BOOKS AND AUTHORS

READING AND REFLECTION

AN interesting statement is made by the London correspondent of the New York Evening Post touching the expansion of second-class fiction literature in England.

So persistent is the demand for such literature that English publishers are importing tons of American novels of that class, already printed in sheets ready for the manipulations of the English binder, at from 20 to 25 cents per copy, which are sold in the English binding at six shillings a copy. In sheet shape, publishers in England have bought them as low as fifteen cents a copy, and the correspondent says, by this means there is at the outset of the autumn publishing season something like a glut of American fiction. The invasion of this literature has placed the English writers of second-class fiction distinctly at a disadvantage. The American novels of that class are eagerly read, and it is explained by an English reviewer that this appetite prefers the American novel, full of American scenes and with an American atmosphere, to English writers who have never mixed with the elementary forces of the general life, and who are usually reticent when they could be acquiring stimulating ideas by conversing freely with strangers. The reviewer argues that this reticence "has set a seal on much knowledge for many Englishmen, and it is hardly too much to say that it has almost sterilized talents which might have borne fruit such as only comes from the sociable and the sympathetic." This is possibly the reason for the English preference for American fiction of the second class.

It is questionable, however, if it is much of an advantage, if any, for the English readers of this class of our fiction to get a superabundance of it. This literature is furiously read in our own country. There are, in fact, thousands who never read any other kind of literature. They contract a distaste for the higher fiction. They have a growing distaste for the English classics. The literary diet which they prefer does not make good, red blood.

President Gilman of Johns Hopkins university, in a recent lecture, said that, while there is an immense amount of reading in this country, he had reason to believe that there was a very decided deficiency in calm and deliberate reflection upon what is read; an unwillingness to go through the operation of thinking out a question to its solution, out of reach of the printed page. This is undoubtedly true. The result is that the minds of such persons are continually feeling for crutches. The mind's owner has no inclination to read Motley's histories studiously or Hazlitt's admirable lectures on English literature.

Officials of many public libraries tell interesting stories of the many quarter or half-read books of this kind returned to the shelves by superficial readers. Unmistakeably the vast majority of readers do not enthusiastically contemplate higher English literature. The demand for realistic novels continues so strong that the suspicion is justified that there is a very decided preference among fiction readers for novels in which sex questions and domestic infelicity dominate and there is a strong note of undue emotional stress. The supply of this literature is so abundant that those who hunger for it can always banquet upon it, and, unquestionably, by the exclusive diet, destroy any instinct they may ever have had for something nobler. Such inclination, however, has existed in the human race ever since novels began to be written and it will exist until time shall end. In this connection it is only appropriate to note that a New York firm is bringing out unabridged editions of Richardson's "Pamela" and "Clarissa Harlowe." These "analytical" novels were first published about 160 years ago, but some people want them still.

NEW BOOKS

Mistress Barbara. By Halliwell Sutcliffe, author of "Shameless Wayne," etc. New York: T. Y. Crowell & Co.

This is a love tale of rural England, in Yorkshire, among the woolen mills, back some seventy years ago, when the operatives had hard treatment and parents had in their poverty to send their children of tender years to work in the mills. The hero, Stephen Royd, son of a bankrupt squire, wins back fortune by his own hard work as a mill owner, treating his own employes humanely and considerately and maintaining their affection and loyalty during a strike. Royd falls in love with Mistress Barbara, whose father is poor and his property all mortgaged up, and, as the father is proud as well as poor, he is a very unhappy mortal. The cream of the story is how Royd ultimately won the heart of the pretty Barbara. They had known each other from childhood. The sketches of Yorkshire people and their ways are very interesting, although portions of the book are a little tiresome.

Tangled Trinities. By Daniel Woodroffe, author of "Her Celestial Husband." New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. Minneapolis: Wm. Donaldson & Co. Price, $1.50.

The heroine of this book, Asta Steele, daughter of an ex-English army chaplain who had settled down after long foreign service in an English country vicarage, is not a charming creature to contemplate, although it is easy to see that she had the elements which make for happiness in her nature, but she had lived too long at St. Lucia and could no more acquire English ways than a Hottentot. The details of her experience are peculiar and interesting. The death of her father maddened her and impaired her religious faith. Why didn't she marry Colonel Skene? Skene was too late. Asta disappears in pitiful unhappiness. The words of the chambermaid to him, "Madame est partie," contained a world of meaning.

Love in Our Village. By Orme Agnus. Illustrated by Bertha Newcombe. Boston: L. C. Page & Co. Minneapolis: N. McCarthy. Price, $1.

