

SONGS OF FAIR WEATHER.

The writer in Harper's who attacked the whole body of British poets for their neglect of all but the commonest varieties of birds, and their ignorance of their haunts and habits, could not well bring this charge against Mr. Thompson.

"The wind drew faintly from the south, Like breath blown from a sleeper's mouth; And down its current sailing low Came a lone heron, white as snow."

It is in his quality of sportsman and lover and knower of the woods that Mr. Thompson is at his strongest. He has escaped better than some more finished and ambitious American poets the overpowering influence of the great English models.

"When spring grows old, and sleepy winds, Set from the south with odors sweet, I see my love, in green cool groves, Speed down dark aisles on shining feet."

Mr. Thompson's versification is often careless, and shows either a defective ear or indifference to metrical beauty. There are frequent little roughnesses like this:

Faulty versification like this makes one feel that Mr. Thompson is unfamiliar with the principles of English verse, ill-defined as they are, or else will not condescend to observe them.

"She had a bow of yellow horn, Like the old moon at early morn, She had three arrows, strong and good, Steel set in feathered cornel wood."

But no poet with a delicate sense of the value of words would speak of Diana as "nude," but leave it as a technical term for painters and sculptors; nor would he speak of Psyche's "gracile limbs."

VARIETIES.

THE Princess Dolgorouki, morganatic widow of Alexander II., will spend the winter at St. Petersburg.

MR. WILLIAM BLACK has returned from Scotland and will at once begin his proposed Stratford-on-Avon story of Shakespeare's time.

WHEN Queen Christina was in St. Sebastian she wore a gray waterproof and large poke bonnet, plainly trimmed, that nearly concealed her face.

IT is stated that the Queen wishes to confer the star of the red cross on Miss Florence Nightingale, but the health of the Crimean heroine is so unsatisfactory that she cannot accept Her Majesty's invitation to receive the honor.

GREAT preparations are being made at Hamburg for the celebration of the second centenary of the birth of Handel, which occurs in 1855.

MISS AMELIA B. EDWARDS, the novelist, is preparing a series of papers on the life and art of Gustave Doré, which will be published in the Art Journal, and illustrated by a number of reproductions from hitherto unpublished drawings which for some time have been in Miss Edwards' possession.

THERE is being manufactured at the Derby Crown Porcelain Works, a costly service of fine Derby China, intended as a gift from the working people of that town to Mr. Gladstone.

THE sixth Congress of Orientalists, which has just concluded its meeting at Leiden, has been a great success. The number of scholars who attended it was greater than at any previous gathering of the kind.

AN International Congress will be held at Rome this month to arrange for a common meridian, and a common time for railways and telegraphs.

THOMAS HUGHES is established in the Hughes cottage at Rugby, Tenn., and is enjoying the mountain air in its full perfection. He came from England, first, to see his venerable mother, who, at the age of eighty-six, is a pioneer in the wilderness, and secondly, to enjoy a rest from his judicial duties.

A LIFE-SIZE portrait of President Arthur, painted by Andrews, has been hung in the corridor of the White House. It is a remarkable likeness, and the execution is very fine, though some might pronounce it a little too ideal to be in good taste.

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All communications intended for this Column should be addressed to the Chess Editor, CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, Montreal.

J. W. S., Montreal.—Letter and paper to hand. Thanks. Solutions of Problem Nos. 43-44 correct.

About two years ago a chessplayer from Montreal during a short sojourn in Chicago made inquiries everywhere for a chess club. Anxious, however, as he was for a fight he sought in vain.

Lady chessplayers, we learn, are increasing in number, and we are glad to find it so, and lady problem composers, no doubt, are every day showing their ability to produce positions which will compete with any that may be found among the gems elaborated by the sterner sex.

