

THOMAS C. KING.

The eminent tragedian whose portrait is presented to-day to the readers of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS came to the Dominion three or four weeks ago without other recommendation than his own superior merit. His first appearance was at the Theatre Royal, Montreal, in the character of "Othello," and for the succeeding twelve days he rehearsed the principal impersonations of Shakespeare, Bulwer, and Sheridan Knowles. A remarkable circumstance about his success in Montreal is that his audiences increased in size from evening to evening, until at the final performance of his first engagement the house was crowded to the doors, and there was literally no standing room. From Montreal Mr. King went to Ottawa by invitation, and there, notwithstanding the drawback of Holy Week, he was received with enthusiasm. Members of Parliament flocked to hear him, and the Governor-General, whose reputation as a man of literary culture is a prize in himself, gave him his hearty patronage. By general desire Mr. King was forced to return to Montreal for another fortnight, and he is now meeting with the same unbounded favour which greeted his first visit. He intends visiting Hamilton and other Canadian cities.

Mr. T. C. King is a native of Cheltenham, where he was born in 1822. He had scarcely attained manhood when he adopted the stage as a profession. He had previously won high encomiums for his success in various amateur performances, and, encouraged by the flattering opinions of his admirers, abandoned mercantile pursuits for the career of an actor. Having procured an engagement at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, then under the management of Mr. Mercer Simpson, he sustained a number of minor characters during his first sea-



MR. T. C. KING, THE CELEBRATED TRAGEDIAN.

son with marked success. His increasing reputation gained for him the offer of an engagement for the leading business in the York Theatrical Circuit, where he soon became a great favourite. The manager, Mr. John Langford Pritchard, fully appreciated the rising genius of the young tragedian, whose success in the Shakspearian and legitimate drama at the Theatres Royal, York, Leeds, and Hull was highly eulogized by the Yorkshire press. A very advantageous and lucrative offer from Mr. Wm. Murray induced Mr. King to transfer his services to the Edinburgh stage, where his eminent abilities rendered him the most popular tragedian who had for years paced the boards of the Edinburgh Theatre. The late Charles Kean, while playing an engagement in Edinburgh, was so forcibly struck with the great abilities of Mr. King, that he offered him a three years' engagement at a handsome salary to appear at the Princess's Theatre, London. This offer was too tempting to be refused, so after playing a brief but most successful engagement at Glasgow, and bidding adieu to his many friends in the Scottish capital, Mr. King made his first appearance in the Metropolis at the Princess's Theatre, in Shakespeare's play of the "Merchant of Venice." The fame he had won in the north was fully confirmed by the verdict of a London audience, and the press were unanimous in their unqualified praise of Mr. King's performances. In 1851 Mr. King was one of the actors selected to appear in the State Theatricals at Windsor Castle, and on the occasion of the performance of "As You Like it," he was complimented by the late Prince Consort, who expressed his high gratification with the admirable performance of Mr. King.

Mr. King remained two years under the management of Charles Kean, when he relinquished his engagement for a



A. de Riviere. Journaud. Comte de l'Eglise. Samuel Levy. Winaver. Lotisch. Devinci. Lequesne. Tourgueneff. Baron d'André. Gogorra.
 Deronson. Simeoni. Chemer. Gitzoid. Proust père. Proust fils. Brandon. De Vaulreland. Bernard. Morel. Maubant. Nachmann.
 Comte de Villafraña. Rosenthal. De Polignac.

PARIS.—THE PRINCIPAL CHESS PLAYERS AT THE CAFÉ DE LA RÉGENCE.