

IT IS A "SELL."

MOST of our readers have, we doubt not, read and re-read some of the numerous glaring advertisements of New York "establishments, associations, companies," &c., which appear from week to week in the public prints, and which offer most tempting bargains and "chances" to any person who will send twenty-five cents for a "certificate." It may be necessary to explain what is meant by a "certificate." This we will do by copying an extract from one of the advertisements. It reads thus:—"Distributions are made in the following manner: Certificates naming each article and its value are placed in sealed envelopes which are well mixed. One of these envelopes containing the certificate or order for some article, will be sent by mail to any address, without regard to choice and without our (meaning the establishment) opening it or knowing what it contains, for the small sum of twenty-five cents. On receiving the certificate, the purchaser will see what it draws, and its value, and can then send one dollar and receive the article named, or can choose instead any other article on our list of the same value. Purchasers of our sealed envelopes may, in this manner, obtain an article worth from one to five hundred dollars for one dollar." This, with the additional important sentence, "Entire satisfaction guaranteed in all cases," is the pith of the advertisements, and explains pretty clearly the profuse mode of doing business. Well, are we to believe all these fine promises of five hundred dollars for one dollar, &c.? We say most decidedly no. It is a pretty safe rule for those who are not in a position to make personal enquiry to lay down that they are all "sells," or to speak more plainly, swindles. In most cases the members of the firms, associations, companies, &c., are what is called "sharps"—men who never do anything but live well, and who manage to do that without any apparent means. A few of this class of individuals club together, form an association, secure a "six feet square" office on the fifth or sixth story of a house in Broadway, or some of the other well known and respectable streets, get a wood cut of the whole building, with their present names or the name of their "association" on the front, by which means they magnify their six-by-six office, or rather nook, on the fifth or sixth floor into the size and appearance of the entire building. This imposing picture is placed at the head of a still more imposing circular, offering all sorts of inducements in the shape of "chances," and forwarded to the country "greenhorn," as they call their victims, with the "certificate" of a "handsome gold watch" enclosed. The unsuspecting recipient actually crows over the idea of securing a "handsome gold watch" for five dollars, which amount he places in an envelope and without taking the precaution of registering it, forwards it to the "Honourable Association of Watchmakers, Company's Buildings, Broadway, N. Y. City." It is scarcely necessary to add that this is the last he hears of the "handsome gold watch."

There are only a few respectable firms who do business in the manner we have explained, and they do it as a means of advertising their other business and not to make money. From such firms, it is true, handsome and valuable articles are often procured for a very small sum, and what is more important, no one is ever cheated. Every person gets good value for his dollar, because, as we have stated, it is intended to act as an advertisement to lead to ordinary business. We have seen numbers of prizes sent out in this way by Sherman, Watson & Co., of Nassau st., N. Y., and there is no doubt that some of the articles are worth eight or ten times the money paid for them, while we have not seen or heard of a single article which was not fully worth the dollar which it cost. But this is only one of the exceptions to this rule; for a general thing the parties engaged in the business are nothing but clever swindlers.

When is a sail not a sail? When it is a loft, (aloft).

PASTIMES.

CONUNDRUMS.

- 1. Why is a chicken pie like a gunsmith's shop?
2. When is a lady's arm not a lady's arm?
3. Why is love like a canal boat?
4. Why is a side-saddle like a four-quart measure?

RIDDLES.

What is that which Adam never saw—never possessed, and yet he gave two, to each of his children?

2. What word of five letters is there that by taking away two, leaves but one?

DECAPITATIONS.

- 1. My whole is a pronoun; behead me and I am still a pronoun, behead me again and I am a verb.
2. My whole is a small vessel; behead me and I am a kind of grain, behead me again and I am a preposition.
3. My whole is a weight; behead me and I am a sound, behead me again and I am only one, again behead me, and I am a French conjunction.

ACROSTIC.

- 1. A celebrated archbishop and author.
2. A Scriptural outcast.
3. A celebrated detective.
4. An additional title of one of the apostles.
5. One who trembled before another apostle.
6. A great lake.
7. A celebrated sculptor and painter.
8. An English title.
9. One who knew and feared God from his youth.

The initials will give the name of one of the great battles of the American rebellion.

CHARADES.

The following charade attracted a good deal of attention in England some time ago, and no solution could at the time be found. Subsequently, we believe, the correct answer appeared in a Halifax N. S. paper. We republish the charade at the request of a subscriber, who has forgotten the solution, and hopes that some of our friends may be able to furnish it:

- 1. Sir Hilary charged at Agincourt. Sooth! 'twas an awful day; And though in those good times of old The rufflers of the Camp and Court found little time to pray, 'Tis said Sir Hilary uttered there Two syllables by way of prayer: My first to those who find their dewy shroud before the day be done, My next to those who live to see to-morrow's sun, My whole to those whose bright blue eyes Shed tears when the warrior nobly dies.

2. My first is three-fourths of the name of a great pugilist, my second two-fifths of a tool used in ship-building, my third is a song, and my whole a great historian.