The four stories in this book are all good reading, even if the rural English dialect is sometimes a little perplexing. In "The Miraculous Inspiration of Mr. Jesty" we have a most amusing account of the tremendous difficulty Mr. Jock Jesty had "popping the question" to Lucy Thatcher, who had to hint and coax with all the art of woman to get from him the declaration her woman's wit knew he was bursting to make, but lacked the necessary courage. "The Roses of June" is equally good, and "The Poet's Love" is deeply pathetic, and leaves a little regret in the reader's mind that Raymond Tilley, the rural poet, died young and left the girl to whom he was engaged weeping over his body. "The Dethronement of the King" closes a very entertaining book.

A Nest of Linnets. By F. Frankfort Moore, author of "A Jessamy Bride," etc. Illustrated. New York: D. Appleton & Co., No. 72 Fifth avenue. Price, $1.50.

A very attractive eighteenth-century love story, in the time of Dr. Samuel Johnson, Boswell, Sheridan, George Selwyn, Horace Walpole, Goldsmith, Mrs. Thrale and all that familiar crowd. The "Nest of Linnets" was the Linley family in London, all musical from father to the youngest, Betsy and Tom, remarkably so. Betsy wearies of the trials of singing in public and engages herself to a wealthy old gentleman of fine character to escape the infliction. She doesn't love him and he, discovering, ultimately, that she loves Sheridan, relinquishes her to him and finding that Sheridan was engaged to a wily actress, whom he did not love and really loved Betsy Linley, by diplomacy detached him from the actress and concurrently delivered Betsy from the impertinent attentions of a Captain Matthews whom she detested. Old Mr. Long is certainly a very useful character in the book. Incidentally, the distinguished persons of the period are introduced in the story.

A Sunny Southerner. By Julia Magruder. Boston: L. C. Page & Co. Minneapolis: N. McCarthy. Price, $1.25.

This is a story of a pretty southern girl who had a mind of her own and did her own thinking. Wherefore, when the elegant and fashionably dressed Mr. Barrett came to Virginia from New York to superintend the building of a new Chiltern Hall to replace the old structure, which had been burned down, she didn't fall in love with him, nor was she impressed by his attentions, but, singularly enough, she conceived a real admiration for a fine-looking, manly workman employed on the new building, whom she found well educated, well read and entirely unlike any workingman she had heard of, intellectually. Her father and the architect treated the man badly, and Honora Chiltern was forbidden by her father to speak to him, and the result was the firing of the man before long. This did not end the matter. The girl, when on a visit to friends in New York afterward, met the supposed workman transformed into a gentleman, rich and well known as a writer on sociology, who had become a workingman to extend his experience. The author closes with a very interesting scene which foreshadows wedding bells.

The Private Life of the Sultan of Turkey. By Georges Dorys, son of the late Prince of Samos, one of the sultan's ministers, ex-governor of Crete. Translated by Arthur Hornblow. Illustrated. New York: D. Appleton & Co. Price, $1.20.

This is the book which has enraged Abdul Hamid to the white heat of Turkish wrath. The contents of the book have been very liberally quoted in the newspapers and there is no doubt that the author, who had exceptional opportunities for getting at the facts of the private life of the butcher of Yildiz Kiosk, has given something like a true statement. It has long been known that Abdul Hamid lives in constant dread of assassination and that he suspects the fidelity of his closest attendants. It would be dangerous for a man to take a chew of tobacco out of his pocket in the sultan's presence, for the movement of his hand would lead the sultan to regard him as a would-be assassin and he would shoot him at once. Dorys has been condemned to death for writing and publishing this book, but he prudently put himself in a place of safety. The sultan has sought to get various governments in Europe to suppress the book, but has only succeeded in Sweden. In this book a brief sketch is given of the assassination of Abdul Assiz, the accession of Mourad and his deposition through the machinations of Abdul Hamid. The greater portion of the book is taken up with the portrayal of the life of that infamous butcher and usurper.

Jan Oxber. By Orme Agnus, author of "Love in Our Village." Illustrated by Bertha Newcombe. Boston: L. C. Page & Co. Minneapolis: N. McCarthy. Price, $1.

This is a very good story of the pluck and independence of a young rural Englishman who, unlike his fellow villagers, refused to be servile and cringing to the local parson and esquire, whose intolerant rule was accepted by all but Jan Oxber, who firmly and irrevocably denied their overlordship. Poor Jan, an expert mechanic, prospered and married a rich miller's daughter and found she had been debauched by the squire, with whom he ultimately had a personal collision, the squire making a brutal assault upon Jan, the affair ending in the crippling of the tyrant for life, but Jan was released and, after a while, went to Australia, where he became a wealthy man and public official. His poor wife fortunately died in giving birth to her child. The character sketching in this book is notably strong and good.

