

OUR LIBRARY TABLE

AMERICAN STATESMEN. Edited by John T. Morse, Jr. Gouverneur Morris. By Theodore Roosevelt. MARTIN VAN BUREN. By Edward M. Shepard. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company. About 400 pp.; \$1.25.

These compact little volumes, with admirable indices, are a part of a series which will make not only a political history of the United States but a personal history of the men who contributed most to the making of the United States. Gouverneur Morris was born in New York when New York was a colony, and was a young man of some local distinction when the revolt of the colonies occurred. His career was almost entirely political and diplomatic. His biographer sums up his life work in the closing sentences of the volume before us: "He took a prominent part in bringing about the independence of the colonies, and afterwards in welding them into a single powerful nation, whose greatness he both foresaw and foretold. He made the final draft of the United States Constitution; he first outlined our present system of national coinage; he originated and got under weigh the plan of the Erie Canal; as minister to France he successfully performed the most difficult task ever allotted to an American representative at a foreign capital." The story of his life in Paris is particularly interesting.

Van Buren was born only a few years after the Declaration of Independence. Bred to the profession of law, he filled many political positions until, in 1836, he was elected to the Presidency. He was the first President born after the Revolution; and to a certain extent his presidential career is of interest to Canadians, as it was during his occupation of the White House that the seizure of the *Caroline*, and the international difficulties arising therefrom occurred. Several pages are devoted to the "Canadian Insurrection," but neither the causes nor incidents of it are adequately described. Van Buren lived until after the civil war began, but died before it closed, when he was in his eightieth year.

MISSOURI: A BONE OF CONTENTION. By Lucien Carr. American Commonwealth Series. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company. Toronto: Williamson and Company. pp. 377. \$1.25.

The State of Missouri, although admitted into the Union within the memory of men now not more than middle aged, is historic ground. It is possible that the Spaniards, in their quest for gold, traversed its rivers and forests a hundred and fifty years before the adventurous Frenchmen made their way from the St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico, by way of the Mississippi valley. Frenchmen, if not the first discoverers of the Mississippi, were the first to map it out and make it known to the world. Daring French adventurers and resolute French priests penetrated wilds untrodden save by the Indians and the game on which they subsisted. Joliet, Marquette and La Salle have given the great central watercourse of the North American continent an interest little less than romantic. Other men have made the history of Missouri of unusual interest in the stories of "American Commonwealths." This story is evidently told by a Southerner, or by one with strong Southern sympathies. Canadian sympathisers with the Northern cause in the American Civil War regard John Brown, of Harper's Ferry fame, as a hero and martyr. The author of this book, perhaps with a better knowledge than we possess, gives some shades to the picture which may startle many of our readers. On page 255 he says: "With this successful foray John Brown's career in Kansas and on the border came to an end. On each of his visits to the territory his path had been marked with blood; and yet . . . his course does not appear to have called forth a word of protest from his Northern admirers. Instead of meting out to him the treatment due to a monomaniac or a fugitive from justice, they received him as a sort of popular hero. His murders were either denied or justified, the attempts which he and his friends successfully made to resist arrest were characterized as battles, and philanthropic gentlemen were found in Boston and elsewhere who did not hesitate to supply him with 'material aid,' though they must have known that the schemes in which he was engaged, robbery certainly, and probably murder, were essential to success. In their sympathy for 'bleeding Kansas'—made so by crimes for which they were largely responsible—they seem to have forgotten that even in so good a cause as a crusade to prevent the formation of another Slave state, the end did not justify the means."

Queries for August has portraits of M. G. McClelland, Louisa M. Alcott, Marietta Holly and William Dean Howells, with biographical sketches of Howells, Mrs. Laura C. Holloway, and Miss Holley (Josiah Allen's wife).

The *English Illustrated Magazine* for August has for frontispiece an engraving of "The Parish Clerk," from Gainsborough's picture in the National Gallery. "A Rugby Ramble" gives an interesting account of the famous English Public School. This article and that on "Post-Office Parcels and Telegraphs" are illustrated, but pictorially this number is unusually meagre.

