

It could only be done when the wind was blowing, by throwing high into the air shovelfuls of grain, straw, and chaff, the lighter materials being wafted to one side, while the grain, comparatively clean, would descend and form a heap by itself. In this manner all the grain in California was cleaned. At that day no such thing as a fanning mill had ever been brought to this coast.—*General Bidwell, in the December Century.*

THE REED-PLAYER.

By a dim shore where water darkening
Took the last light of spring,
I went beyond the tumult, harkening
For some diviner thing.

Where the bats flew from the black elms like leaves,
Over the ebon pool
Brooded the bitter's cry, as one that grieves
Lands ancient, bountiful.

I saw the fire flies shine below the wood
Above the shallows dank,
As Uriel from some great altitude,
The planets rank on rank.

And now unseen along the shrouded mead
One went under the hill ;
He blew a cadence on his mellow reed,
That trembled and was still.

It seemed as if a line of amber fire
Had shot the gathered dusk,
As if had blown a wind from ancient Tyre
Laden with myrrh and musk.

He gave his luring note amid the fern
Its enigmatic fall,
Haunted the hollow dusk with golden turn
And argent interval.

I could not know the message that he bore,
The springs of life from me
Hidden ; his incommunicable lore
As much a mystery.

And as I followed far the magic player
He passed the maple wood,
And when I passed the stars had risen there,
And there was solitude.

—*Duncan Campbell Scott, in December Scribner's.*

THE SPEED OF WAR-SHIPS.

ALTHOUGH it may not be regarded as a first consideration, it is important that a vessel should have high speed, so that she may be in a position, after weighing the strength of her enemy, to choose between fighting or living to "fight another day." Heavily-clad battle-ships are not very fast steamers, but the cruisers require speed. The following table explains itself :—

	Above 20 knots.	19 knots.	18 knots.	17 knots.
Britain.....	16	11	12	20
France.....	2	12	13	5
Germany.....	6	3	2	0
Italy.....	13	2	10	5
Other European Nations.....	20	1	11	5

Germany's 20-knot boats are all torpedoes or small boats. Britain's fast boats are much larger and more powerful than the others. France, on the other hand, has heavier 19-knot ships than the other nations ; while Italy in 18-knot boats carries off the palm both as regards size (the aggregate tonnage being 84,940 tons) and fighting powers. Britain's 17-knot boats aggregate 80,730 tons.

THE CLIMATE OF JAPAN.

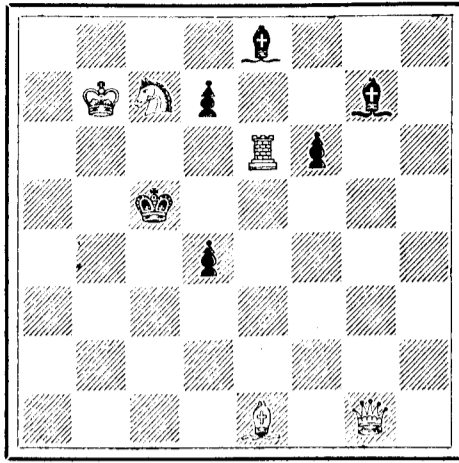
REALLY it rains far too frequently in this otherwise charming Japan, and one can indeed scarcely expect any permanent dry weather except in autumn. Every wind seems to bring rain-clouds up from the encircling Pacific to break upon the ever green peaks of Nippon ; while in winter, so great is the influence of the neighbouring Arctic circle, with its cold currents of air and water, that Christmas in Kiū-Shiū—which lies in the same latitude with the mouths of the Nile—sees the thermometer sometimes below zero. Except for certain delicious periods of the year, one cannot honestly praise the climate of Japan ; but it has certainly divine caprices ; and when the sunshine does unexpectedly come, during the chilly and moist months, the light is very splendid, and of a peculiar silvery tone, and the summer days are golden. For this the tea-plant, the young bamboo-shoots, and the other subtropical vegetation, wait patiently underneath the snows ; indeed, all the sun-loving plants of the land have lurked, like the inhabitants, to "wait till the clouds roll by." Some of the most beautiful know how to defy the worst weather with a curious hardihood. You will see the camelias blossoming with the ice thick about their roots, and the early plum-blossoms covered with a fall of snow which is not more white and delicate than the petals with which it thus mingles.—*Sir Edward Arnold, in December Scribner.*

ONE triumphs over calumny only by disdaining it.—*Mme. de Maintenon.*

CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 525.

