

she blushed, a sudden rose all over her face, then turned very pale, and the hand she gave him trembled exceedingly. She said nothing articulately.

"Might as well sit down again," suggested Lewis, and sat down beside her on the old spring seat.

She was taller, he thought, and thinner; her face was thinner, too, and had lost the old delicate bloom; there were fine lines on her forehead and faint shadows under her eyes; the little mouth had learned a sad droop.

Neither spoke at first. Grace opened her lips once or twice but no word came. At length Lewis inquired casually:

"You pretty well, Grace, and the old folks pretty well, now?"

"Yes," she said.

"You're surprised some to see me, I suppose?"

"Yes."

"It's been a long while ago. We're both pretty different people now, I expect."

"Yes."

"I've done pretty well, though, since

I've been gone. Had reasonable good luck most of the time. I'm thinking of getting married."

She went very white under it. Lewis saw the hands in her lap clench till the nails turned white. But she found her voice.

"I hope you will be very happy, Lewis."

He nodded. "Well, I hope so. I'm goin' to have a woman I can manage 'his time. I'm goin' to be boss. My wife'll black my boots if I say so."

A frightened, incredulous glance fluttered up at him.

"Maybe I'll lick her," added Lewis. "I'm pretty mean, Grace. I never knew how mean I was till just lately. I suppose you seen it all along, though?"

She shook her head. "No."

"Well, I guess I must be goin'. Good-by, Grace."

He looked at her keenly as their

hands met. Hers was very cold and her face seemed frozen.

"Probably you'll never see me again," he remarked. "I won't likely get back this way again!"

She made no sign. He walked away some paces, turned—She stood bowed and swaying, her face hidden in her hands.

Without a word he took her in his arms. He kissed the small, frantic fingers, pulled them away, kissed her cheeks and eyes and lips, over and over. She clung to him, gasping, sobbing, yielding her lips submissively, then hiding on his breast, a bird storm-driven to shelter.

At last she panted, clinging round his neck.

"What did you—talk that way for, Lewis?"

"I don't know," Lewis answered, "I don't know, Gracie," and kissed her again.

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## Music and Plays

(Continued from page 21.)

mass music in singing societies are far behind that country. Probably our West has done more in this direction than any other part of the country. We may yet look to the prairies to pull us out of that tired feeling in choral music. Years ago there was far more enterprise of this kind than there is now in eastern Canada. Twenty years ago such places as Windsor, Chatham, London, St. Thomas, Guelph, Brantford, Chatham, Peterboro, and a dozen others had flourishing choral societies. Now we are cut down to Toronto, Hamilton, London, Brantford, and a few others. It is time to imitate the United States a bit more in a direction that will help us to nationalize our mass music.

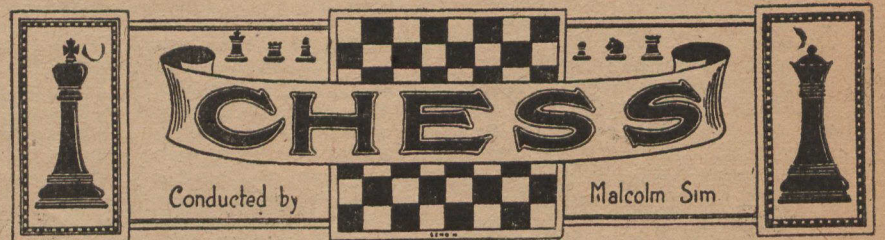
ACCORDING to Mr. John J. Allen, a well-known musician in Winnipeg, the war will do a great deal for music in Canada. Mr. Allen was recently

interviewed by the Winnipeg Telegram, in which he declares that one of Belgium's long-established methods will be eagerly copied after the war.

Scarcely anywhere in the world, he says, are so many obstacles placed in the way of the musically-inclined child as in Canada and the States. Absolutely the only incentives, a child's wish, or a parent's desire, may both be thwarted by lack of money.

