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. For in less than a hundred pages he mentions nearly lifty different birds, and that not in a forced, cataloguing way, but with the familiar knowledge and sympathy of a sportsman to whom birds are intimate acquaintances, and as much a part of natural scenery as clouds and hills to an artist, and trees and flowers to an English poet. Mr. Thompson has a sportsman's quick perceptions and a genuine enjoyment of the vegetable and animal life of woods and fields; and they are not the ordered woods and fields of the English poets, but the forests and rivers of the West, and the lakes and swamps of Florida, where he is at home. English sport has become a very pressic affair, with its preserves and its game-keepers; but the "Death of the White Heron" has as picturesque a setting as any of Allen a Dale's exploits, especially as the author scorns the vulgarity of firearms and admits no weapon less poetic than the bow of Robin Hood, for whom he has a great tenderness. After a description of the cypress swamp, with its wonderfully varied life, we have the heron himself :

"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.

He cleft with grandly spreading wing The buzy sunshine of the spring;

Through graceful curves he swept above The gloomy, moss-hung cypress grove:

Then gliding down a long incline He flashed his golden eye on mine.

Half-turned, he poised him in the air; The prize was great, the mark was fair.

I raised my how and steady drew The silken string, until I knew

My trusty arrow's barbed point Lay on my left forefinger's joint;

Until I felt the feather seek My ear, swift drawn across my cheek.

Then from my fingers leapt the string With sharp recoil and deadly ring.

Closed by a sibilant sound soshrill, It made the very water thrill:

Like twenty serpents bound together Hissed the flying arrow's feather!

A thud, a puff, a feathery ring, A quick collapse, a quivering.

A whirl, a headlong, downward dash. A heavyfall, a sullen plash,

And like white foam, or giant flake Of snow, he lay upon the lake."

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. "The Death of the White Heron," above quoted, "In Haunts of Bess and Bream," "In Exile," and "Drepping Corn," all have the charm of genuineness, and freshness, and simplicity, and seem to come straight from the author's heart of experience, untroubled by re-Atalanta," too pretty to miss

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

She throws a kiss and bids me run. In whispers sweet as roses' breath; I know! cannot win the race, And at the end, I know, is death.

" But joyfully I bare my limbs, Apoint me with the tropic breeze And feel through every sinew thrill The vigor of Hippoinenes.

"O race of love! we all have ran Thy happy course through groves of spring, And cared not, when at last we lost, For life, or death, or anything."

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

" Until I reached a spot I knew, Over which each day the heron flew;"

or this:

" Whose slightest puncture not even death can cure;"

where any reader would instinctively substitute "o'er" and "wound," just to avoid the awkward foot. It would be hard to devise a more clumsy termination to a line than this:

" Sho stood between two gold pillars."

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. There is a pretty little poem to Diana, whom a sportsbeginning of a piece of music:

"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

Notwithstanding these reservations, "Songs of Fair Weather" is a little volume one would wish to look into more than once, for its delightful open-air freshness and the movement and spirit of some of the poems. It shows that an American poet can find his reward by going straight to the nature about him,—the nature that he knows the best. He can find there plenty of charming inspiration, and preserve a frankness and simplicity which he often loses when he is lead by admiration and reverence to model himself more closely on the masters of English literature, which only became the great literature it is by being faithful to its own in-

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 Strat-ford-on-Avon story of Shakespeare's time.

WHEN Queen Christina was in St. Sebastian she were a gray waterproof and large poke bonnet, plainly traumed, that nearly concealed her face. In this sensible attire she was mistaken for an English governess.

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 heroid 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 1885. The chief attraction will be a grand musical festival at which all the principal works of the celebrated composer will be performed.

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 drawngs 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 work-ing people of that town to Mr. Gladstone. When it is completed a deputation of working men will present it with an appropriate address

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. England sent a large contingent, and representatives came from the Dutch colonies in the East, from India, from Turkey, from Greece and from Portugal.