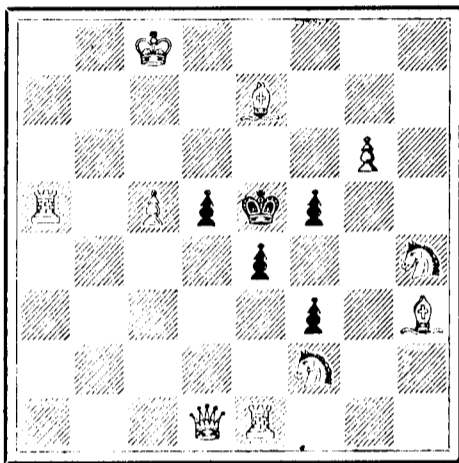
By B. G. LANS.
BLACK.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. 526.

From *Pictorial World*.
BLACK.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in two moves.

SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS.

- | | | | |
|----------|----------------|-------------|----------|
| No. 519. | White. | Black. | No. 520. |
| | 1. Q-R 4 | 1. P-R 4 | Q-Q 2 |
| | 2. Kt-R 7 | 2. moves | |
| | 3. Q mates | if 1. K-B 8 | |
| | 2. Q-B 6 | 2. K-Kt 8 | |
| | 3. Q-R 1 mate. | | |

GAME PLAYED AT MANHATTAN CHESS CLUB, NEW YORK,

in the match between Messrs. Gunsberg and Steinitz.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------|-----------|
| STEINITZ. | GUNSBURG. | STEINITZ. | GUNSBURG. |
| White. | Black. | White. | Black. |
| 1. P-Q 4 | P-Q 4 | 15. K-B 2 | Kt x K P |
| 2. P-Q B 4 | P x P | 16. K Kt-R 4 | Kt x Kt + |
| 3. P-K 3 | P-K 4 (a) | 17. K x Kt | B-K 3 |
| 4. P x P (b) | Q x Q + | 18. P-B 4 | Kt-B 3 |
| 5. K x Q | Q Kt-B 3 | 19. P-B 5 | B-Q 4 |
| 6. B x P | Kt x P | 20. P-K Kt 4 (f) | B-K 2 (g) |
| 7. B-Kt 5 + (c) | P-Q B 3 | 21. K-B 2 (h) | B-K 5 + |
| 8. B-K 2 | B-K 3 | 22. K-Kt 3 | Kt-Q 2 |
| 9. Q Kt-B 3 | Castles Q + | 23. P-Kt 5 | P-B 3 (i) |
| 10. K-B 2 | Kt-B 3 | 24. B-Kt 4 (k) | Kt-B 4 + |
| 11. Kt-B 3 (d) | Kt K 4-Kt 5 | 25. K-R 3 | R-Q 6 + |
| 12. R-B 1 | B-B 4 + | 26. P-Kt 3 | Kt-R 5 + |
| 13. K-Kt 3 | Kt-Q 2 (e) | 27. K x Kt | R-Q 5 + |
| 14. P-K 4 | Kt-B 4 + | 28. P-Kt 4 | R x P + |
- White Resigns.

NOTES BY STEINITZ.

- (a) In the old style as played by Labourdanais and McDonnell.
 (b) B x P was played by the two masters in note (a).
 (c) Played by me against Tschorgin. It keeps Kt from going back to B 3. It is better though to retire B-K 2 at once.
 (d) P-K 4 or P-K B 3 was the right move here. The move made loses by letting too many adverse pieces in against the King.
 (e) A very fine move, forcing the gain of a Pawn.
 (f) This is a bad move. Kt-K B 3 was the proper play.
 (g) Also a very fine move.
 (h) Forced, as Black threatened to win a piece by Kt-Kt 5 + nor could Kt Pdrance as it would be lost by the same sally.
 (i) Very fine play as White's Pawn cannot advance without creating an opening for the adverse Rook.
 (k) B-K 3 was now the only defence. The move made draws White into the mate which is accomplished in a most ingenious manner.

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I HAVE somewhere read that conscience not only sits as witness and judge within our bosoms, but also forms the prison of punishment.—*Hosea Ballou.*

BELIEVE, if thou wilt, that mountains change their places but BELIEVE not that man changes his nature.—*Mohammed.*

THIN SOLED shoes are said to be the greatest propagators of disease among women.

DESPATCH is taking time by the ears ; hurry is taking it by the end of the tail.—*H. W. Shaw.*

IN this world nought which comes stays, and nought which goes is lost.—*Mme. Switshine.*

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