Foma Gordyeef. By Maxim Gorky. Translated from the Russian by Isabel F. Hapgood. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Minneapolis: N. McCarthy. Price, $1.

Gorky's real name is Alexei Maximovitch Pyeshkoff—an author sprung from the working masses of Russia, at different times in his youth a cook's boy, a shoemaker's apprentice, a holy-picture maker and gardener's assistant. He instinctively wrote and read omnivorously, and became the pride of "Young Russia" as a writer. Gorky is strictly a realist. In "Foma Gordyeeff" the hero inherits all the bad traits of his father, who was a rich merchant and barge and steamer owner on the Volga. The father was a brute, whose cruelties killed his first wife. His second wife had greater pluck, but she would doubtless have succumbed to the elder Gordyeeff's brutality, had she not died in giving birth to Foma. Gorky does not give a very pleasant view of the people along the Volga river, but he knows them, as he was born and brought up in that region. Foma grows up with his father's bad example before him, and, after the old man dies, he has an increased thirst for vodka and sexual consciousness having developed early, Foma is preyed upon by the twin demons, liquor and lewd women, while his godfather develops into a crafty and treacherous hypocrite, and he quarrels with him and launches into greater debauchery. One of the most interesting chapters in the book is that detailing the conversation of Foma and Editor Ezhoff, in which both indulge in much pessimistic philosophy, but the pages are sprinkled with sparkling apothegms. Ezhoff is a most interesting, if pitiable, injection, for the reader wearies of Foma's empty life, which has a legitimate ending. The rich, well-dressed, debonair Foma appears at the close, shabby, disheveled and half-witted, jeered at by merchants and other citizens, and chronically drunk. There are some very picturesque passages in the book. Gorky has seen the big steamers on the Volga, their lights and furnace fires glowing weirdly at night, and he knows all the sights and sounds of the great river. There are too many harlots in the book, but Gorky's purpose was to paint a very realistic picture of unregulated, reckless human life and sordid commercialism, of which there is as much in Russia as in any other country.

Biographical and Other Articles. By William C. Todd, president of New Hampshire Historical Society. Boston: Lee & Shepard.

Mr. Todd, in this book, records some interesting personal reminiscences of Daniel Webster, Caleb Cushing, Thomas H. Benton and others. Mr. Todd first heard Webster speak in 1840, when the Bunker Hill monument corner stone was laid, and he relates very interesting things about him. Of Caleb Cushing he also has many personal reminiscences, notably of his omnivorous reading habit, even to the study of the latest ladies' dress fashions. In his account of Benton he details a conversation he had with him about Douglas' views, in which Benton exclaimed: "Squatter sovereignty! It is an insane, demagogical idea, taken up by the timidity of old Cass, as unreasonable as it is for a child to be independent of its father. I am opposed to the farther extension of slavery." Mr. Todd devotes considerable space to the eccentric Timothy Dexter of Newburyport, whose odd-looking statue-crowned house used to attract many observers. He says many of the stories told of Dexter had no foundation in fact. An interesting account is given of Dexter's curious house, which he built and adorned after he became wealthy. Among the many statues he erected, the most conspicuous was one of himself, inscribed, "I am the first in the east, the first in the west, and the greatest philosopher in the western world." His vanity was incurable. A very pleasant chapter in the book is "A Summer in Norway." In the chapter entitled "Some Persons I Have Seen," he tells of meeting Samuel J. Tilden in 1864 at Marquette, where he was inspecting an iron mine after attending the democratic convention at Chicago which nominated George B. McClellan to the presidency. There he met Garfield and heard him make a speech, remarkable for its fluency and force of language. He tells of meeting Franklin Pierce, Jefferson Davis, Mrs. Gaines, the chronic litigious female; Mrs. Southworth, the prolific novel-writer; Mrs. Stowe and James Parton, who was his neighbor for years.

Views of an Ex-President By Benjamin Harrison, being the Addresses and Writing on Subjects of Public Interest Since the Close of His Administration as President of the United States. Compiled by Mary Lord Harrison. Indianapolis: The Bowen-Merrill company. Price, $3 net.

