 700 miles in length from the Umba to the port of Warsheikh. Stanley's chief patron, Sir William Mackinnon, is the president of the company, and his financial investment for the relief of Emin will prove a remunerative one if the explorer by diplomatic negotiations has contrived to enlarge the jurisdiction of the directors, and to open trade routes inland to the borders of Emin's province. This would be a distinct gain for African civilization, and it is to be hoped that Stanley has succeeded in promoting the material interests of the company. Otherwise, his costly expedition has been a miscalculated failure from beginning to end. Emin, when found, was not in need of re-enforcements and relief, and the shattered column that emerged on the shores of the Albert Nyanza from the uninhabitable wilderness was not in a position to help him. The rescuers themselves were in the worst possible plight, and have only been enabled to return to the coast by Emin's hearty co-operation and organized aid.—*New York Tribune.*

A SONG OF THREE BEAUTIFUL THINGS.

God three beautiful things hath made,
   Birds and women and flowers,
To charm the roving eye, and spread
   Sweet magic o'er the hours ;
     And whoso loves not all the three,
     Let him live with his loveless self alone,
     Like a crab in a shell, or a toad in a stone,
     Far away from me !

Flowers are beautiful when the brae
   Is purpled o'er with blossom,
And all the buds that crown the spray
   Their fragrant stores unbosom ;
   And who loves not this one of the three, etc.

Birds are beautiful when they keep
   High concert in the spring,
Or wheel their mazes o'er the deep
   With gently sloping wing ;
   And who loves not this second of three, etc.

Women are beautiful when they wear
   All summer in their smiles,
And sweetly lighten while they share
   The workman's weary toils ;
   And who loves not this best of the three, etc.

God three beautiful things hath made,
   To feed discerning eyes,
With outflow of his glory shed
   O'er earth and sea and skies ;
     And whoso loves not all the three,
     Let him live with his loveless self alone,
     Like a crab in a shell, or a toad in a stone,
     Far away from me !
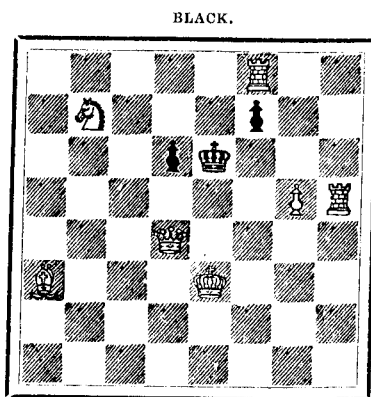   —*J. Stuart Blackie in Cassell's Magazine.*

DANGERS OF RIDICULE.

As a weapon of theological controversy, ridicule is not so common, yet it is evidently coming into wider use. The religious journalist is not unknown who puts on motley and flings about his merry jests at all who chance to differ with him ; in the rough horse-play in which he delights, dragging sacred things promiscuously about. He keeps his readers so on the grin that when he essays, at rare intervals, a serious word, they think that it is the best joke of all, and laugh the heartier at the wit which must be there though they cannot see it. The theological professor is not so isolated as he was who throws his classes into roars of laughter as he depicts the delicious absurdities of theories opposed to his own. In the alembic of his ridicule the substance of other men's systems dissolve and disappear at once to the credulous eyes of his students, and it is not till they stumble upon some man applying the same dissolvent to his system, or run upon some mighty jester who splits his sides over all theology that they see how dangerous the method is. There is certainly no harm in a good laugh, and truly it is not forbidden to a jester to speak the truth. Yet the laugh must have the right ring to it. Socrates laughed, and Voltaire laughed, as Thomas Erskine remarked ; yet, as he said, what a difference in the laugh of the two ! And the man who laughs all the time will not know what to do when the hour for weeping comes. The laughing philosopher is a very shallow philosopher or else a very shallow laugher. An awful gravity which comes from a man taking himself too seriously is a thing which irresistibly invites a tweaking of the nose ; but a ridicule which beats and splashes on all sides and at all times, fixing its pasquinades nightly on the statues of our national heroes, smirking in the presence of names and thoughts that ought to be shrouded in sacred reverence, is one of the things that no right soul can abide.—*Christian Union (Evangelical).*
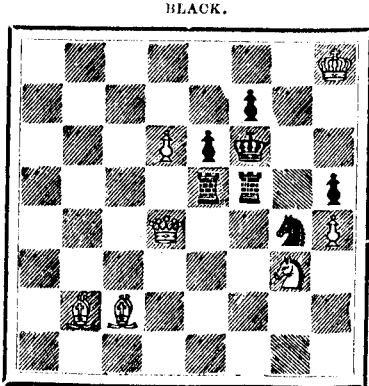
CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 399.

