

LITERARY GOSSIP.

THE *Novelist* has been transformed from a broadside to an octavo form—a well-advised change. The current number of Mr. Alden's weekly contains "A Girton Girl," "Marjorie," "Two in Arcadia," "On the Brink of a Flirtation."

THERE seem to be three "oldest churches in America"—one at Tadousac, on the St. Lawrence, one at St. Augustine, Florida, one at Espanola, New Mexico. Each has its champions, and the writer of a paper in the forthcoming *May Harper's*, on "Espanola and its Environs," naturally favours the latter. The paper itself, written and illustrated by Birge Harrison, is an interesting study of that old Mexican town and of the pueblos in its vicinity.

MR. MURRAY will publish in a few days a popular edition of the Princess Alice's letters to Her Majesty. To this edition will be prefixed a new and original memoir of the Princess by her sister Princess Christian. This memoir is in the form of a continuous narrative, and will contain extracts, hitherto unpublished, from the diary of Her Majesty, and an account of the Princess Alice's last illness, written by Miss Macbean, who was her Royal Highness's constant attendant to the last.

IN view of the large number of Canadians now resident in New York, it has seemed to many that there existed abundant material for the formation there of a Canadian association of some description, which might afford opportunity for greater personal intimacy among them, and the accomplishment of some common purpose. A circular calling a meeting for the consideration of this question has been issued, and it is hoped that the outcome may be a New York Canadian Club.

THE *Canadian American* now greets its readers from Chicago, instead of from Minneapolis as heretofore. In the former city is a larger localized element of Canadians, and more effectual distribution can be arranged. Our contemporary is doing a good work in a thoroughly creditable manner. No more loyal Canadian journal is published than the *Canadian American*, and it is to be hoped that the strong anti-British feeling of certain Irish-Chicagoans may not contaminate Messrs. Jaffray's enterprise.

THE editions of *The Century Magazine* are now so large that it has become necessary either to go to press at an earlier date or to postpone the day of issue. The latter alternative has been accepted. The April number, the edition of which was 225,000, was delayed until the 25th of March. The May number—edition, 250,000—will be issued on the 1st day of May, thus inaugurating with the first number of the thirtieth volume a change which has long been considered desirable by the publishers, and which it is believed will be heartily commended by the public. Future numbers of *The Century Magazine* will be issued on the first day of the month of which each bears date.

HAWTHORNE (says the *American*) is said to be more widely read in the South than in any other section. James and Howells are favourites at Boston, but not in New York. Western romances, even of the Bret Harte school, are read in the East, while Eastern novels are in demand from St. Louis to Chicago. Fifth Avenue stories and society sketches are popular with the uncultured natives of the real West. The West, too, affects the classics, and, above all, the two English authors whose works find the readiest sale among them are Thackeray and Dickens, with the former as favourite. Dickens and Thackeray have more readers to-day in the West than in the East.

THE impending contest between England and America for the yacht prize known as the America's Cup, which went to the United States in 1854, is exciting great interest not only among yachtsmen, but among the general public. The most thorough and exhaustive discussion of the development of yachting since the race of 1854 yet published is from the pen of Mr. John Hyslop, of New York, and will appear in *Outing* for May. Mr. Hyslop traces the development of yacht-building and sailing to the present time, giving accurate and careful details, illustrated with lines and sail-plans of famous yachts. The article is also illustrated with handsome engravings of the *America*, the *Resolute*, and the *Genesta*.

MESSRS. FUNK AND WAGNALLS, of New York, will publish, early in May, a book by Dr. Schaff, under the title "The Oldest Church Manual," called "Teaching of the Apostles," with illustrations and fac-similes of the Jerusalem MS., and cognate documents, with full discussion of the subject. A unique feature of the work is the illustrations and fac-similes of the Jerusalem Monastery and the library where the MS. of the *Didache* was found, two pages of the MS. itself (which is now almost inaccessible), and several baptismal pictures from the Catacombs. The fac-similes were obtained by friends in Constantinople, and have never before been published. The book contains also an important communication and a letter from Bryennios, of Nicodemia, the discoverer and first editor of the *Didache*.

