

Earth yields us splendid mansions for our needs,
And only takes our lives to pay the rents.
Ah, but our dreams! Beyond earth's count they rise
In sage and hourly eternities."

THE STORY OF MEDIA, BABYLON, AND PERSIA, from the Fall of Nineveh to the Persian War. By Zenaide A. Ragozin. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

This popular compend of ancient history appears in "The Story of the Nations' Series," the former issues of which have been noticed in our columns. The volume is practically a continuation of the "Story of Assyria," which preceded it, and embraces the hundred years between the destruction of Jerusalem and the beginning of the captivity and the campaign against Hellas, under Darius the First, of Persia. As the narrative ends with the Battle of Marathon (B.C. 490), the history of Persia, one of the three great monarchies which ruled the East after the decline of the Assyrian Empire, can hardly be said to be brought to a close. What is given us here, however, is full of interest and is clearly and entertainingly presented. Strewn through the volume is a large amount of mythological and archaeological lore, which the author has laboriously gathered from valuable and doubtless authentic sources. The author has also given us some interesting chapters on the sacred books of the East, on Aryan myths, and on the influences, political and religious, of the migration of the various branches of the Aryan people. The whole volume will be most acceptable to historical students and the modern reader, who wants to know something of the great nations whose home lay in the valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates and the country east of the Persian Gulf. M. Ragozin seems to have done his work well. The volume is a worthy complement to his monograph on Assyria.

ANDIATOROCTE, or the Eve of Lady Day on Lake George, and other Poems, Hymns, and Meditations in Verse. By the Rev. Clarence A. Walworth. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

The poem which gives its name to this volume is an attempt to depict, for modern readers, the period when the Black Robes of the Church had their missions among the Indian tribes that swarmed the historic waterways between the St. Lawrence and the Hudson River, over which Algonquin braves used to pass to ravage the homes of the Mohawks. The story is told in four brief cantos, in varied poetic form, interspersed with aves, psalms and dirges, the soul-utterances of a lofty spiritual life. The bulk of the volume is devoted to "miscellaneous poems," chiefly religious, and sundry "meditations in verse." The poems are mainly written in unrhymed narrative or epic verse, and seem to be the work of a cultured Catholic priest or an enthusiastic High Churchman, with a strongly marked sacerdotal manner. The spiritual flavour of the poems at times hardly compensate for their occasional uncount form, which might be taken to be that of a sort of Christianized Walt. Whitman.

POEMS OF PLEASURE. By Ella Wheeler Wilcox. New York and Chicago: Belford, Clarke and Company.

The characteristics of Mrs. Wilcox's work are no doubt well known to readers of American verse. It is fluent and rhythmical, imaginative and warm. The latter quality, unfortunately, is predominant. In her previous volume, "Poems of Passion," we had this, we might almost say, *ad nauseam*. Here, in the section designated "Passional," we have it again in profusion, though perhaps in more chastened and less Swinburnian strains. As a set-off, or as a qualifying ingredient, the author treats us to two other sections, entitled "Philosophical" and "Miscellaneous." In these, there is a moral and didactic strain, which in reality is rarely absent even from the author's passionate verse. "The Sea-breeze and the Scarf" is an exemplification of this. If we quote it, it is with an apology to the more fastidious reader:—

"Hung on the casement that looked o'er the main,
Fluttered a scarf of blue;
And a gay, bold breeze paused to flatter and tease
This trifle of delicate hue.
'You are lovelier far than the proud skies are,'
He said with a voice that sighed;
'You are fairer to me than the beautiful sea,
Oh, why do you stay here and hide?'

"'You are wasting your life in that dull, dark room,
(And he fondled her silken folds),
O'er the casement lean but a little, my queen,
And see what the great world holds.
How the wonderful blue of your matchless hue,
Cheapens both sea and sky—
You are far too bright to be hidden from sight,
Come fly with me, darling—fly.'

"Tender his whisper and sweet his caress,
Flattered and pleased was she,
The arms of her lover lifted her over
The casement out to sea.
Close to his breast she was fondly pressed,
Kissed once by his laughing mouth;
Then dropped to her grave in the cruel wave,
While the wind went whistling south."

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

"B. C. 1887" is the odd title of a forthcoming volume of travels in British Columbia by the authors of "Three in Norway." It will be freely illustrated from sketches by one of the authors and from photographs taken during their rambles. Messrs Longmans, Green and Company will publish it.

MR. WALTER SCOTT will publish immediately a series of translations of works by Count Tolstoi in monthly volumes. The series will begin with "A Russian Proprietor, and other Stories," a volume representative of Count Tolstoi's literary activity between 1852 and 1859. Several of the forthcoming works have not hitherto appeared in England.

MR. WALTER BESANT has written a biography of the author of the "Gamekeeper at Home" and the "Amateur Poacher," and this "Eulogy of Richard Jefferies" will be shortly published in New York, by Longmans, Green & Co. Mr. Besant has a sympathetic touch, and his account of the struggles of unfortunate Jefferies is pathetic and affecting.

