

OSCAR WILDE is having a house fitted up for himself and bride in Chelsea hard by the house of the late sage, Thomas Carlyle. The new domicile will be a wonderful compound of æstheticism and "cultchaw."

M. JEHAN SOUDAN, who came to America in the train of Mme. Sarah Bernhardt, has recently published a volume called "Histoires de l'autre Monde—Mœurs Américaines," which consists of a dozen and a-half sketches of American life and character translated (or rather betrayed) into French without any specific acknowledgment or mention of the American authors, although M. Armand Silvestre, in the preface, declares that all the tales told by M. Soudan are of American origin.

MATTHEW ARNOLD has recently expressed the opinion that "a hundred years hence George Sand, the disciple of Rosseau, with much of Rosseau's faults, but yet with Rosseau's great motive (love of goodness and enthusiasm for beauty) inspiring her—George Sand to whom the French literature of to-day is backward to do honour—George Sand will have established her superiority to Balzac as incontestably as Rosseau."

MR. W. CAREW HAZLITT has obtained the loan of a manuscript journal which gives curious particulars of his grandfather, William Hazlitt, when a boy. Through the kindness of the possessor of this MS. Mr. Hazlitt is enabled to make use of it in connection with his "Memoirs of Hazlitt," and he will contribute some illustrative extracts from the MS. to the next number of the Antiquary.

THE agent of the Duke of Marlborough has been pretty successful in sales of the Blenheim pictures. For four pictures Mr. Davies, it is stated, has obtained \$700,000, one of these being the famous Raphael, for which the Government has undertaken to pay \$350,000.

THE numbers of Littell's Living Age for September 6th and 13th contain, "Peter the Great," from the Quarterly; "Hodson of Hodson's Horse," and "John Gibson Lockhart," National; "Sussex," Nineteenth Century; "The Marquis of Salisbury," Fortnightly; "Alliteration," Temple Bar; "A Scene from Florida Life," and "Heine's Mountain-Idylls," Macmillan; "A New Aid to Thrift," "Crooked Answers," "The Fortnightly on Lord Salisbury," "A Misconception of History," and "The Waxing and Waning of Glaciers," Spectator; "Social Village Life in 1800," All the Year Round; "Birds-nest Soup," Nature; with instalments of "Beauty and the Beast," "Mitchelhurst Place," and "Bab," and Poetry.

ANNOUNCEMENTS for the coming year of St. Nicholas include serial stories by J. T. Trowbridge and E. P. Roe; a series of papers on places of interest in Europe, by Frank R. Stockton, entitled "Personally Conducted"; "Talks for Young Folk," by H. H.; "Art-Work for Young Folk," by Charles G. Leland; papers on "Choosing an Occupation," based on personal interviews with prominent representatives of various trades and professions; more short stories by Miss Alcott; a series called "Among the Law-makers," and embodying the recollections of a page in the United States Senate; papers on "The Progress of Invention"; a story of Texas, by the late Rev. William M. Baker—and a great many other good things besides.

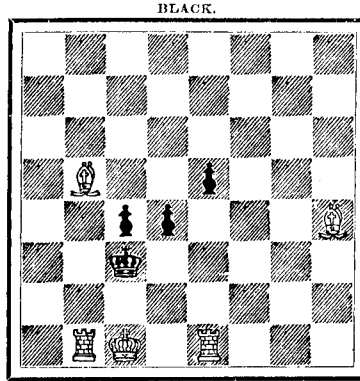
THE opening article of the October Century will be "Lights and Shadows of Army Life," an anecdotal and reminiscent paper by George F. Williams, the well-known correspondent during the Rebellion, and author of "Bullet and Shell." The illustrations will be reproductions, now engraved for the first time, of the well-known etchings by Edwin Forbes, the pictorial war correspondent. Mr. W. D. Howells will contribute to The Century, during the coming year, a series of descriptive papers on the life, society, customs, etc., of cities of northern Italy, beginning with several on Florence, to be entitled "A Florentine Mosaic." The Century woodcuts, after the etchings of Whistler, Haden, and others, are already well known, and it is announced that Mr. Howell's series will be illustrated with reproductions of etchings by Joseph Pennell, who accompanied the author through Italy during the preparation of the series.

To the average reading man there is a strange fascination in a catalogue of books, and more especially if it chance to be a list of new books. And when such catalogue contains, in addition to ordinary details, portraits of well-known writers, with fac-similes of their autographs, why the booklet becomes a literary gem. Such is the catalogue published by Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin and company, of Boston, just to hand. Accompanying it are some special announcements in their Literary Bulletin, which it may not be amiss to introduce to the notice of our readers. Amongst forthcoming works, we are promised during the fall books on Emerson, Edgar Allen Poe, and Edmund Quincy, in the "American Men of Letters" series; on John Adams and James Madison, in the "American Statesmen" series; volumes on the commonwealths of Maryland, Kentucky, California, and Kansas; a new edition of Hans Andersen's stories; an edition of Marlowe's works; two volumes of "classified collections" from the Gentleman's Magazine (1731 to 1868); and many other valuable original and reproduced works, including a large number of novels. Elaborate illuminated calendars for 1885 are also in contemplation, to be known as the Emerson, Holmes, Longfellow, and Whittier calendars, and each graced with selections from the author whose name it bears.