DEALING with the difficulty experienced in deciding the exact sizes of books, which at present vary, in consequence of the want of uniformity in the dimensions of paper, the Associated Librarians of Great Britain, at a recent conference, fixed upon the following uniform and arbitrary rules for measurement and description:

	La. fol.	Over	18 inches.
Large folio.....	Fol.	Below	18 "
Folio.....	Sm. fol.	"	13 "
Small folio.....	Large 4to.	"	15 "
Large quarto.....	4to.	"	11 "
Quarto.....	Sm. 4to.	"	8 "
Small quarto.....	La. 8vo.	"	11 "
Large octavo.....	8vo.	"	9 "
Octavo.....	Sm. 8vo.	"	8 "
Small octavo.....	12mo.	"	8 "
Duodecimo.....	18mo.	Is	6 "
Decimo octavo.....	Mo.	Below	6 "
Minimo.....			

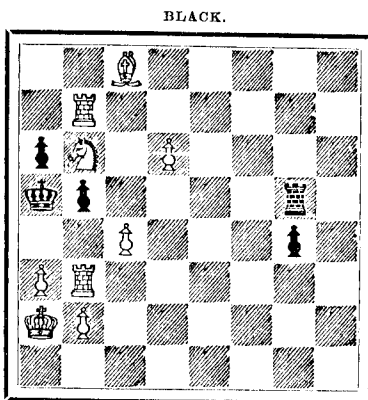
A vigorous editorial protest against the introduction of party feeling in local affairs is made in the *Overland Monthly*. "The general result of shaking off party shackles," says the writer, "in city elections has proved, wherever it has been tried, to be the ranging of the respectable and conservative men of both parties against the demoralizing elements of cities." A thoughtful paper upon "The General Principles of Art and their Application to the Novel" is contributed by Joseph le Conte. Timely articles on the Congo and the social condition of the Southern States appear over the names of George Moor and A. C. Applegarth respectively. The North-West troubles lend an additional interest to an account of "Indian Troubles in Oregon in 1854-5." No fewer than four travel-papers are given: "Olive Orchards of the Riviera," "South from Alisal," "Castle Chapultepec, in Mexico," and "Arizona in the Seventies," all of exceptional interest, the first-named being specially charming. There is an abundance of fiction—"The Yellow Comforter," "The Story of an Adventurer," "John George," "A One-sided Correspondence," and "An Extra Morning Duty." M. W. Shinn writes with evident knowledge of "The Lancashire Strikes of 1878," and assists thereby to a comprehension of the economic questions of the hour. There is much more excellent reading, poetical and otherwise, in our San Francisco contemporary, which now takes rank as one of the ablest monthlies on this continent.

CHESS.

All communications intended for this department should be addressed "Chess Editor," office of THE WEEK, Toronto.

PROBLEM No. 94.

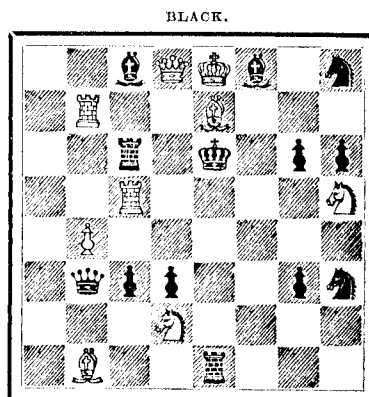
By G. Hume, Nottingham, Eng.
First Prize in the *Nationalvide* (Copenhagen) Tourney.



White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. 93.

By Geo. E. Carpenter, Tarrytown, N.Y.
Motto—"A chip of the old block."
(From the *Detroit Free Press*.)



White to play and mate in two moves.

A LIVELY LITTLE EVANS.

Played in Chicago, 1883.

(From the *Mirror of American Sports*.)

Evans Gambit.