The late ex-President Harrison was one of the most interesting public speakers which our country has produced. On the political platform he had a most felicitous way of putting things, and he always adhered to the logic of his subject, rather than indulge in rhetorical fireworks. He, in this way, left rather more permanent impressions upon his auditors than most political orators do. Even his railway train speeches were largely of this order. This volume contains much matter of permanent value, as his six lectures before the students of Stanford University on our constitutional and colonial history. His papers in the North American Review critical of the administration policy are given. The second part contains his addresses on various subjects, including his argument before the federal supreme court on the Illinois inheritance tax cases; his lectures on "Some Hindrances to Law Reforms," at the University of Michigan, and on "The Obligations of Wealth," delivered before the Union League club, Chicago, and his speech on introducing McKinley to a mass meeting in Indianapolis, when the latter was governor of Ohio, in 1894. This speech embodies a fine tribute to McKinley. While General Harrison was always at home on the political platform, and always commanded robust attention, his versatility enabled him to interest his audiences in other fields. Some of the best speeches at the Ecumenical Missionary Conference last year were delivered by him, notably his opening address as honorary chairman, in which he illustrated most happily the advantage of comradeship by relating a pertinent incident of the civil war. And this man, who could hold the attention of vast adult audiences, could talk impressively about the education of little children. The volume contains a fine portrait of General Harrison.

Famous Actresses of the Day in America. Second Series. By Lewis C. Strang. Illustrated. Boston: L. C. Page & Co. Minneapolis: N. McCarthy.

This volume of Mr. Strang's series deals with the theater and prominent actresses of the last two years, with biographical and critical details. There are twenty-five illustrations, among them Maude Adams in "L'Aiglon"; Mrs. Fiske as Becky Sharp; Julia Marlowe as Mary Tudor in "When Knighthood Was in Flower"; Mary Mannering as "Janice Meredith"; Ada Rehan as Nell Gwyn, and Maxine Elliott as Portia. Mr. Strang injects much incisive criticism in these sketches, interesting features of which are his chapters on "Ben Hur" and Mary Shaw as "Amrah" and on Maude Adams in "L'Aiglon."

"History of the Great Northwest," is the title of a handsome quarto volume just published by The Journal. It is bound in a form of black Morocco with gilt lettering and edges. The volume is composed of 592 pages of most excellent quality of paper and the typographical work is perfect. This notable publication is edited by C. W. G. Hyde and Wm. Stoddard and was published under the personal supervision of the latter and Hugh J. McGrath, and is issued from the Housekeeper press.

The volume may be conveniently considered in two parts, the first dealing briefly and attractively with the history of the northwest, and the second devoted to "Men of Progress." The later contains half-tones and biographies of most of the distinguished men of the northwest, thus providing the future historian with invaluable data. The half-tone work is the equal of anything that has hitherto been attempted. Among the hundreds of reproductions there is not one failure.

The "Great Northwest" is defined in an introductory article as embracing the two northernmost tiers of states lying west of Lakes Superior and Michigan; Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Washington and Oregon. The history of the northwest including some brief account of its antiquity is touched upon entertainingly and at just the right length to suit the busy man. A particularly interesting feature is the description of the fur trade in the last part of the eighteenth and first part of the nineteenth centuries. The work of the missionaries, the Montana vigilantes, the administration of justice in the early days, the growth of the schools, the early Indian wars, the Black Hawk and Sioux Massacre wars, the civil war and political history are some of the subjects discussed in a scholarly manner in the first article.

After the above comes a concise history of Minnesota, which tells compactly and interestingly the story of the state from the days of the French explorers to the present.

There follows a similar history of South Dakota and then one of North Dakota and another of Montana, both by C. A. Lounsberry.

North Dakota Agricultural college, Macalester college and Shattuck school, Faribault, are honored with distinct chapters of the book.

The list of "Men of Progress" is headed by former Governor John S. Pillsbury of Minnesota; next comes Richard J. Mendenhall of Minneapolis, and then follows a long procession of names and faces known throughout the northwest.

These biographies have been compiled with great care and are judicious and well-arranged. Both as a history and a reference book the publication is most useful, and its compilers are entitled to the thanks of every man who appreciates how hard it is to obtain reliable personal data and how valuable it often proves to be. Very few of the really prominent men of Minnesota and the two Dakotas are not represented in this book. The individual histories, taken together with the general prefatory matter, gives a very adequate impression of the people of the northwest, what they have done and are doing, whether in private life, socially, politically or religiously.

THE MAGAZINES

The Popular Science Monthly publishes the address of Professor Woodward of Columbia university before the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at Denver, in August on "The Progress of Science." He finds that the discipline of disillusionment in the past has properly made man less confident of his ability to solve speedily the problems of the universe. A most interesting paper is Mr. McAdie's "Fog Studies on Mount Tamalpais," with illustrations, showing the beautiful, far-reaching white billows of fog off San Francisco, or hanging like white blankets over the city hills. Dr. Smith's paper on the French sardine industry is of special interest. We import a million dollars' worth of French sardines a year. They are taken in nets, 100,000 of the fish sometimes being taken in one net. There is a valuable paper on the late epidemic of smallpox in this country, by Dr. J. N. Hyde, of Rush Medical College, Chicago, in which he demonstrates the virtue of vaccination, which he says "should be the seal in the passport of entrance to the public schools, to the voters' booth, to the box of the juryman, and to every position of duty privilege, profit or honor in the gift of either the state or the nation."

