

READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.

THE BABE.  
BABE, if rhyme be none,  
For that sweet small word  
Babe, the sweetest one  
Ever heard,

Right it is and meet  
Rhyme should keep not true  
Time with such a sweet  
Thing as you.

Meet it is that rhyme  
Should not gain such grace  
What is April's prime  
To your face?

What to yours is May's  
Rosiest smile? what sound  
Like your laughter sways  
All hearts round?

None can tell in metre  
Fit for ears on earth  
What sweet star grew sweeter  
At your birth.

Wisdom doubts what may be:  
Hope with smile sublime,  
Trusts: but neither, baby,  
Knows the rhyme.

Wisdom lies down lonely;  
Hope keeps watch from far;  
None but one seer only  
Sees the star.

Love alone, with yearning  
Heart for astrolabe,  
Takes the star's height, burning  
O'er the babe.

—Swinburne.

THE STRENGTH OF SPIDERS AND SPIDER-WEBS.

SPIDERS' webs are generally spoken of as weak, but comparatively estimated they are strong. According to Schaffenburg, ninety spinning threads of an *Epeira* are required to make one thread as thick as a caterpillar's. Leeuwenhoek estimates that eighteen thousand spider lines are required to make a thread as thick as a hair of the beard. Blackwell made some tests with a line which had sustained a spider weighing ten grains. After making a minute sack of muslin suspended to this line, he put into it sixty-one grains; an additional half grain being put in, the line broke. The line had sustained six times the weight of the spider. The webs must be strong enough to hold many kinds of powerful insects, and sustain the weight of heavy loads of rain and dew. The astronomer, General Ormsby M. Mitchell, once wished to make a delicate connection between the pendulum of a clock and an electric apparatus for recording the ticks. After trying several fine fibres such as human hair, he found a main thread of a spider's web the most suitable for his purpose. This delicate connecting film remained in place during three years, contracting and relaxing with each tick of the clock. Wonderful things are told about spiders having captured larger animals than insects. A prominent instance is recorded in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. The account is given by a Mr. Spring, who, while walking with a friend in a swampy wood, noticed a large, black, wolf spider acting peculiarly. Closer attention showed that the spider had taken hold of a fish just in front of the dorsal fin. The fish swam around as if in pain and tried to shake the spider off. When they came near the bank the spider reached out its legs and pulled the fish quite out of the water. This was done a second time as the fish fell into the water after being once taken out. The two animals being captured, the spider was found to be three-fourths of an inch long, and the fish three and one-fourth inches. Another account is of a snake which was caught in a spider's web in the cellar of the Hon. David E. Evans, at Batavia, N. Y. The web was on the under-side of a shelf opposite to a window. The snake had apparently crawled into the web, and was subsequently further entangled by the spider, which had secured the reptile by the tail, besides winding threads around the mouth. The snake was not large, being about a foot long. A wonderful instance of a spider's strength occurred in Lebanon (Ky.) in the office of Mr. P. C. Cleaver's livery-stable. About 11 A.M. a young mouse, an inch and a half long, was seen hanging by its tail to a spider's web under a high desk. The spider had passed some lines of web around the mouse's tail, and was gradually raising it from the floor. The spider, which was about as large as a pea, would crawl down and bite the mouse's tail, then run up and begin the work of raising. Thus the spider continued till the next morning about nine o'clock, when the mouse was found to be raised three inches from the floor, and quite dead. These instances prove that both sedentary and wandering spiders capture small vertebrate animals, and use them as food.—Henry C. McCook in *Popular Science Monthly* for May.

WHAT is sheer hate seems to the individual entertaining the sentiment so like indignant virtue, that he often indulges in the propensity to the full, nay, lauds himself for the exercise of it.—Thackeray.

STANLEY AND THE NEW JINGOISM.