DOUGLAS B. W. SLADEN, the Australian poet, novelist, and critic, and now a prominent figure in literary circles in England, has arrived in Boston, where he is being done the honours. He comes to spend several months in America, sight-seeing, lecturing, etc., in connection with an anthology, for Griffith, Farren & Co., of "The Younger Poets of America," which will include Canadian names. The scheme of the work will be an introductory essay, and under each writer's name a brief biographical heading, followed

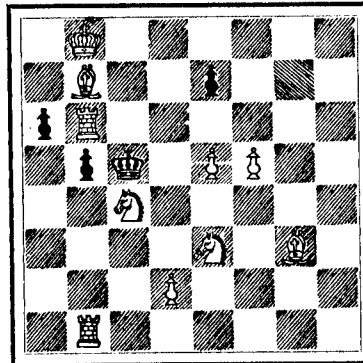
by short specimens of his poetry. The term "Younger" is to include, say, people born during the last fifty years. Mr. Slade announces that he will be very glad to receive hints as to the compilation at his address, care of Brown Brothers, Bankers, Boston. He is to spend some time in the Dominion, and to be in Montreal during the Carnival, and perhaps lecture here. He is the author of "Australian Lyrics," "Edward the Black Prince," etc., and editor of the famous Australian Canterbury Poets volume,

CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 303.

By A. P. SILVERA, Jamaica.

BLACK.



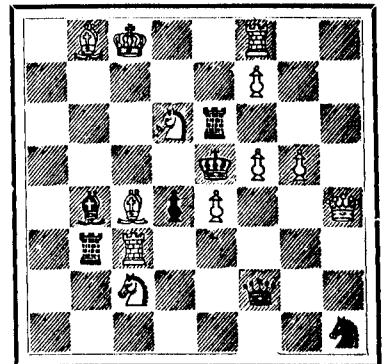
WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. 304.

From *Croydon Guardian*.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS.

No. 297.

White.

1. Q-Kt 4

Black.

No. 298.

White.

1. Q-B 3

2. Q-K 3 +

3. Q-K 7 mate

Black.

1. K-Kt 4

2. K moves

If 1. B-Kt 2

2. K-B 4

3. Q-B 8 mate

With other variations.

GAME PLAYED BETWEEN MESSRS. DONISTHORPE AND GATTIE.

From the *Critic*. (Four Knights.)

White.

Donisthorpe.

1 P-K 4
2 Kt-KB 3
3 Kt-B 3
4 B-B 4 (a)
5 P-Q 3
6 Kt-Q 2 (b)
7 B-Kt 3
8 RP x Kt
9 P-R 3
10 P-Q 4 (c)
11 Q-Q 3
12 Kt-Kt 3
13 Castles
14 B-B 4
15 P-K 5
16 B x P
17 Kt x B
18 KR-Ksq
19 P-Kt 4
20 P-Kt 5
21 Kt-B 6
22 Kt-K 4
23 R x Kt
24 Kt-K 7, ch
25 R x Q

Black.

W. M. Gattie.

P-K 4
Kt-QB 3
Kt-B 3
B-B 4
P-Q 3
Kt-QR 4
Kt x B
P-B 3
P-QR 3
P x P
Q-K 2
B-Kt 3
P-B 4
B-B 2
P x P
B x B
Castles
Q-B 2
P-Q Kt 3
P-QR 4
B-K 3
Kt x Kt
B-B 4
Q x Kt
B x Q

White.

Donisthorpe.

26 P x B
27 QR-Ksq
28 R x R, ch
29 R x R, ch
30 P-Q Kt 3
31 K-Bsq
32 K-K 2
33 P-Kt 3
34 P-B 3
35 K-Q 2
36 K-K 2
37 P-B 4
38 P x P
39 K-B 2
40 Kt P x P
41 P-B 5
42 P-Q Kt 6
43 P-R 4
44 P-R 5
45 K x P
46 P-R 6
47 K-Kt 3
48 K-Kt 4
49 K-B 5
Resigns

Black.

W. M. Gattie.

KR-Ksq
K-Bsq (d)
R x R
K x R
K-Q 2
K-Q 3
K-K 4 (f)
P-Kt 4
P-R 4
K-K 3 (e)
P-KR 5
P x Kt P
P-Kt 7
P-B 5
P-R 5
P x P
K-Q 3
P-R 6
P-R 7
P Queens
Q-Kt 7, ch
Q x P
Q-Qsq
Q-K Rsq

NOTES.

(a) Not so good as the usual move, B-Kt 5. Black can play Kt x P, followed by P-Q 4.

(b) B-K 3 is a better move.

(c) An unsound sacrifice. He might have taken a fairly good game by Kt-Kt 3 and Castles.

(d) This move virtually wins. White has nothing better than to exchange Rooks, and Black is left with a winning, though difficult, end-game.

(e) An ingenious and essential move to enable him, after playing P-B 5, to overtake the White Kt P.

(f) By Editor of WEEK: K-Q 4, followed by 33. P-R 5, is the simplest way of winning.

REFERRING to the meeting of the Emperor William and the Pope, the Paris correspondent of the *Times* says: "I might give the opinion of many persons entitled to respect that in this secret interview little will pass beyond commonplace assurances and an exchange of civilities, not seriously committing either of the two high personages. There is no question which Prince Bismarck and his master have more frequently discussed, and on which, each thoroughly knowing the other's opinions, they are more agreed. Never has the Chancellor had any intention of giving the Pope greater power than he at present wields. Never has he had the idea of making the Vatican a regular or permanent factor in his domestic policy, or a lever in his foreign policy. Never has he wished to make the Pope the slightest concession beyond what was necessary for reassuring and pacifying the German Catholic party. The pupil, who will soon have no longer a professor, will not this time exceed by a hair's breadth the intentions of the Chancellor, and when he leaves the oratory, Leo XIII., on recalling the conversation, will perceive that he has perhaps commanded the admiration of his visitor, but that the Papacy has no formal promise or tangible engagement to set off against the losses undergone and the blows received by it."