TRANSPOSITIONS.

HETOGSNFOERTSTIH. A celebrated song.

WURDYANKIALRHTANTER. Of great importance to Canada.

EETANCIP. What few possess.

ANSWERS TO DECAPITATIONS, &c., NO. 17.

DECAPITATION.—1 chair-hair-air. 2 Smyth-myth. 3 whole-hole. 4 Hall-all.

A CURIOUS LETTER.—Sir, between friends, I understand your over-bearing disposition. A man even with the world is above contempt, whilst the ambitious are beneath ridicule.

CHARADES, 1.—Honey-moon.—2 Rouble.—3 Antelope.

CONUNDRUM.—Anticam.—(nunt eat 'em.)

ANAGRAMS.—1 New York city, United States of America; 2 New York; 3 New York city, in the United States of America; 4 New York city, United States of America.

ARITHMETICAL PROBLEMS, 1. No. 629.

294
753
618

The following answers have been received: Decapitation.—All, Gloriana, L. P. O., V. R.; Old Tom; A. A. Oxon; Cloud; H. H. V.; 1st and 3rd, Non N.; 3rd, Y. 1st, 2nd and 3rd, Peregrino P.

Curious Letter.—A. A. Oxon, Cloud; S. P. Charades.—All, V. R., L. P. O., A. A. Oxon; 1st and 3rd V., Gloriana, Cloud; H. H. V.; 3rd, Peregrino P.; 1st, Old Tom.

Conundrum.—V. Non N.; L. P. O., V. R. Cloud.

Anagrams.—2nd, H. H. V., Presto, Cloud; S. P., Gloriana.

Arithmetical Problems.—Both, Gloriana, Non N.; A. A. Oxon; Old Tom, W. R., Nargravine; 2nd, L. P. O., V. R., Peregrino P.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. QUENEO.—Problems in one move do not sufficiently tax the ingenuity to solve. Can you not favour us with a two or a three pounder?

T. P. B., SEAFORTH.—Is not the Problem, lately enclosed, rather too palpable? The Black King is in a very "tight place," which, of itself, gives a cue to the solution.

R. B. TONOXTO.—Stanton's Praxis will decide the question

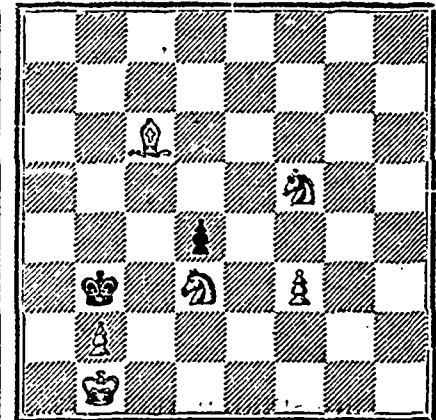
SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 5.

WHITE. BLACK.
1 Q. to Q. B. 8th. R. to Q. E. 2nd (best).
2 Q. to K. Kt. 4th. Anything.
3 Kt. Mates.

PROBLEM No. 7.

By LOQUIN.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and Mate in three moves.

Game played in match last spring, between Huddersfield and Bradford (England) Chess Clubs.

KING'S BISHOP'S OPENING.

WHITE. BLACK.
(Mr. J. Watkinson, Huddersfield.) (Mr. Teger, Bradford.)

- 1 P. to K. 4th. P. to K. 4th.
2 B. to Q. B. 4th. Kt. to K. B. 3rd.
3 Kt. to K. B. 3rd. Kt. takes K. P.
4 Kt. to Q. B. 3rd. P. to Q. 4th.
5 B. takes P. Kt. to K. B. 3rd.
6 B. takes B. B. P. (ch.) K. takes B.
7 Kt. takes K. P. (ch.) K. to K. sq.
8 Castles. Q. Kt. to Q. 2nd.
9 P. to Q. 4th. B. to K. 2nd.
10 K. to K. sq. K. to K. B. sq.
11 B. to K. B. 4th. Kt. to Q. K. 3rd.
12 Q. Kt. to K. 4th. Q. Kt. to Q. 4th.
13 K. to K. Kt. 3rd. B. to K. B. 4th.
14 Q. Kt. to Q. B. 5th. Q. to Q. B. sq.
15 K. to Q. B. 4th. Q. Kt. to Q. Kt. 3rd.
16 Q. to K. 2nd. K. Kt. to Kt. sq.
17 Q. to K. B. 5th (ch.) P. to Kt. 3rd.
18 Q. takes K. P. Kt. to K. B. 3rd.
And Mr. Watkinson announced Mate in three moves.

* This move was first recommended by Mr. Boden, in his "Popular Introduction to Chess."
† Kt. takes Kt., or Kt. to K. B. 3rd, is the best play at this point.

‡ This sacrifice secures a very attacking game.
§ K. to Kt. sq. would have been better play.
|| Black had captured Kt. White would have replied with (10) K. to K. sq.
¶ We see no better move. Black's game is quite indefensible.