Lippincott's contains a remarkably good completed novel entitled "The Anvil," by R. V. Risley, who tells a rather sad story of baffled love, with many fine dramatic passages. Austin Dobson contributes a pleasing paper on "Titled Authors of the Eighteenth Century," and there are attractive stories by Robert Herrick, "The Polity of Nature"; Louis Zangwill, "The Friendship," and Paul Laurence Dunbar, "The White Counterpane." Anne Wharton, under the heading "Petticoat Politics," tells the story of Peggy O'Neill, alias the Widow Timberlake, who married Andrew Jackson's friend, John H. Eaton, and was defended by Jackson strenuously, although not in good odor socially and shunned. Mrs. Wharton's version of the old story is very excellent.

The Bookman (New York, Dodd, Mead & Co.), aside from its interesting "Chronicle and Comment," book reviews and foreign correspondence, contains several attractions like Arthur Maurice's illustrated description of the localities immortalized by Daudet in his story of Tartarin of Tarascon. There is a full-page view of Tarascon and scenes within it, and of Beaucaire and its castle. Tarascon, "a little, white town of nine thousand inhabitants," is on the right bank of the Rhone, fifteen to eighteen leagues north of the Mediterranean and near Avignon. There is also an interesting, illustrated sketch of Herbert Spencer's philosophical and scientific work, by William Knight and a very readable, illustrated contribution on "The Popular Songs of Spain," by Gustave Michaud. About 90 per cent of the old Spanish songs are love songs, embodying fierce passion, suspicion and jealousy, and an element of melancholy.

The Cosmopolitan may record a roseate success for itself this month, for it is a most attractive number. It would be, even if its sole commendable feature was Gustav Kobbe's account of Charles Schreyvogel, the artist, who in the last few years has advanced to the forefront as a painter of Indians, United States troopers and infantry in action. The illustrations, giving examples of Schreyvogel's fine work, chiefly in mounted figures, are all action and expression. The horses really seem to move and the shouts of the men and the tumult of battle seem audible, while the very dust is real dust. There are three illustrated articles relating to the stage—"Beauty on the London Stage," by G. H. Casamajor; "Actresses at Leisure," by Burr McIntosh, and "From Breakdown to Ragtime," by C. R. Sherlock, the latter a sketch of the history of negro delineations up to the period of the vaudeville artists and ballad singers. To the fiction feature Clara Morris and Irving Bacheller contribute among others.

The Atlantic Monthly prefaces its contents with a memorial article on the death of President McKinley, embodying one of the finest appreciations of the statesman's worth which has appeared. There is a strong paper by R. R. Bowker on "The Piracy of Public Franchises," detailing some of the work of charter grabbers in New York and drawing some legitimate conclusions. Mr. Bowker sees the remedy in "a municipal spirit, a civic courage, a political morale, especially on the part of the 'well-to-do,' which will overcome the timimidity of capital and stand fearlessly firm against Tammany in New York or against a republican ring in Philadelphia." In the installment of Henry Austin Clapp's "Reminiscences of a Dramatic Critic," he touches upon the subject of the isolation of actors and the segregation of the profession. He thinks, even if prejudice should wholly disappear, the situation would be substantially unchanged for centuries to come. The cause lies largely in the fact that players compose a guild of extraordinary independence, maintaining its esprit de corps, and it requires singular concentration and devotion of energy to win success on the stage. Eugene Wood contributes a very clever article on "What the Public Wants to Read." Mr. Skinner's "Small Voices of the Town will be eagerly read, and there is a pleasant charm in Vernon Lee's "An English Writer's Notes on England."

The illustrations in the October Harper in colors and half tone are a very agreeable feature, and the stories are extraordinarily good. If you can find anything more exquisitely written than "King Custom," by Mrs. Stepney Rawson, produce it. This is certainly the best bit of writing in the number. It is a poem in prose, telling of one imperious, wronged woman's conquest of self-inclination for duty. And a very sweet, pathetic story is "The Hills of Habersham." Flinders Petrie's account of his most recent discoveries in Egypt is intensely interesting. Think of finding the tombs of kings who reigned nearly 5,000 B. C., and beautiful jewelry of the queen of King Zer, about 4,700 B. C. And no one will omit to read "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, from an Artist's Standpoint," by Peter Newell, illustrated by him. Professor G. Stanley Hall in his "The New Psychology" contributes a most interesting scientific feature to the number.