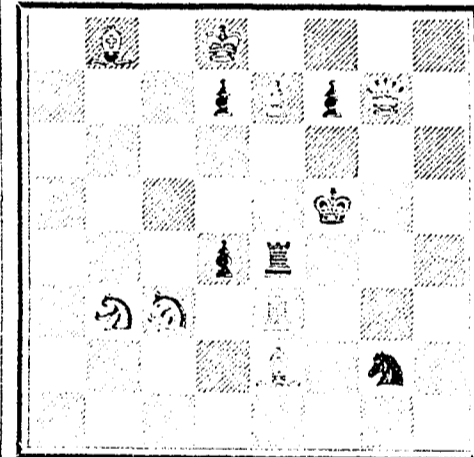
The first year of the Brooklyn Chess Chronicle has closed and we are pleased to see it stated that those who undertook its management are satisfied with the amount of patronage they have received.

A special general meeting of the City of London Chess Club will take place at Moutlet's Hotel, Newgate street, on Monday, October 1st.

PROBLEM NO. 45.

By J. B., of Bridport.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 45.

White. 1 R to K3. 2 Mate acc. Black. 1 Any.

GAME 590th.

Played at the International Tournament between Messrs. English and Bird.

WHITE.—(Mr. English.) 1 P to K4. 2 Kt to K B3. 3 Kt to B3. 4 P to Q4. 5 Kt takes P. 6 B to K3. 7 B to K2. 8 Castles. 9 P to K R3. 10 Q to Q2. 11 Kt takes Kt (b). 12 P to B3 (c). 13 Q R to Q. 14 B to B2. 15 Q takes B. 16 K to R2. 17 K to R2. 18 P to K Kt3. 19 Q to Q2. 20 B to Q3. 21 P to Kt3. 22 B to B4. 23 B to B (c). 24 Kt to Q5 (f). 25 P takes B. 26 P to K R4. 27 P takes P on pass. 28 P to Q B4. 29 B takes P. 30 B to Q3 (g). 31 Q to K (h). 32 Q to K3. 33 P to B4. 34 R to K2. 35 Q to Kt6. 36 Q to Q4.

37 Q to B6. 38 Q R to Q2. 39 R to K B2. 40 K to Kt2. 41 Q to Kt5. 42 R to B3. 43 K takes R. 44 R to Q B2 (j). 45 K to K3. 46 K takes P. 47 K to K4. 48 K to B3. 49 K to K3. 50 K to Q4. 51 R to K4. 52 K to B3. 53 K to Kt2. 54 Q to Kt3. 55 P to R5 (i). 56 R P takes P. 57 Q to R3. 58 Q to K6 ch. 59 R to B7 ch. 37 R to B8. 38 Q to Kt3. 39 R to K8. 40 Kt to R4. 41 R to K6 (i). 42 R takes R. 43 Q to Kt8. 44 Q to K8 ch. 45 P to Q5 ch. 46 Q to Kt8 ch. 47 Kt takes P ch. 48 Q to Q8 ch. 49 Kt to B8 ch. 50 Q to R8 ch. 51 Q to K8 ch. 52 Kt to Q7 ch (k). 53 R to B. 54 Q to K8. 55 P to K4. 56 Kt to B8. 57 P to R4. 58 K to Kt2. Resigns.

Notes by Dr. Zukertort.

- (a) Slightly premature; otherwise Black's treatment of the opening is of a very high order indeed. (b) Not to our taste, and clearly improving the adversary's game. (c) Weakening his Pawns on the King's side—compare Black's 13th move. (d) A pretty little manoeuvre, which weakens considerably the adverse position. (e) Taking the Knight would be better. (f) Leading to an exchange which is again in Black's favor. (g) K to Kt2 would be better. (h) The commencement of a series of manoeuvres in which Black all but outplays his opponent. (i) It is rather difficult to decide which would be Black's strongest continuation; he must in carrying his forces into the hostile camp be all the time ready to prevent any mischief arising from the entry of the White Queen. P to K4, we think, might have been played safely, and would have greatly assisted Black's attack. (j) A fine resource, which secures the draw. (k) Not satisfied with the draw, Black tries in vain to force the game, and pays finally the usual penalty. (l) A powerful rejoinder, which turns the tables.—Standard.



ST. LAWRENCE CANALS.

Notice to Contractors.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tender for St. Lawrence Canals," will be received at this office until the arrival of the Eastern and Western mails on TUESDAY, the 13th day of November next, for the construction of a lock and regulating weir and the deepening and enlargement of the upper entrance of the Cornwall Canal.

By order, A. P. BRADLEY, Secretary.

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