

SONNET.

ON THE DYING YEAR.

The winds are whispering low their dirges drear, Sabbing and sighing in a sad lament.

All Nature softens as his end draws near, The winds cling round him thick and heavy now.

The clouds draw closer round, and stoop to hear His dying groans: their bosoms swell with rain.

SPRING.

When snows the dead earth cumber, And weary Winter reigns,

When trees are bare, and shining With Water's frozen breath,

When winter winds of sorrow Warp brightness from his brow,

March 10.

DODGAS.

CARLYLE AT HOME.

With his eighty-three years of active life upon him, Thomas Carlyle still stands the centre of English literary thought.

Carlyle was born in Ecclefechan, Scotland, in the year 1795, was educated in Edinburgh and designated for the ministry.

His character may be learned from his greatest love and his greatest hatred. He loves veracity, and hates sham.

The anatomy of biography is, perhaps, the most interesting of all branches of an always attractive subject, and with nothing but the hope the dissection will be beneficial, we shall present the results of an autopsy of Carlyle.

His room of occupation in his house in Cheyne Row is the drawing-room—a bright cheery apartment. There he has his bench, a flat writing-table, on which are a reading easel, a wooden paper knife marked "mentive" and a bowie knife of formidable proportions.

his school, notably the "Melancholia," and further on is *Le vol Voltaire*, crowned in the Théâtre Français. Frederick in a cocked hat surveying angrily the scene.

"Stielst du gestern klar und offen Wirkst du heute kraftig frei,

This portrait was presented to Mr. Carlyle on the completion of his masterly translation of "Wilhelm Meister."

On the mantel-piece is an example of the famous Worcester jug, dedicated to the great Frederick, and printed in "transfer" over the glaze. This jug is curious as a piece of historical pottery.

Every morning early, before breakfast, the great author's tall, bent figure, topped by a wide-awake of ample trim, emerges from Cheyne Row and strolls on, unheeding the reverent eyes that have come often many a weary mile just to look on the grave and wise teacher.

Carlyle's hours of work are short—from half past ten or eleven till two; the afternoon he devotes to exercise, either walking with an old friend and congenial companion, or riding on the top of an omnibus.

After his afternoon promenade he reposes till dinner-time, then wanders out awhile, and returning settles down—not to work, as he puts it, but to read till two o'clock in the morning.

He eats but two meals a day, and these light in material and quantity. He seldom exceeds two glasses of wine per diem.

The author of "Hero-Worship" is no lover of newspapers. Public Opinion and All the Year Round are the only periodicals welcomed within his "keep."

HEARTH AND HOME.

THE TASTEFUL WOMAN.—A tasteful woman can make a garret beautiful and homelike, and at a little cost; for the beauty of home depends more on educated and refined taste than upon wealth.

INFLUENCE OF PICTURES.—A room with pictures in it and a room without pictures differ by nearly as much as a room with windows and a room without windows; for pictures are hoopholes of escape to the soul, leading it to other scenes and spheres.

THE REFINING INFLUENCE OF MANNERS IN CHILDREN.—There are children who accept their lessons as tasks to be learnt, without much considering the future use they are to be put to.

CHARACTER.—The character is formed by the personal habits of daily life as much as by the thoughts and principles inculcated. The careless and unmethodical in action will scarcely be the accurate observer, the correct reporter, the reliable authority, or the steadfast supporter in other matters.

THE UNCOMMON GIRL.—It is her boast that she is not like other people, dresses in the extreme of fashion, or not in the fashion at all. She delights in bright colours and strange contrasts.

LITERARY.

MR. BROWNING has in the press two new poems.

MR. H. H. FURNESS is now engaged upon "King Lear," which will form the fifth volume of his "New Variorum Shakespeare."

A GERMAN version of Lieutenant Denison's "History of Cavalry," which obtained the prize offered by the Grand Duke Nicholas, is announced.

THE POET LAUREATE contributes a new poem to the March number of the Nineteenth Century, entitled "Sir Richard Grenville: a Ballad of the Fleet." The finest poem Gerald Massey ever wrote was upon the same subject.

MR. SWINBURNE'S new series of Poems and Ballads will appear almost immediately. There are fifty-four poems, original and translated. Several have been written during Mr. Swinburne's present stay in Scotland, among them the dedicatory verses to Captain G. Hard Burton.

ERNEST RENAN is about to publish a new book, entitled "Miscellaneous History and Travel." The volume contains essays on the origin of the French language, Art in the Middle Ages, the history of higher education, the Jews, the Jews in Spain, Italy and Ancient Egypt, all of which countries the author has visited.

THE GLORIOUS UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE contains four sonnets by Mr. Swinburne, bearing upon the present occupations in the East of Europe. Two of them are named "The White-Car" and show Mr. Swinburne to be as far from anti-Russian as he used to be anti-Napoleon.

THE PARIS PRESS is, according to the Atheneum, thus divided among the political parties. The Republican party possess 22 newspapers, with a circulation of 240,000 copies.

THE LATE GEORGE CRANKSHANK had made considerable progress with an autobiography, comprising his recollections of many literary men, commencing from a date of nearly eighty years ago.

MARS' MOONS.

When the telegraph announced the discovery by Prof. Hall that our neighbouring planet had two satellites, and the dispatch was read the next morning at ten thousand American breakfast tables, what think you was the effect upon the hearers?

Dr. R. V. French, Buffalo, N. Y.

Dear Sir,—Last fall our daughter, aged 18, was fast sinking with consumption. Different physicians had pronounced her case incurable.

Yours respectfully,

REV. ISAAC N. AUGUSTINE.

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

Calculations to Problems sent in by Correspondents will be duly acknowledged.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. W. S., Montreal.—Letter received; also correct solution of Problem No. 165.

J. S. St. Andrews, Montreal.—Problem received. It shall receive attention.

G. J. Raymondville, Ont.—Letter and games received. Many thanks. The latter shall appear shortly.

J. H., Montreal.—Problem received. It shall appear shortly.

E. H., Montreal.—Solution of Problem for Young Players No. 167 received. Correct.

DISPLACEMENT TOURNEY.

At the late Grantham Tourney in England there was a part of the arrangements which attracted particular attention, we allude to the prize offered by a gentleman for the successful competitor in a match which was to be played under the condition that the pieces at the commencement of each game should undergo some alteration in position as compared with the mode usually adopted in arranging them for play.

From the scores of the games which we have seen of this match it appears that the Bishops on both sides of the board were placed on the Knights' squares and the Knights on the Bishop's squares.

Having been asked by one or two correspondents why this was done, we offer the following explanation, and shall be glad if some of our Chess friends will add information which may further explain the matter.

It is well known that almost every mode of opening the game have been analyzed and that the results of these investigations has been published for the benefit of those who wish to profit by the labours of others.

By careful study of these the student of the game at the beginning of a contest may, as far as his book knowledge will enable him to go, play successfully and with equal advantage against one who in other respects is a far superior antagonist.

In games also played by two equal players we may often perceive a knowledge of the openings operating for the benefit of the one against the other, and giving