In Outing, there is a very interesting illustrated paper on grouse shooting, by Edwyn Sandys, who describes the different kinds of grouse in this country, including the pinnated variety, known familiarly as the prairie chicken, and the ruffed grouse, to which he gives his chief attention. There are interesting articles on "The Growth of Game Preserving," "The Making of a Strong Man," with illustrations; a very alluring account of "The New Country Life," which includes fox hunting. There is a good paper on "The Evolution of the Yacht Designer," devoted to English designers, bringing the record up to George L. Watson, the designer of Lipton's Shamrock II., and the illustrated paper on "English and American University Athletics," and stories, sketches and a review of sports and athletics make up a very attractive number.

Literary Notes.

The title of Marion Crawford's play he is writing for Sara Bernhardt is, "The Harvest of the Sword."

The New Amsterdam Book company, New York, announces a book by the late Eugene Field, containing a fairy story never before published in book form.

Mrs. Mary Hartwell Catherwood, the author, spent the summer at Mackinac island, a favorite resort of the talented lady.

The publishers of Churchill's "The Crisis" say the book is now in its 300th thousand.

"Amata" is a story from the German of Richard Voss, by Roger S. G. Boutell, published by the Neale Publishing company, at Washington, D. C. Price $1. This story has been very successful in Germany, where it originally appeared. It is an Italian story of a traveler who had stopped at an inn and witnessed the murder of the landlord and fled to avoid arrest as a murderer, although innocent. Thrown from his horse, he was taken into a house and suffered long from fever, during which his imagination conducted him among seeming hideous realities and to Neronic times with strikingly curious results, which are detailed.

The Macmillan company, New York, have issued "A Primer of Political Economy," explaining familiar economic phenomena in a way promotive of an understanding of their laws and relationships, by S. T. Wood. The matter has been simplified to be brought within the grasp of pupils in fourth forms of the public schools. For instance, an account of the herdsman of the plains is given to show how John Doe, who could not make boots, is enabled by the process of raising cattle for their hides, to get a pair cheaply. The chapters, "How Oil Is Obtained," "In a Shoe Factory," "The Law of Supply and Demand," "Taxation," "Coins and Currency," "Schemes for Betterment," are good specimens of the author's explanatory method. Price, 50 cents.

Mr. Pidgin's American romance, "Blennerhassett," which was remarkably well advertised before publication, is selling well, the publishers reporting the one hundredth thousand. It is not such an unanswerable defense of Burr which the author intended it to be. History has definitely settled the position and quality of Aaron Burr in our annals.

J. F. Taylor & Co., New York, announce "The Ordeal of Elizabeth," a story of New York social life, by a society belle of that city, whose name is withheld, and "The Van Dwellers," a humorous story, by Albert Bigelow Paine.

D. Appleton & Co., New York, have issued "Lincoln in Story; the Life of the Martyr President, Told in Authenticated Anecdotes, edited by Silas G. Pratt, with illustrations. Mr. Pratt has admirably carried out his idea of presenting Lincoln's life through anecdotes. He does not profess to present any new stories of Lincoln, but his researches in the Lincoln literature have enabled him to tell the story of the great man's life in a most interesting way, beginning with his childhood. There is an appendix containing a chronological arrangement of the battles and events of the civil war. Price, 75 cents.

"The Year One, A Page of the French Revolution," is a historical romance of considerable interest. The heroine is married to a man she despises, by the behest of her father, and seeks by the aid of an Englishman to escape from Brittany to England, but a malicious female enemy obstructs the plan and the two are arrested on the charge of high treason and are taken to Paris under frightfully perilous conditions, Paris being in the possession of the bloody mob. Hence they make their escape and the story of the flight is thrillingly written. It is hardly necessary to say that ultimately, the way being open, Lucienne and George Hope married happily. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 372 Fifth avenue. Minneapolis: Wm. Donaldson & Co. Price, $1.50.

Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston, have published a very lovely tale for young girls, entitled "The Lonesomest Doll," by Abbie Farwell Brown, illustrated by E. Pollak. It tells how this humble little daughter of a palace porter taught a little queen how to enjoy herself and play with dolls and toys. There is a bit of the tragical in the story which adds to its interest. For sale in Minneapolis by McCarthy, 85 cents.