HENRY M. STANLEY is assuming a singular leadership in English politics, and it is something in the jingo fashion; but whatever may be the estimate of his course, it is plain that he represents a factor of no mean significance. In his address at the Albert Hall he stated that British influence had been extended in Africa to the eastern limits of the Congo Free State. He had, he said, acquired many thousand square miles of territory from the native chiefs, "for the assistance by force of arms and other considerations, against their enemies." This means that Great Britain has already secured a preponderating influence in the territory lying east of the Congo Free State, which is the district in which the Germans claim to have interests. Stanley asks, in an interview, printed in the *Manchester Guardian*, "if we are to be supported, as the Germans are, or are we to be disavowed? If we are to be disavowed, it is in my opinion the beginning of the end." Lord Salisbury answered these questions at the chamber of commerce dinner, recently, by saying that England had surrendered nothing of her rights in Africa, that negotiations with Germany on the African question were proceeding satisfactorily, and that the interests of the British East African Company should be protected. The negotiations with Germany, to which Lord Salisbury referred, seem to have been of the kind which Stanley anticipated. Stanley very plainly intimated that Germany was an adept at asking and England at yielding, and that if present methods were followed the end would be the driving of "every Englishman out of Africa by mere force of circumstances without firing a shot." According to late despatches the negotiations with Germany had almost reached the point of conceding to that country practically all it had asked, a control of territory extending from the east coast of Africa to the Congo Free State. Public opinion has, however, forced Lord Salisbury to order all negotiations suspended. It is also stated that Sir Edward Malet has informed the German Foreign Office that Germany must recognize the rights of England in the territory on the west coast of Lake Tanganyika, and also in the country north of the lake, including Uganda and adjacent territory. Chancellor Caprivi has emphatically protested at this changed attitude of Lord Salisbury. The emperor is said to have endorsed, if not inspired, this protest. In the mean time Stanley's addresses, especially his recommendations, are receiving more and more attention in England, and popular interest in the African question is constantly increasing. As Lord Salisbury said at the Foreign Office, Africa is filling a larger place at present than any interest of the colonies already allied to the crown.

HOME THE SPIRITUALIST.

The *National* contains some reminiscences of the spiritualist, Home, who spent some time latterly at Florence: He is a young American, about nineteen or twenty years of age, I should say; rather tall, with a loosely put together figure, red hair, large and clear but not bright blue eyes, a sensual mouth, lanky cheeks, and that sort of complexion which is often found in individuals of a phthisical diathesis. He was courteous enough, not unwilling to talk, ready enough to speak of those curious phenomena of his existence which differentiated him from other mortals, but altogether unable or unwilling to formulate or enter into discussion of any theory respecting them. We all sat around a long, large, heavy dining-room table, elongated after the fashion of such tables by the insertion of additional portions of table. To the best of my recollection, at least twelve or fifteen persons must have found place around the table. It soon began to emit little crackling noises, which seemed to come from the substance of the wood. Then, after a few more minutes, it began to move uneasily, as it were, and to make apparent efforts to rise from the ground, now one end and now the other heaving itself up. All this time the medium remained quiescent in his seat among us. Then, after some ten minutes or so spent in this apparently tentative work, the entire table was undeniably raised from the ground. Sir D. Brewster and myself instantly precipitated ourselves under the table, so that we were both together on all fours under it. The table was unquestionably raised in such sort that no portion of it, legs or other, touched the floor. I said to Sir D. Brewster, as we were there together under the table, "Does it not seem that the table has been raised by some means altogether inexplicable?" "Indeed, it would seem so," he replied. But he wrote a letter to *The Times* the next day, or a day or two after, in which he gave an account of his visit to Ealing, but ended by denying that he had seen anything remarkable. After the table exhibition Mr. Home fell into a sort of swoon or trance, and while in this swoon he said, "When Daniel" (his name was Daniel Home) "recovers, give him some bottled porter," which was accordingly done. It may be observed, however, that he *did* appear to be exhausted. The best of the other articles is Lady Paget's account of her visit to Count Mattei, the famous Italian cancer specialist, or quack, according to the view taken of him. He lives in a solitary mountain fortress, and claims to be as hale and active at eighty-two as a man of fifty, owing to the mysterious efficacy of his drugs. The other contributions are not noteworthy.—*Literary World*.