CHESS.

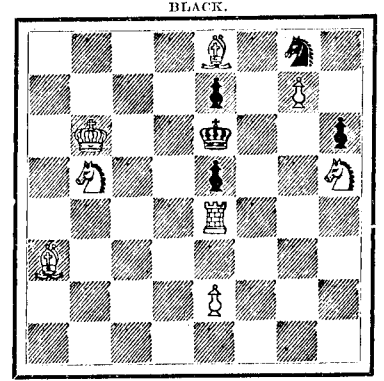
All communications intended for this department should be addressed "Chess Editor," office of THE WEEK, Toronto.

PROBLEM No. 44. Composed for THE WEEK by J. McGregor, Toronto Chess Club.



White to play and mate in two moves.

PROBLEM No. 45. TOURNEY PROBLEM No. 3. Motto:—"Hard-a-lee."



White to play and mate in three moves.

TOURNEY PROBLEM RECEIVED. Motto:—"Tempore Candidior."

AN INTERESTING END GAME.

The following position occurred lately in actual play between two members of the Toronto Chess Club. White (Mr. S.) K Q B 5, B Q Kt 4, P Q R 3. Black (Mr. H.) K K B 2, Ps. Q R 5, Q Kt 4. White to play. Can he win? Will some of our analytical readers please examine this exceedingly curious position and forward to us the result of their labour?

GAME No. 23. CHESS IN ENGLAND. (From the Field.)

The subjoined interesting game was played on Saturday, June 29, in the Handicap Tournament at Simpson's Divan:—

Table showing chess game notation for White (Mr. Hirsch) and Black (Mr. Blackburne) moves, including castles, captures, and resigns.

NOTES.

- (a) Better than Kt Q B 3. (b) 12. Kt to Kt 5 would have been quite useless, on account of 12. . . . B to Q sq, followed by 13. . . . P to B 3, and 14. . . . B to Kt 3, when the bishop would have been brought in an attacking position without loss of time. (c) Perhaps 18. R to Kt sq, for the purpose of supporting the advance of the K Kt P, would have been more forcible. (d) White has to execute now this manoeuvre with the knight, in order to support the advance above alluded to. His attack would have been formidable had he posted his rooks on the knight's file; but Mr. Hirsch had a different plan of attack. (e) A very brilliant conception, and we believe perfectly sound. The complications arising from the capture of the queen are very difficult and interesting, but it is one of those positions which can hardly be worked out with a time limit in actual play. A quiet analysis of hours, perhaps, would not exhaust its numerous and difficult variations. Mr. Hirsch might, therefore, have done better to adopt the less violent continuation of 25. Kt to Kt 5. Obviously Black could not capture the knight, because White could then announce mate in five moves, viz.: White. 25. P takes P. Black. P takes Kt. 26. R to R 8, ch. Kt takes R. 27. R to R 8, ch. Kt takes R. (f) A fine move, threatening 29. Kt takes P, etc., winning right off. (g) It seems as if White had an opportunity here to emerge advantageously from the complication by playing P takes Kt, ch, instead of the next move, e.g.: White. 31. P takes Kt, ch. Black. K takes P. 32. P takes B. K takes P. 33. R to Kt sq, ch. K to B 3 (best). 34. R to R 6, ch. K to K 2 (best). 35. R to R 7, ch. K to B sq. White. 36. B to Kt 4. Black. R to B 2. 37. R to R 8, ch winning the queen, and White should win then with two minor pieces for a rook.

It would be worth the trouble of the reader to exhaust the position by a thorough analysis. Such remarkable endings rarely occur.

(h) This breaks the attack, and puts a speedy termination to the struggle. Black remains with the exchange ahead, and the rest is only a matter of time. We might add that Black could have established a successful counter attack had he played 21. . . . P to B 3 instead of P to B 4, for obvious reasons.

NEWS ITEMS.

It is rumoured that several ladies of Philadelphia are trying to start a Ladies' Chess Club. A CORRESPONDENCE match of two games has been commenced between the Chess Clubs of Amiens and Besancon.

ACCORDING to the Philadelphia Times, the last Duke of Brunswick was "a millionaire crank," who lived in Paris, and whose greatest hobby, after watching his diamonds, was the game of chess. He was playing his last game of chess August 18, 1883, when he suddenly rose from the board, saying: "Don't rob me," and then left the room. Within an hour afterward he was found dead in his bed. All who have played over Morphy's games will recall a brilliant victory won by him playing against the same duke and Count Isouard in consultation, while in the duke's box at the Italiens, in Paris, and those of our readers who preserve our column will find in that of March 30, 1884, an account of a curious lawsuit, said to have grown chiefly out of the occurrence of the game in question.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.