A very pretty story for young folks is "Galopoff, the Talking Pony," by Tudor Jenks, illustrated by H. W. Cort, and published by Henry Altemus company, Philadelphia (price, $1). Galopoff was a pony bought in Russia by the father of two little American girls, whose property he became. The pony tells the girls many extraordinary stories of his experience and proves himself immensely useful in many ways. Children will greatly enjoy the book.

D. Appleton & Co. announce a posthumous story by Edward Noyes Westcott, author of "David Harum," entitled, "The Teller." They have issued 517,000 copies of "David Harum" and editions have appeared in Australia, England and Canada.

The Bowen-Merrill company, Indianapolis, announces Mrs. Mary Hartwell Catherwood's new novel, "Lazarre," based on the story of the alleged finding of the dauphin of the house of Bourbon, son of Louis XVI., whom some people thought did not perish in prison, but was brought to America and turned up as Rev. Eleazar Williams, of Green Bay, Wis., The original article appeared in Putnam's Magazine, in 1852, and created a great sensation, but no convincing evidence was ever produced as to the identity of Williams, the plain Episcopal missionary, with the dauphin.

The Frederick A. Stokes company, Nos. 5 and 7 E Sixteenth street, New York, have published a novel by John Graham, entitled, "The Great God Success," a newspaper office story, detailing the rise of a young man, fresh from Yale, from a reporter's position on a city paper, where he came near failing and being fired, to the position of newspaper proprietor, with an income of $50,000 a year. Incidentally, the inside working of a big newspaper office is detailed, and, doubtless, the part two women played in Howard's life is the most interesting feature. His first wife died young, but was a stimulus to his efforts after honest success. The second wife demoralized him and impaired his high ideals by her consuming hunger for wealth, so that at the end Howard appears as a man, successful, but who has lost something which can't be replaced. For sale in Minneapolis by McCarthy. $1.50.

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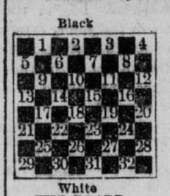

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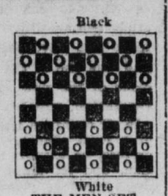
White
THE BOARD NUMBERED



Black

White
THE MEN SET FOR PLAY

The black men will cover squares from 1 to 12. The white men will cover squares from 21 to 32. The black men should move first.

All communications for this department should be addressed Checker Editor.

Matters for current insertion should reach this office not later than Wednesday. Problems and games at all times welcome.

The Flour City Checker Club, 309 Nicollet avenue. Strangers at all times welcome.

Send $1.50 and get The Journal containing checker column every Saturday for one year.

The asterisks indicate the essential moves to sustain the terms.

A Trap to Be Avoided.

GAME NO. 1377—OLD FOURTEENTH.

11-15	22-17	15-18	11-15	8-11
23-19	4- 8	24-20	28-24	a)26-22
8-11	17-13			

Black wins.

(a) At last move white enters trap No. 291 and black proceeds to win as follows:

9-14	1- 5	7-16	8- 7	10-28
31-26	22-17	25-22	22-18	17- 3
5- 9	11-16	18-25	15-22	22-26
26-23	20-11	29-22	19-15	3- 8

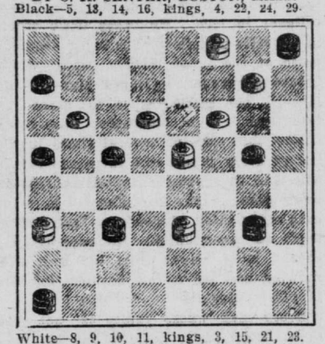
Black wins.

The above trap is very old, but has caught many good players. Therefore it is a good thing to memorize.—Editor.

Problem No. 603.

BY C. H. SENTER, BOSTON, MASS.

Black—5, 13, 14, 16, kings, 4, 22, 24, 29.



White—8, 9, 10, 11, kings, 3, 15, 21, 23.

White to play and win. Can you solve it? The above problem is a fine stroke and we hope to hear from all of our old friends in respect to its solution.—Editor.

Game No. 1378—Single Corner.

The fine play on single corner, given below, is taken from the Boston Post. Edited by Mr. Heffner.

(By Asa J. Richardson, Lowell, Mass.)

In sending this play, Mr. Richardson writes: Lowell, Mass., July 28, 1901.—Friend Heffner: New Bedford's move of 2-7 at (a) in game No. 160 is correct and wins for black. It is strange that this strong move has been overlooked all these years, and it seems to show that most "book" players follow along in the beaten track and never try to jump the fence. I send another "single corner" game, "given as a draw in Ketcham's Flora Temple, No. 1, Variation 22," in which black makes a losing move, and to the one sending you the best correct solution showing the win for white and the draw for black, both at the last point at which they can be made. I will give $1 cash. Remember, both the win and the draw must be correct or no prize. Time for sending solutions, two weeks from issue.

