

FAR ABOVE RUBIES.

BY NED P. MAH.

I do not dwell in marble halls,
Plain painted pine my doors,
No gilded carvings adorn my walls—
No Brussels decks my floors.

THE GREATEST MODERN DISCOVERY.

BY C. CHAUNCEY BURN.

Who was Shakespeare? The world has been answering that question quite loud enough for almost three hundred years...

It is said that these manuscripts contain nearly all the proverbs and old saws which abound in the Shakespeare Plays...

Another writer, in the same paper, in an exceedingly well written two-column article, seems quite equally impressed with the great importance of the evidence furnished by this new book.

We do not remember that the Plays of Shakespeare have ever before been credited to Lord Bacon; but the doubts as to their real authorship is old.

"Happy the parents of so fair a child;
Happy the man whose favorable stars
Alloy thee for his bedfellow!"

What is it but a pretty close copy of the following epigram from the "Greek Anthology?"

"Happy the man who sees thee, thrice happy he who hears thee, a demigod who kisses thee, and a perfect god who has thee for his bedfellow."

The famous lines in Othello:
" He that is robbed
Let him not know it, and he's not robb'd at all."
is very much like the following lines from Epictetus:

"For then only wilt thou be hurt when thou dost think thyself hurt."

There is a similar line in Menander, from whom Epictetus must have borrowed it, as Menander was nearly 300 years earlier than he:

"Thou hast suffered no wrong, unless thou dost fancy so."

Or this from Hamlet:
" Let in a maid, that out a maid
Never returned more."

seems to be borrowed from the following in the 27th Idyllium of Theocritus:

"I came in here a maid, I shall return home a woman."

Now if one had the time to devote to the matter it probably would not be a difficult task to find a hundred such classical parallels in the plays of Shakespeare. His works afford abundant evidence that he was deeply read in classical Mythology. How did he get it? That has been a disputed matter for a long time now.

But what ought to be deemed as conclusive proof against the Baconian theory of Shakespeare's Plays, is the fact that the first edition of Shakespeare's dramatic work, called the "First Folio," was published seven years after the poet's death by Heminge and Condell, two of his most intimate and beloved friends.

The men who superintended the "First Folio" were in daily communication with the poet, when he was working up and amending his plays for the stage. And, as his extemporary dramatic poets and associates, Ben Jonson, Beaumont, Messenger, Shirley, Ford, and Herrick, were living at the time of the publication of the first correct edition, is it within the bounds of imagination to believe that plays which were in any part the work of Bacon could have passed muster under the cover of Shakespeare, plays!

The world gives its broadest assent to the opinion that Shakespeare was the greatest poet that ever lived. But no such bold discoverer has yet made his appearance in this world as to put in the claim for Lord Bacon that he was a poet.

The most that can be said with safety of the old Baconian manuscript's just published is, that they were a sort of amanu gasterum, or place for all things, in which the author copied beautiful or surprising passages from whatever place he found them in. And where could he find more of such passages than in the works of Shakespeare, whose wonderful genius was surprising the world at that moment?

THE PRINCE OF WALES' CIGARETTE.

SOME time since, after seeing it, his Royal Highness went to Toole's dressing-room and lit a small cigarette (although, in a general way, smoking is not allowed in any part of the theatre), at the same time offering his case to the talented artist, with the request that the latter would join him in a "whiff."

"Never smoke?" said the astonished Prince. "Why your acting when smoking five minutes since was the most delicious thing I have seen on the stage for a long time! Never smoke! Why it seems incomprehensible."

"It is true, nevertheless," replied Mr. Toole; "and I can assure you during my whole life I have never smoked either pipe or cigar; but, not to appear 'stiff,' I will accept a cigarette, as you were so kind to offer me one."

Mr. Toole then went on to explain that all he did if he had to smoke a pipe on the stage was to put in two or three camomile flowers, and just give one or two "pulls" or blows down the pipe to show that it was alight, and then pretend to smoke. With a cigar or cigarette it was much the same. The Prince of Wales expressed himself much interested with Mr. Toole's explanation, and declared that it would make him still more anxious to witness the piece again; and to show that he was sincere in his remarks, when Mr. Toole acted last year at Sandringham before the Prince and Princess of Wales and a numerous company, "Our Clerks" was the first piece that was played by command, as it is called.