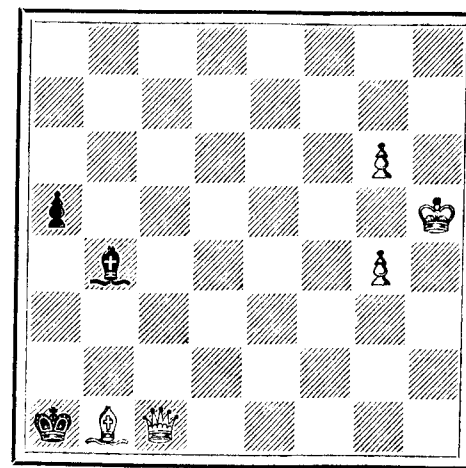
TIME cannot heal everything. Time can only destroy. Time destroys regrets and remembrance and kindness and affection, just as the dentist deadens the nerve. Time at last destroys the scars, when he destroys the frame itself.—Walter Besant.

CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 471.

By W. A. SPINKMAN.

BLACK.



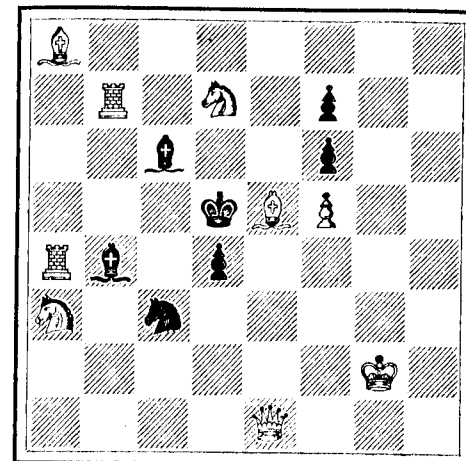
WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. 472.

By J. RAYNER.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS.

No. 465.  
R-K B 3

No. 466.

- |               |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| WHITE.        | BLACK.                 |
| 1. R-Q 7      | 1. P-K 2               |
| 2. B-R 7      | 2. K x P               |
| 3. B-B 5 mate |                        |
| if            | 1. K-Kt 6              |
| 2. Q-B 2 +    | 2. K-B 6               |
| 3. R mates    |                        |
|               | With other variations. |

Note.—In Problem No. 469 there should be a black P on black K R 5.

GAME PLAYED BY PAUL MORPHY

In Paris, in 1859 not published in any collection of his games.

MORPHY. White	MR. S. Black	MORPHY. White.	MR. S. Black.
1. P-K 4	P-K 4	13. K Kt-Kt 4	Q-K 2
2. Kt-K B 3	Kt-Q B 3.	14. Q-K 2	B-Q 3
3. B-B 4	Kt-B 3	15. Kt x Kt P +	K-Q 2
4. P-Q 4	P x P	16. Q-Kt 4 +	K-Q 1
5. castles	Kt x P	17. Kt-B 7 +	Q x Kt
6. R-K 1	P-Q 4	18. B-Kt 5 +	B-K 2
7. B x P	Q x B	19. Kt-K 6 +	K-B 1
8. Kt-B 3	Q-K R 4	20. Kt-B 5 +	K-Kt 1
9. Kt x Kt	B-K 3	21. Kt-Q 7 +	K-B 1
10. QKt-Kt 5	B-Kt 5	22. Kt-Kt 6 +	K-Kt 1
11. R x B +	P x R	23. Q-B 8 +	R x Q
12. Kt x K P	Q-B 2	24. Kt-Q 7 mate	

THE London correspondent of the *New York Times* says:—Archdeacon Farrar has contributed to the *Manchester Guardian* two interesting articles on the Passion Play at Ober-Ammergau, in which he describes, in sympathetic and picturesque language, the impression made upon his mind by what he calls the dress rehearsal of the sacred play. He stayed at the humble home of Josef Mayer, who represents the part of Christ, and after repelling the assertions made against Mayer as being an avaricious hypocrite, charged with ambitious self-seeking, and the abuse of sacred feelings for personal ends, he states that he believes him to be "an entirely devout, sincere, humble-minded man who does not love that fame of the world which is always half disface," and then draws a picture of the simple artisan as a man and a pourtrayer of Christ in words of exceeding sweetness and strength. The Archdeacon believes with Mayer and his comrades that the world has outgrown the needs of the miracle play, and that the vulgar curiosity of the tourist in his thousands tends to rob it of all reverence. Some months ago the ancient cross on the summit of Cobel was destroyed by a great storm, and the tradition runs that when it should fall the peasants of the little Tyrolean valley should cease to represent the miracle play, and they are said to accept the omen.