St. Nicholas for August is an out-door number. The story of "Two Little Confederates" is continued and increases in interest. Mr. E. J. Stevenson tells all that is known about the sea serpent, and Mr. E. S. Brooks describes "A Roman Man-o'-war's-man." "Little Moccasin's Ride on the Thunder Horse," "The Bell-Buoy's Story," and the "Account of Mr. Crowley" are pleasant reading.

In the August number of *Macmillan's Magazine* the leading paper is by Prof. Goldwin Smith. It is entitled "Straining the Silken Thread," and is an argument against Imperial Federation from a Canadian point of view, suggested by a recently published article by Mr. Wise, lately Attorney-General of New South Wales. In the same number is a paper on the late Principal Shairp by Chief Justice Lord Coleridge, and one "On Some Letters of Keats," by Sydney Colvin. A story, "Cressy," by Bret Harte, is commenced.

The frontispiece of the August *Century*—the Midsummer Holiday Number—is a portrait of George Kennan, whose Siberian articles have attracted so much attention. In this number he describes his "Meeting with the Political Exiles." A new serial entitled "A Mexican Campaign," by Thomas A. Janvier, is commenced. "The Graysons" is concluded, and Colonel Johnston has a bright short story entitled "The Experiments of Miss Sally Cash." A biographical sketch of Mr. Kennan, by Anna Laurens Dawes, an article on "Sidereal Astronomy," by Prof. Holden, and "The Pulpit of To-day," by Lyman Abbott, are other attractive features of this number.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

A FORTNIGHT OF FOLLY. New York: John B. Alden. Cloth, 140 pp.; 50 cts., post, 8 cts.
 NAPOLEON SMITH. Canadian authorised edition. Toronto: William Bryce; 25 cts.
 ALDEN'S MANIFOLD DICTIONARY. Vol. VII. Calvin—Cevennes. New York: John B. Alden.
 ENGLAND AS SHE SEEMS. By an Arab Sheik. London and New York: Frederick Warne & Co.
 BOOK OF DAY DREAMS. By Charles Leonard Moore. Philadelphia: Press of J. B. Lipincott Company.

LIFE. By Count Leo N. Tolstoi. Authorized translation by Isabel F. Hapgood. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell & Co.

POWER AND LIBERTY. By Count Leo Tolstoi. Translated from the French by Huntington Smith. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell & Co.

THE LONG EXILE, AND OTHER STORIES FOR CHILDREN. By Count Tolstoi. Translated from the Russian. By Nathan Haskill Dole. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell & Co.

THE POETRY OF THE FUTURE. By James Wood Davidson, M.A. New York: John B. Alden. Cloth, 182 pp.; 60 cts., post 5.

TURBANS AND TAILS; or, Sketches in the Unromantic East. By Alfred J. Bamford, B.A. London: Sampson Son, Marston, Searle and Rivington.

POLITICAL ESSAYS. By James Russell Lowell. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin, and Company; Toronto: Williamson and Company. 326 pp.; \$1.50.

NOBODY KNOWS: or, Facts that are not Fictions in the Life of an Unknown. By A Nobody. New York and London: Funk & Wagnalls; Toronto: Methodist Book Room. 290 pp.; \$1.25

A WINTER PICNIC. The Story of four months' outing in Nassau, told by the letters, journals and talk of four picnickers. By J. and E. E. Dickenson and S. E. Dowd. New York: Henry Holt & Co.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

R. D. BLACKMORE, who has lately lost his wife, is living at Yedington, not far from London. Mr. Blackmore is very fond of country life, and owns and cultivates one of the largest market gardens in Great Britain.

MESSRS. CUPPLES AND HURD have published "The President and His Cabinet," a Campaign volume, indicating the progress of the Government of the United States under the administration of Grover Cleveland.

FOR the first time in its history *The Century* will devote a single issue—the forthcoming September number—largely to educational themes. Other distinctive features of the magazine, the Lincoln history, Siberian papers, fiction, etc., will, however, be retained.