As International Congress will be held at Rome this month to arrange for a common miniscences of Keat, or Swinburne, or Tennyson. In handling more traditional subjects, such as "Before Dawn," 'Twilight," 'At Night," 'Morning Hills," Mr. Thompson, though generally pleasing shows no great originality; but there is one chatming little poem, "Attlete "Jean will be represented by the astronomer royal, General Cooke, and Colonel Clarke, and it is hoped that they will be able to induce the delegates to recommend Greenwich as being the only possible common meridian; which another to be a deficilled task as deas being the only possible common meridian; which ought not to be a difficult task, as de facto it is already accepted as such.

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. He has recovered from his illness of last year. There is in Rugby the nucleus of a delightful community. The air is fragrant with the perfume of pine forest, as exhilarating as champagne. The forest trees lean over and look into Mrs. Hughes' charming garden, which the skill of her English gardener has converted into a bank of blossoms, over which countless humming-birds hover like so many animated emeralds and rubies. Mr. Hughes issued, early this week, invitations to a banquet to which all the Rugby people were invited.

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 line, though some might pronounce it a little too ideal to be in good taste. The subject is represented as stepping from the portico, and has paused with one foot still lingering upon the last step, where lies a red resolud that has fallen from his buttonhole. Portraits of all the Presidents, except Buchanan, now occupy places upon the walls of the White House. Fine bust portraits of Adams, the first occupant of the White House, and Van Buren, which have been consigned to the dust and oblivion of the garret ever since their respective administrations, have been rescued from a pile of rubbish, and by decree of Mr. Arthur man naturally delights to honor, which opens hang in the red parlor, after having been re-vigorously like a firmly-struck chord at the touched, with the life-size portrait of General Grant.

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. 453-454 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. Some months ago, as we learn from the *Brooklyn** Chess Chronicle, a club was set on foot, but now, owing to a dispute among its members, it has collapsed, and the royal game is not represented by any association especially maintained to promote its advancement in this one of the most flourishing cities of the United States. Considering the high positions several of the American chessplayers hold in the chess world, and the large number of clubs which exist in other great cities of the Union, we would advise the Chicago players to have no contests to settle in the future except those which may be fought over the checkered board, and resolve among themselves to organize a club which shall correspond in every way with the wealth and enterprise of the Garden City.

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 gents elaborated by the sterner sex, and now we find that the Chess Column of the Science Monthly is to be placed under the mangement of Miss F. F. Beechey, and we feel certain that it will become one of the best among these rapidly increasing adjuncts to the literary and scientific periodicals of the day.

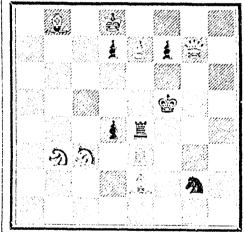
The first year of the Brecklya Class Chronicle has closed and we are pleased to see it stated that those who undertook its management are satisfied with the amount of patronage they have received. We are not surprised at this, as the Chronicle has been taken to provide its readers with the best information connected with the chess doings on both sides of the Ocean, independent of carefully selected games and problems, has been highly commentable, and endeavors of this nature should meet with a fitting return. This class magazine, which in the future is to appear monthly instead of formightly, should be in the hands of all our readers.

A special general meeting of the City of London Chess Club will take place at Moudet's Hotel, Newgate street, on Monday, October 1st. Its chief business will be the annual hardicap. One hundred entries are intended. Nearly this number of members have already given in their names. There has never yet been in any part of the world a chess tournament of such proportions. — Land and Water.

PROBLEM NO. 455.

By J. B., of Bridport.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 483, White. Biack.

1 R to K 3 2 Mates ace.

1 Any

GAME 590TR.

Played at the International Tournament between Messrs, Englisch and Bird.

(Sicilian Defence.) Wattr. - (Mr. Englisch.)