By B. S. Lloyd, New York.

BLACK.

WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

PROBLEM No. 400.

By Fritz Peipers, San Francisco.

BLACK.

WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS.

No. 393.		No. 394.
White.	Black.	P—K 8 becoming a Bishop.
1. Q—K 5	Kt—B 7	
2. R—B 8 +	K moves	
3. Q—K R 5 mate		
	If 1. K—R 2	
2. Q—K R 5 +	1. K moves	
3. R—B 8 mate.		

GAME PLAYED IN THE INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE TOURNAMENT.

BETWEEN MR. J. W. COLLINS, BARRISTER, OF PITTSBURG, PA., AND MR. W. H. CROSS, T.C.A. OF THE TORONTO CHESS CLUB.

Ruy Lopez.

J. W. COLLINS. White.	W. H. CROSS. Black.	J. W. COLLINS. White.	W. H. CROSS. Black.
1. P—K 4	P—K 4	26. Q—B 1	Q—K 2
2. Kt—K B 3	Kt—Q B 3	27. R—Kt 2	Q—K R 5
3. B—Kt 5	P—Q R 3	28. R—K 3	K—R 2
4. B—Q R 4	Kt—K B 3	29. P—K 6	Kt—K B 3 (c)
5. Castles	Kt x P	30. Q—K B 4	Q R—Q B 1
6. P—Q 4	P—Q Kt 4	31. P—B 4	Q P x P
7. B—Kt 3	P—Q 4	32. P x P	K R—Q 1 (d)
8. P x P	B—K 3	33. B—Q 3	P—B 4
9. P—B 3	B—Q B 4	34. R—Q 5 (e)	Kt x R
10. Q K—Q 2	Castles	35. Q—B 7 +	K—Q 3
11. Q—K 2	Kt x Kt	36. P x Kt	Q—Kt 4
12. B x Kt	Kt—Q R 4 (a)	37. P—K 7 (f)	Q x R
13. B—B 2	Kt—Q B 5	38. Q—B 6 +	K x Q P (g)
14. B—Kt 5	B—K 2	39. P x R+(Q's)	R x Q
15. B x B	Q x B	40. Q x R	K—K 4 (h)
16. P—Q Kt 3	Kt—Kt 3	41. B—K Kt 6	Q—B 6 +
17. Q—K 3	Kt—Q 2	42. K—K Kt 1	Q—K B 3
18. Kt—Kt 5	P—K R 3	43. Q—K 8 +	K—B 5
19. Kt x B	Q x Kt	44. B—B 2	Q—Q 5 +
20. P—K B 4	P—K B 4	45. K—R 1	K—B 6
21. P—K Kt 4 (b)	P x P	46. Q—K 1	P—Q B 5
22. Q—Q 3	K—B 2	47. B—Q 1 +	K—B 5
23. Q R—K 1	P—K Kt 3	48. Q—K 3 +	K Kt 4
24. P—B 5	P x P	49. Q—K 1	drawn.
25. R x P +	K—K 1		

NOTES BY MR. CROSS.

(a) The usual defence is R—K 1. The move in the text has the doubtful merit of being a novelty.

(b) Quite sound. The sacrifice was needed in order to carry on the attack with vigour.

(c) The advantageous position now obtained for this Knight enables Black to withstand the very strong attack.

(d) The first move of a counter attack.

(e) White loses the exchange, but compels Black to again assume a defensive attitude.

(f) Coup de massue.

(g) An attempt to save the second Rook would lead to a draw.

(h) Offering the exchange.

ROBERT H. LAMBORN has placed in the hands of Morris K. Jesup, of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, the sum of $200, to be paid in three prizes of $150, $30 and $20, for the three best essays on the destruction of mosquitoes and flies by other insects. It is suggested that the dragon fly is an active, voracious, and harmless " mosquito hawk," and that it might, if artificially multiplied, diminish the numbers of the smaller insects. A practical plan is called for in the breeding of the dragon fly or other such destroyer in large numbers, and its use in the lava, pupa or perfect state, for the destruction of mosquitoes and flies in houses, cities and neighbourhoods.—*Public Opinion.*