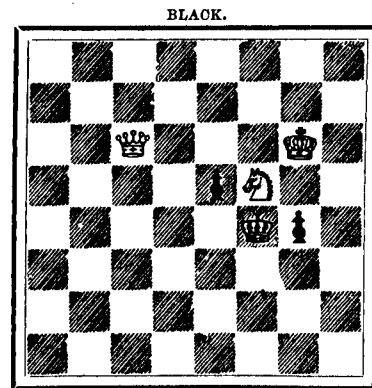
ROBERT BROWNING is certainly a man of many nations. Through his four grandparents he can claim kindred with the Scotch, the Germans, the Creoles, and the English. The poet was educated at the University of London. Mr. Browning is said to look very like a successful merchant, or a bank president, a fact that causes great sorrow to his many admirers who would have him more dreamy and generally melancholy in appearance.

THE Hon. Hugh McCulloch, Secretary of the Treasury under Lincoln, Johnson and Arthur, has written for the September number of *Scribner's Magazine* a paper entitled "Memories of some Contemporaries," in which he recalls his impressions of eminent men with whom he has been acquainted in the course of his half century of public life. It is said that his reminiscences of Beecher, Chase, Lincoln, Fessenden and Arthur are remarkably entertaining, and throw new light on some of the public crises with which these men were closely connected.

CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 279.

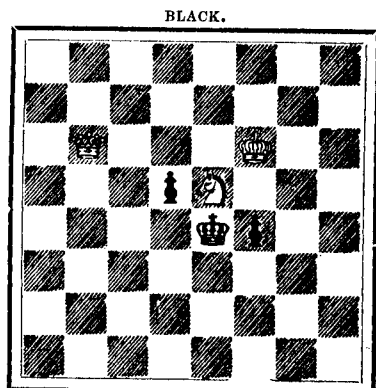
From Quebec Chronicle.



White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. 280.

From Quebec Chronicle.



White to play and mate in three moves

SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS.

No. 273.

White.
R-B 5

No. 274.

White. Black.
 1. Kt-K 5 K x R
 2. Kt from B 4-Q 3 P x Kt
 3. Kt-Kt 4 mate.
 If 1. K-B 1 etc.
 K moves.
 2. Kt-K 4
 3. R-K 1 mate.
 R should be on K 3 instead of Q 3.

GAME PLAYED AT DUNDEE IN 1866 BETWEEN MR. STEINITZ AND MR. DE VERE.

From Chess Master pieces.
 FRENCH OPENING.

MR. STEINITZ.	MR. DEVERE.	MR. STEINITZ.	MR. DEVERE.
White.	Black.	White.	Black.
1. P-K 4	P-K 3	13. Kt-Kt 3	Kt x Kt
2. P-Q 4	P-Q 4	14. B P x Kt	B-Kt 3
3. Q Kt-B 3	B-Kt 5 (a)	15. B-K 3	P-K B 4
4. P x P	P x P	16. P x P en pas	R x P
5. Kt-B 3	Q Kt-B 3	17. Q-R 5	P-Kt 3 (c)
6. B-Q 3	Kt-B 3	18. Q-R 6	B-K B 4
7. Castles	Castles	19. B-Kt 5	Q-K B 1
8. Kt-K 2	Kt-K 2	20. Q-R 4	R-K 3
9. Kt-K 5	Kt-Kt 3	21. R x B (d)	P x R
10. P-K B 4	Kt-K 5 (b)	22. R-K B 1	P-K 6
11. P-B 3	B-R 4	23. R x P	Q-Q 3
12. B x Kt	P x B	24. B-B 6 and Black resigns.	

NOTES.

- (a) This move is not good now, because Black cannot without disadvantage exchange his B for Kt; the B is required at Q 3 in this opening.
- (b) An unwise move, as Black must lose his centre P after the exchange.
- (c) This does not improve matters, there is however no satisfactory move; B-Q 2 seems the least objectionable.
- (d) Finely played; the game is finished in excellent style by Mr. Steinitz.