

## BOOK NOTICES.

THE JOURNALS OF MAJOR-GENERAL G. C. GORDON, C.B., AT KHARTOUM. Printed from the original MSS. Introduction and notes by A. Egmont Hake. With portrait, two maps, and thirty illustrations, after sketches by General Gordon. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, and Company. Toronto: Williamson and Company.

As might have been expected from the author of "Chinese Gordon," Mr. Hake champions the cause of the deceased General right loyally. He has no hesitation in charging the Gladstone Government with breach of faith in its dealings with Gordon, and entirely agrees with him in charging upon it the disasters which befell the relief expedition. He denies that Gordon exceeded his instructions or was guilty of disobedience, though a careful perusal of the book fails to acquit the General of all blame in the matter. Mr. Hake appears to have forgotten that the whole business was a legacy left by previous English Governments. General Gordon's brother, who writes a second introduction, is less biased, and explains how several misunderstandings arose. He pathetically adds: "Up to the 14th December General Gordon could have got away at any time. After that date we know nothing." The same authority most honourably acquits Sir Charles Wilson of blame for his much canvassed retreat. The Journals begin at the moment when Gordon received news that an expeditionary force was on its way to relieve Khartoum. They must necessarily remain incomplete until the joint journal of Generals Gordon and Stewart—which was captured by an enemy and is now supposed to be in the hands of the Madhi—shall have been recovered. Nevertheless, that which is preserved possesses a melancholy interest, and serves to confirm the suspicion that Gordon was the victim of religious hallucinations and that a fatal mistake was committed when he was permitted to undertake the task of pacifying the Soudan. Several extracts appear in another column.

SOCIETY IN LONDON. By a Foreign Resident. New York: Harper and Brothers.

There are innumerable internal evidences that this much-discussed volume is the work of Mr. Edmund Yates, or some equally well-posted resident of the metropolis—the "Foreign Resident" on the title-page to the contrary notwithstanding. Be the author who he may, the book is eminently readable, the very audacity with which revered names and time-honoured customs are handled being one of its greatest attractions. This is no to say that the author is always correct or even just in his word-pictures. His estimate of the Royal Family, for instance, is ridiculously eulogistic, as, on the other hand, his analysis of Mr. Gladstone is strangely unjust. However, the result is a tolerably fair description of social London, and though it is done in the familiar style of *The World*, that may prove rather an attraction than otherwise to those who desire reading suited to the dog-days. Messrs. Harper publish "Society in London" in their aptly-named "Handy Series."

LYRICAL POEMS BY ALFRED LORD TENNYSON. Selected and Annotated by Francis T. Palgrave. London and New York: Macmillan and Company. Toronto: Williamson and Company.

To few hands could the task of making a judicious selection from the Laureate's lyrics have been so confidently left, nor has the cultured editor of the "Golden Treasury Series" disappointed his admirers. He has collected over a hundred of Tennyson's choicest lyrical writings, to which he has subjoined a number of valuable annotations, the whole forming, as he claims in his modest preface, a veritable *édition de luxe*. Needless to say that Messrs. Macmillan, who have already published several incomparable editions of the poet's works, have given the volume an additional charm to the book-lover by the elegant workmanship which characterize print, paper, and cover.

THE PROTESTANT FAITH. By Dwight Hinckley Olmstead. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

The substance of this essay was read some years ago before the Young Men's Christian Union of New York. The two main propositions the author endeavours to establish are: That the avoidance of moral consequences being wholly utilitarian, can be no incentive to the performance of duty; and that an act performed with any reference to a personal benefit, is just to that extent without merit; and that belief is not subject to the will, but is involuntary, and is therefore not blameworthy. The treatment of the subject is extremely one-sided and partial. The writer is simply bent on making out his case. The definition of faith is meagre and incomplete, and the position of the Reformers is neither fully nor fairly stated. The entire essay is purely rationalistic, and has not even the questionable merit of novelty. It is difficult to understand what good can be accomplished by getting on the house-top to proclaim a mere negation.

THE RIEL REBELLION. Montreal: Witness Printing House.

A relation of the eruption in the North-West giving the principal events in their proper sequence. "Care has been taken to preserve only the romance of truth. Substantial accuracy can be vouched for."

MEDICAL THOUGHTS OF SHAKESPEARE. By B. Rush Field, M.D. Easton, Pa.: Andrews and Clifton.

A second and enlarged edition of a book which has already earned for Dr. Field the gratitude of Shakespearean students and his professional co-workers. As its title implies, all medical allusions contained in the bard's works are reproduced in proper connection, with references. The theory that Shakespeare antedated Harvey in the discovery of the circulation of the blood receives considerable attention, amongst many other curious and interesting "medical thoughts."

BY SHORE AND SEDGE. By Bret Harte. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company. Toronto: Williamson and Company.

Mr. Harte is nothing if he is not quaint, and "A Ship of '49" is in his happiest vein. It appeared, if we remember rightly, originally in *The English Illustrated Magazine*. Two other short stories, "An Apostle of the Tules" and "Sarah Walker," are included in the neat little volume and the suggestive title "By Shore and Sedge." The trio may be commended to the attention of those who appreciate Mr. Harte's style.

AGAMEMNON'S DAUGHTER. A Poem. By Denton J. Snider. Boston: James R. Osgood and Company.

A pretentious poem, whose very length would severely handicap it were it well written—which it is not. Mr. Snider has followed the Swinburnian school, and twists Her Majesty's English into the most extraordinary shapes, with the result that it is most difficult to see what he would be at. It is to be feared that "Agamemnon's Daughter" will swell the already huge list of poetical failures.