Here follows the prize game:

11-15	24-19	4- 8	15-11	1- 5	31-15
22-18	8-12	19-15	16-19	14-10	a)10-19
15-22	28-24	10-19	23-16	6-15	
25-18	16-20	24-15	12-19	18-11	
12-16	32-28	12-16	21-17	9-14	
29-25	5- 9	30-25	7-16	27-24	
9-13	25-22	8-12	17-14	20-27	

(a)—And the book says drawn, but white should have won.—Asa J. Richardson.

Solution of prize game by various correspondents:

(By James Bell, Gordon Rest, Hanson, Mass.)

11-15	16-20	8-12	6-15	2- 9	18-23
22-18	32-28	15-11	18-11	11- 7	7-11
15-22	5- 9	16-19	9) 9-14(1	3-10	16-20
25-18	25-22	23-16	25-21	27-24	11-15
12-16	4- 8	12-19	5- 9(8	20-27	23-27
29-25	19-15	21-17	22-17(2	31- 6	15-19
9-13	10-19	7-16	13-22	9-13(a	27-32
24-19	24-15	17-14	26-10	6- 2	19-23
8-12	12-16	1- 5(3	9-14	14-18	
28-24	20-25	5)14-10	12)10- 6(6	2- 7	

White wins.

Var. 1.

Mr. Gordon thinks this the loser and offers the following to draw:

2- 6	20-24	6-10	3-12	19-23	10-14
25-21	27-20	11- 8(7	20-11	26-19	

Drawn.

Var. 2.

John Ross of West Medford differs here for a white win as follows:

27-23	22-17	26-10	19-26	28-12	26-30
20-24(b	13-22				

White wins.

Var. 3.

Mr. Ross thinks 1-5 here the loser and gives this play for the draw:

20-24	27-23	24-27	28-24	31-27	
14- 5(4	6-10	31-24	27-31	24-20	
16-20	23-16	20-27	25-21	27-24	

Drawn.

Var. 4.

27-11	19-24	14- 5	3- 7	28-19	7-30

Black wins.

Var. 5.

E. C. Waterhouse of Melrose would win this way here:

27-24	31-15	26-23	23-16	14- 7	25-21
20-27	3- 7(c	16-19	7-10	2-20	

White wins.

Var. 6.

Mr. Waterhouse can see no win at this point and plays:

11- 8	10- 7	27-24	31- 8	8- 3	3- 7	
3-12	2-11	20-27	16-19	19-23	23-27	

Drawn.

Var. 7.

William Casey of Willimantic, Conn., can find no win, and at this point differs from Mr. Gordon in Var. 1. This play seems to cramp black considerable.

22-17	13- 9	2- 6	21-17	9- 6	28-19	
13-22	14-18	23-26	9-14(*	19-24	28- 7	
26-17	9- 6	31-22	17-13	10-19		
19-23	16-19	18-25	14-18(*	18-23		
17-13	6- 2	6-10	13- 9	19-26		
9-14	10-15	5- 9(*	25-30	30-23		

Drawn.

Var. 8.

E. F. Fenton of Medford also holds the opinion that 9-14 at thirty-third move is the loser. He evidently overlooks the force of 5-9 here, as he gives no play on it. Below is his method:

14-18	5- 9	19-26	8-12	25-22	16-19
23-16	23-18	28-12	11- 7	2- 7	10- 1
2- 6	20-24	26-30	30-25	12-16	19-23
27-23	26-23	12- 8	7- 2	7-10	1- 5

White wins.

Var. 9.

Here Mr. Fenton would draw with:

20-24(13	11- 8(10	10-14	25-21	9-25	23-16
27-20	7-10	31-27(11	2- 6	27-23	30-23
3- 7	20-11	14-17	21-14	25-30	

Drawn.

(Var. 10.)

22-18	2- 6	11- 2	13-17	20-11	9-13

Drawn.

(Var. 11.)

8- 3	22-18	26-17	3- 8	8-12	
14-17	17-22	13-29	2- 6(*	29-25	

Drawn.

(Var. 12.)

W. C. Parrow also has 9-14 at the thirty-third move down for the loser. He proceeds to win here with:

10- 7	31- 8	7-11	14-10	7- 2	10-15
3-10	16-19	19-23	30-26	26-23	23-19
11- 7	8- 3	21-17	10- 7	2- 6	20-16
2-11	10-15	23-26	26-22	23-19	19-12
27-24	3- 7	17-14	28-24	24-20	10-19
20-27	14-18	26-30	22-26	19-23	

White wins.

(Var.