The cigarette, that Mr. Toole took from the Prince of Wales' case, is now carefully preserved and kept as a curiosity, Mr. Toole being pleased to relate to his friends the story of how he became possessed of such a peculiar treasure, and why it is placed under a glass case.

SCOTCH HUMOUR.

At a convivial party lately a gentleman who had returned from a lengthened tour in the East was relating some of the wonderful things he had seen on his travels. The yarus he spun were decidedly "steep," but the guests politely accepted his statements as true.

VARIETIES.

MRS. LOUIS AGASSIZ has put forth a proposition for the adoption of the Harvard Annex by the university, the annex receiving as preliminary condition an endowment of one hundred thousand dollars. A portion of this endowment has already been subscribed.

WHEN IS A PERSON DEAD?—A recent writer in the China Review exemplifies the difficulties surrounding interpretation from Chinese into English, or vice versa, by mentioning that simple question. Was he (or she) dead? which occurs so frequently in inquiries and other judicial proceedings, admits of a positive or negative reply according to whether the European or Chinese idea as to when death occurs be followed. We believe that a man is dead when he has ceased to breathe, and when his blood no longer circulates; the Chinese consider him still alive while a trace of warmth remains in the body.

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

All communications intended for this Column should be addressed to the Chess Editor, CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, Montreal.

A meeting of the Managing Committee of the Canadian Chess Association, under date of 27th December, 1881, article 12 declares: "If two or more players score an equal number of games the tie shall be decided as the Committee may determine."

their respective positions for the first and second prizes in the recent Tourney, in the manner decided by the Committee (that is, that they shall be completed by the first day of March, 1883, and are to be played without the enforcement of the "time limit," the Committee considering the desuétude into which this law had fallen, rendered it unreasonable for them to enforce its observance at the request of Mr. Ascher, at the far end of a Tourney, and that too against the expressed objection of his opponent, who fairly represented that the tie games should be conducted and played off in the spirit of the play which had prevailed at previous tourneys, and which showed that the "time limit law" had throughout the last three tourneys become obsolete).

This resolution will explain itself, and we have no inclination to say much on a subject which has been repeatedly brought before the public; we will, however, just give an outline of what has led to a misunderstanding, and this we will do very briefly.

When the whole of the games in the late Tourney had been played, Dr. Howe and Mr. Ascher stood at the head of the score, with an equal number of games won on each side. These gentlemen were then directed by the Managing Committee to play another game together, in order to decide who should claim the first prize, and the result was a drawn game.

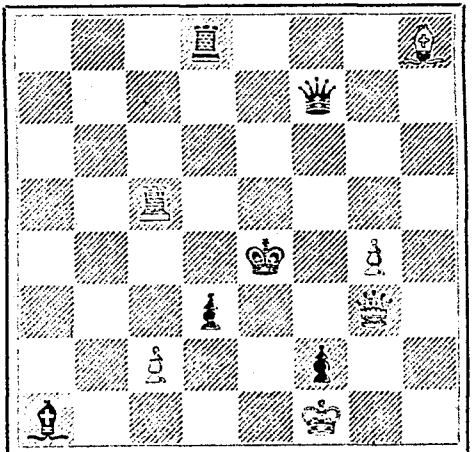
We have only to add that Mr. Ascher based his refusal to play as requested by the Committee on the following rule of the Association:—"The time limit for moves shall be fifteen moves for each separate hour of play, and also upon the fact that five games had already been played in the Tourney under the time limit, and that in one of the last contests in the "Toway Congress of 1881" a contestant had applied for the time limit, and that it had been granted him."

The resolution of the Committee of Management shows plainly the grounds they had for their decision in the matter. It may be well to state here that at the Congress held in Quebec last year the time limit was not used by any of the players in the Tourney.

With reference to the whole of the foregoing, we have no hesitation in saying that every competitor in a Tourney of the Canadian Chess Association has a right, at the beginning of a game, to call for the observance of the time limit, as far as he and his antagonists are concerned, and that the Managing Committee are bound to carry out, under all circumstances, the rules and regulations of the Association.

PROBLEM No. 425.

By J. Menzies.



BLACK.

White to play and mate in two moves.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 422.

Table showing White and Black moves for Problem No. 422.

GAME 551st.

Played in the blind-fold exhibition recently given by Mr. Steinitz at the Manhattan Chess Club, New York.

(Lopez Gambit.)

Table showing moves for Game 551st, White vs Black.