BLACK, +(Mr. Bird.) 1 P to Q B 4
2 Kt to Q B 3
3 P to K Kt 3 (a)
4 P ttakes P
5 B to Kt 2
6 Kt to B 3
7 P to Q 3
8 Castles
9 B to Q 2
10 R to B
11 B takes Kt
12 P to Q R 3
13 Kt to R 4
14 Q to R 4
15 B takes B
16 Kt to B 5
17 Q to K Kt 4
18 Kt to K 3
20 Q to Kt 3
21 Q to B 4 (a)
22 P to Q Kt 4
23 B to Kt 2
24 B takes Kt
25 Kt to Kt 2
24 B takes P
25 P to Q Kt 4
26 P to Q R 4
37 Q to B 6
38 Q to Q R
38 Q to R 8
38 R to B 6
34 K R to B
35 Q to Q 3 B to K 3 B to K 2 P to K R 3 P to K R3 Q to Q 2 Rt takes Kt (b) P to B 3 (c) Q R to Q B to Q 4 R to B 2 O takes P Q takes B K to R 2 P to K Kt 3) Q to Q 2) B to Q 3 P to Kt 3 | B to B 4 B to B 4 B to B (c) K to Q 5 (f) P takes B P to K R 4 P takes P en pas P to Q B 4 B takes P K to K 2 Q to K t 6 Q to Q 4

37 Q to B 6 38 Q R to Q 2 39 R to K B 2 40 K to Kt 2 41 Q to Kt 5 42 R to B 3 43 K takes R 44 R to Q B 2(f) 45 K to K 3 46 K takes P 47 K to K 4 48 K to B 3 50 K to Q 4 51 K to R 3 52 K to B 3 53 K to K 1 55 P to R 5 (f) 56 R P to Kes P 57 Q to R 3 58 Q to K 6 ch 59 R to B 7 ch 37 R to B 8 38 Q to K t 3 39 R to K 8 40 K t to R 4 41 R to K 6 (i) 42 R takes R 43 Q to K t 8 44 Q to Q 8 ch 45 P to Q 5 ch 46 Q to K t 8 ch 47 R t takes P ch 45 Q to Q 8 ch 49 K t to B 8 ch 50 Q to R 8 ch 49 Kt to B 8 ch 50 Q to K 8 ch 51 Q to K 8 ch 52 Kt to Q 7 ch (k) 53 R to B 54 Q to Q 8 55 P to K 4 56 Kt to B 8 57 P to R 4 58 K to Kt 2 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 manouvre, which weakens con-siderably the adverse position.

(c) Taking the Knight would be better.

(f) Leading to an exchange which is again in Black's favor.

(g) K to Kt 2 would be better.

(h) The commencement of a series of manusures in which Black all but outplays his opponent.

G) It is rather difficult to decide which would be Black's strongest continuation; he must in carrying his fosces into the hostile camp be all the time ready to prevent any mischief arising from the entry of the White Queen. P to K 4, we think, might have been physel—safely, and—would have greatly assisted Black's attack.

(j) A fine resource, which secures the draw.

(b) 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.



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 18th 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.

Also for the construction of a lock, together with the enlargement and deepening of the upper entrance of the Rapide Plat Canal, or middle division of the Williamsburg Canals.

Tenders will also be received until TUESDAY, the 27th day of November next, for the extension of the upper entrance of the fielops Canal.

A map of the head or upper entrance of the Cornwall Canal and the upper entrance of the Rapide Plat Canal, together with plans and specifications of the respective works, can be seen at this office, and at the Resident Engineer's office, Dickenson's Landing, on and after Tuesday, the 30th day of October next, where printed forms of tender can be obtained.

A map, plans and specifications of the works to be done at the head of the Galops Canal can be seen at this office and at the lock keeper's house, near the place, on and after TUESDAY, the 13th day of November next, where printed forms of tender can be obtained.

Contractors are requested to bear in mind that tenders will not be considered unless made strictly in

ven. ber hext, where printed to hear in mind that tenders will not be considered unless made strictly in accordance with the printed forms, and—in the case of firms—except there are attached the actual signatures, the nature of the occupation and residence of each member of the same; and further, an accepted Bank cheque for the sum of Tree Thomsand Podlars must accompany the Tender, which sum shall be forfeited if the party tendering declines entering into contract for the works at the rates and on the terms stated in the offer submitted.

The cheque thus sent in will be returned to the respective parties whose tenders are not accepted.

This Department does not, however, bind itself to accept the lowest or any fender.

accept the lowest or any tender-

By order,

A. P. BRADLEY. Secretary.

Dept. of Railways and Canals, { Ottawa, 28th Sept., 1883.

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