In Belgium, however, the way is opened by the state. After learning the ordinary rudiments of music, the child can then enter the State University free of charge. He must pass each year's examinations, or else free instruction ceases. Teachers in these conservatories are of the very ablest.

As a return for this gratuitous instruction, the student must give a certain amount himself; in this way, there is provided an automatically continuous free education in music.



Address all correspondence to the Chess Editor, Canadian Courier, 30 Grant St., Toronto.

PROBLEM No. 96, by H. W. Bettmann. Specially contributed to the "Courier."

Black.—Four Pieces.

1. .... KxKt; 2. Q—B5ch, K—K2; 3. B—Q6 mate.

1. .... Kt—Kt4; 2. B—Q6, KxKt; 3. P—K4 mate.

1. .... B—Kt3; 2. Kt—Q4, BxKt; 3. Kt—B7 mate.

Plachutta Theme.

The following four-mover, by H. Rubensamen, illustrates, in the main variation, Plachutta effects by interferences of the Black Queen on Kt3 and B4 in company with a White promotion duet. The preliminary decoy to prevent the defence of the King's Bishop Pawn by 2. .... Q—R2 should be fully understood.

White: K at KRsq; Q at QKtsq; R at KB4; Kts at K3 and KBsq; Ps at Q7 and K4. Black: K at KR6; Q at QR3; Rs at QB6 and Q6; B at QR4; Kt at QBsq; Ps at QKt2, Q3, Q4, Q7, KB6 and KB7. Mate in four.

1. Q—Kt5, QxQ; 2. Kt—Qsq, Q—Kt3; 3. P—Q8=Q, etc. If 2. .... Q—B4; 3. PxKt=Q, etc. If 1. .... Kt—K2; 2. P—Q, BxQ; 3. Q—Q7, etc. The threat is 2. PxKt or P—Q8=Q(ch).

Correct solutions of Problems No. 88, 89, 90 and 91 received from W. J. Faulkner, of No. 88 from J. R. Ballantyne, and of No. 86 from R. G. Hunter.

In solution to No. 90 the first variation should conclude 2. PxBP mate. Mr. Ballantyne sends a cook 1. Kt—Q2.

Owing to lack of solvers who also send in solutions we have decided to discontinue the cumulative competition connected therewith. A slight reduction will be made in the number of problems we submit, and a bigger feature will be made of end-game stratagems. Solutions to problems, however, will still be both appreciated and acknowledged. We are sending books to Messrs. Faulkner, Hunter and Ballantyne in consideration of their interest.

To Correspondents.

(J. R. B.) In No. 89, if 1. Q—Kt8, B—Q4; 2. No mate. No. 90 you cook. No. 91 seems O.K. (R. G. H.) In No. 90, if 1. R—Ksq, P—B5; 2. No mate. Stationery with crest much appreciated. (W. J. F.) Many thanks for the many problems sent. Might I ask for solutions to your two-er and three-er. (J. J. Hurley.) In No. 92, if 1. R—Q5 dis.ch. the Black Pawn can interpose.

White.—Six Pieces.

White to play and mate in three.

Problem No. 97, by A. J. Fink.

Pittsburgh "Gaz.-Times," 29th Oct., 1916. ("Pickaninny" plus "Pickabish.")

White: K at KB7; Q at Q8; Rs at QR5 and QKt6; Bs at Q2 and KKt8; Kts at QB6 and K8; P at K6.

Black: K at QB5; Q at QKtsq; R at QKt2; Bs at QBsq and QB2; Ps at QKt6, Q2, Q6, KKt3 and KKt7.

White mates in two.

SOLUTIONS.

Problem No. 92, by J. Scheel.

1. Q—B7, KxP; 2. R—Q5 mate.

1. .... QxP; 2. QxP mate.

1. .... B—B4; 2. R—Kt6 mate!

1. .... B—Kt3; 2. R—Q5 mate!

1. .... threat; 2. Q—B7 mate.

Problem No. 93, by J. Juchli.

1. Q—B2, P—Kt6; 2. Q—K4ch, KxQ; 3. Kt—B3 mate.