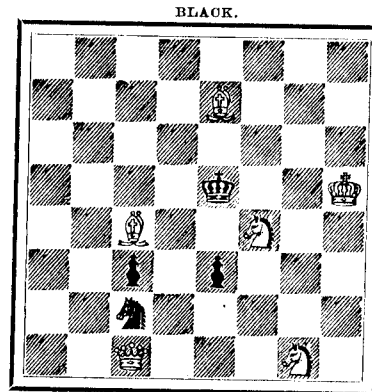
## CHESS.

All communications intended for this department should be addressed "Chess Editor," office of THE WEEK, Toronto.

## PROBLEM No. 112.

By H. Ernst, New Orleans.

From the *Trade Gazette*.

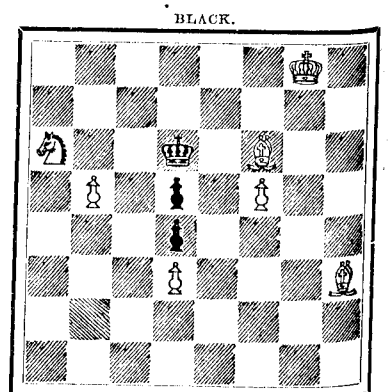


WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

## PROBLEM No. 113.

By J. C. J. Wainwright.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

## LIVING CHESS IN TORONTO.

A more thoroughly complete or effective spectacular representation of the Royal Game than that presented on Friday evening, June 26th, in the Adelaide Street Rink it would be difficult to produce. Whether we take into account the historical correctness of the costumes, the appropriate character of the game selected, or the precision of the various movements, it matters not; all were as nearly perfect as possible.

A very large and fashionable audience was present, and their generous applause signified the pleasure they experienced in watching the constantly changing scene. Especially were the moves of the charming Queens greeted with bursts of hand-clapping.

The costumes were representative of England in the 14th Century, and were singularly correct. The white forces were under command of Mr. J. B. O'Brien, while the red troops obeyed the mandates of Mr. E. T. Lightbourn. These gentlemen communicated the moves to two jesters, Masters James Thompson and Claude Armstrong, who must certainly be highly complimented on the clever way in which their arduous duties were performed. Their Herculean efforts to move the ponderous Castles were particularly mirth-provoking. Miss Williams, as the White Queen, and Miss Grand, as the Red Queen, were superb in their parts. The Bishops were Messrs. A. Williams, K. Martin, F. W. Green and W. Hall; the Knights, Messrs. Murray, Saunders, Holyer and Capreol; the Castles, Messrs. Bull, Allardyce, C. Green and Macpherson; the Pawns, were represented by little folks, who seemed thoroughly to enjoy their being hustled off the stage by the jesters after a capture.

The game itself lasted about forty-five minutes. At the outset a flourish of trumpets announced the entry of the forces, who, to the music from the band, slowly filed to their respective stations on the Boards. At the conclusion, the Red King having yielded his crown to the White Queen in token of defeat, the forces marched away again, the band playing "See the Conquering Hero Comes!" Following is the score of the game played:

White.	Black.	White.	Black.
1. P K 4	P K 4	18. R x Kt	P K B 3
2. Kt Q B 3	B B 4	19. R B 2	Kt K 3
3. Kt K B 3	P Q 3	20. Q B 3	K R K 1
4. Kt Q R 4	Q B Kt 5	21. P Q Kt 4	P Q B 5
5. Kt takes B	P x Kt	22. P x P	R Q 5
6. B K 2	Q Q 3	23. P B 5	K R Q 1
7. P R 3	B x Kt	24. P R 4	Kt Kt 4
8. B x B	Kt Q B 3	25. P K 5	P x P
9. P K Kt 3	K Kt K 2	26. Q K 3	Q K R 3
10. P Q 3	Castles (Q R)	27. Q x P	R x Q Kt P
11. B K 3	Kt Q 5	28. P B 3	R Q Kt 6
12. B Kt 2	P K R 4	29. Q R K B 1	Q K Kt 3
13. Q Q 2	Q Q R 3	30. R B 5	Kt K 3
14. Castles (K R)	P R 5	31. R B 6	P x R
15. P K Kt 4	Kt K Kt 3	32. Q x Kt ch	K Kt 1
16. P K B 4	P x P	33. Q x R	Q Q 6
17. B x P	Kt x B	34. Q x P mate	

The game is to be repeated next Tuesday evening.

## CHESS ITEMS.

THE Philadelphia Times says: "As an unconscious humourist Mr. Steinitz is a success."

In a match between the Benedicts and Bachelors in New Orleans recently the former won—score, five to two.

"MR. BLACKBURNE (says the *Leader*) tells a good story of Harrwitz, the celebrated chess player, recently deceased. The latter was playing a game at a London club, and his opponent had just attacked a Kt with a P. Harrwitz saw that if the Kt were captured he could force a mate in four moves, but feared that if he abandoned the Kt suspicion would be aroused and his little scheme frustrated. How was his opponent to be thrown off his guard? He hit upon the ingenious expedient of making a false move with the attacked Kt. His opponent of course claimed the usual penalty of compelling him to move the King. Remonstrances were vain; the laws of the game must be adhered to, and with well-simulated disgust at his own stupidity Harrwitz replaced the Kt and moved his King. His opponent innocently snapped up the Kt, whereupon the shockingly wily German announced his mate in four."