White.	Black.	White.	Black.
Mr. Starbuck.	Mr. A.	Mr. Starbuck.	Mr. A.
1. P K 4	P K 4	17. Kt x Kt	Q x Kt
2. Kt K B 3	Kt Q B 3	18. R Q 5	Q Q B 6
3. B B 4	B B 4	19. B Kt 2	Q Kt 5
4. P Q Kt 4	B x P	20. R Q Kt 5	Q Q 7
5. P B 3	B R 4	21. Q B 3	B Kt 3
6. P Q 4	P x P	22. B B 3	Q x R P (d)
7. Castles	P x P (?)	23. B x Kt P (?)	K R K 1
8. Q Kt 3	Q B 3	24. B B 6	Q x P ch (e)
9. P K 5	Q Kt 3 (a)	25. Q x Q	B x Q ch
10. Kt x P	K Kt K 2	26. R x R	P Q R 4
11. B R 3	Castles	27. R Kt 5 ch	K B (?)
12. Kt Q 5	Kt x Kt	28. R K R 5	Q K Kt 1
13. B x Kt (b)	P Q 3 (?)	29. P R 3	R Kt 8 ch
14. Q R Q 1	B K 3	30. K R 2	K R K 8
15. B x B (c)	Q x B	31. R x P and wins.	
16. Q x Kt P	Kt x P		

NOTES.

- If Black takes P with Kt he loses a piece by 10. R K 1, etc.
- If White takes R he loses a piece by Kt B 5, etc.
15. Q x Kt P is stronger.
- "Timeo Danaos," etc.
- The only play to avoid immediate extermination. If White R x Q Black gets mated.

NEWS ITEMS.

MR. C. W. PHILLIPS has again won the Championship of the Toronto Chess Club for 1885, and becomes the owner of the Blaikie Championship Cup, having won it twice.

THE air is filled with rumors of war and the chargers are sniffing the battle smoke from afar. Among the conflicts likely soon to rage the chess world is more particularly interested in the coming strife between those giants of Caissa, Steinitz and Zukertort. Already these two doughty and wordy warriors are hurling defiance and nasty names at each other through the columns of their respective magazines. The impartial observer must come to the conclusion that either these gentlemen do not mean all they say, or else Messrs. Zukertort and Steinitz should be excluded from respectable chess society. We incline to the former opinion and further believe that the sooner these gentlemen move their pieces and drop their pens the more likely they are to retain the respect of their many admirers.

L. P. REES contributes the following to the *Croydon Guardian*:—"The advent of ladies into the chess world, however, raises a wide and serious question which claims the attention of all chess players. It is not centuries ago that ladies were scarcely known beyond the range of domestic affairs and—politics. From the time of Helen of Troy, and of Cleopatra to that of our good Queen, their influence has been felt in questions of diplomacy and state, but they have trod in hardly any other public path of life. Now, however, ladies are competing for many laurel wreaths that hitherto have graced the masculine brow alone, aye, and winning them too! In common with other pursuits, serious and pleasurable, chess has attracted the female eye, and many ladies are numbered among its votaries."

PROF. PROCTOR says he would rather give the odds of a knight than have his game watched by even so many as four spectators. He recalls Capt. Mackenzie's wrath at the number of onlookers at the London Tournament, and mentions the fact that Wilkison, of Huddersfield, in his match with Ranken, lost every game played in public, but won easily as soon as he insisted on a limited audience. He thinks, also, after an experience at the New York Manhattan, that not more than twenty persons should be introduced to a visitor in the course of a single game.—*Cincinnati Commercial*.

"IN his youth," writes Lady Holland, "my father (Sidney Smith) had been very fond of chess, but had left it off for many years. He suddenly took it into his head to resume it this winter, and selected me, *faute de mieux*, as his antagonist. His mode of play was very characteristic—bold, rapid attack, without a moment's pause or indecision, which, I suspect, would have exposed him to danger from a more experienced adversary; but as it was, with a profound contempt for my skill, promising me a shilling if I beat him, he sat down with a book in his hand, looked up for an instant, made a move, and beat me regularly every night during the winter. At last I won my shilling, but lost my playfellow. He never challenged me again."