

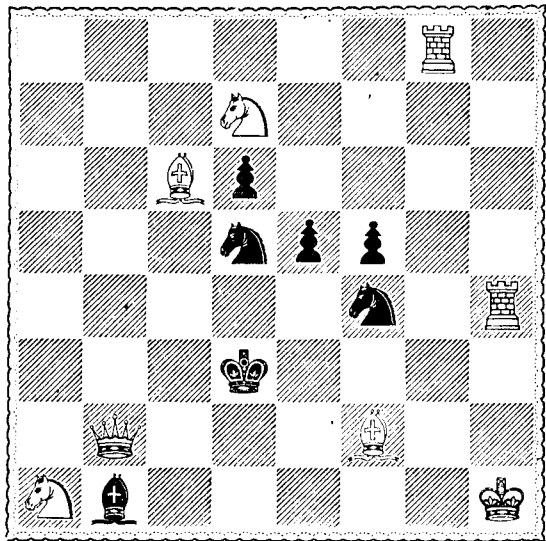
# Chess.

All Correspondence intended for this Column, and Exchanges, should be directed to the  
CHESS EDITOR, CANADIAN SPECTATOR Office, 162 St. James Street, Montreal.

Montreal, Sept. 13th, 1879.

PROBLEM NO. XXXVIII.

By W. Coates, Cheltenham, Eng. From the *Chess-players' Chronicle*.  
BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM NO. XXXV.

White.	Black.	White.	Black.	White.
1 B to K 6	P to Kt 8 (a Q) (ch)	2 Kt to Q Kt 2 (ch)	K takes Kt	3 Kt to Q 3 mate.
	If K to Kt 8	2 Kt to Q 2 (ch)	K to B 8	3 Other Kt mates.

## THE "MOVE OR NO MOVE" QUESTION.

We have much pleasure in presenting to our readers the following communication on this much-vexed question from Mr. A. P. Barnes, of New York. Though dissenting, ourselves, from his views, we will frankly admit that he argues the case very ably for the side of the "Movers."

To the Chess Editor of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR:

DEAR SIR,—The "Move" question is one of considerable importance to the chess community, and its liability of recurrence in all games not played over the board is a matter that should be provided for by immediate legislation. It is to be hoped that the initiative in this respect will be taken by the members of the Canadian Chess Association at the approaching meeting at Ottawa.

With your permission I will append a few remarks on the case as it presents itself to my mind. If I had been called on to arbitrate on the question, I should have felt obliged to decide that a false or illegal move had been made; at the same time I should have expressed an opinion that any player taking advantage of what was so palpably a slip of the pen in writing out the message for transmission, would be taking a very unhand-some advantage of technical law.

However, the present state of the question, so far as I have read the correspondence on it, is, Was any penalty incurred? i.e., Was a false or illegal move made? My judgment is that such was the case. The opponents of this view seem to consider that because the move sent was an impossible one there is no penalty beyond the "touch and move" rule, regarding this as a case coming under the law that the "touch and move" rule prevails in a telegraphic game. I think they are mistaken, and that they do not understand that the "touch and move" rule is meant to be applied in exactly the same manner as in a game over the board, and that a player in a telegraphic game would be obliged, if he touched a piece, to send off a move playing that man. In an important match by telegraph, I imagine each side would have an umpire to represent them at their opponent's end of the line, to guard against infringements of this rule.

What constitutes a move in a telegraphic game? The message handed to the operator. This style of playing permits an error like the one under discussion to occur, which could not well happen over the board. Now in the case before us, suppose the game were being played over the board, one player lifts his Rook, and presently replaces it on the square it originally occupied; he has made no move, but is obliged to move that Rook. Playing by telegraph he writes out his message and hands it to the operator; that act completes his move, and it is irrevocable so far as he is concerned; for any error or mistake he may have made in that message he is responsible, and must abide by the result. He might have sent Q to Q 5, meaning to move to Q 3, and one of his own men might occupy his Q's 5th square; this is an error of precisely the same nature as the one in the game under discussion, but will the "No Movers" maintain that he can only be obliged to play the Q somewhere? It would be hard to suffer for such a slip, and I hope there are few players who would enforce a penalty in such a case; but we are now discussing the actual law, and not questions of courtesy or good feeling amongst chess players. Again, supposing his K Kt remained unmoved and the message read "Castles K R," is there no penalty but moving the K or R? This would imply the "touch and move" principle; but I hold that the penalty incurred is that for a false move.

Supposing a difficult position arises, and a player desires to gain time for consideration, and that it happens that he knows a certain piece must move but has not fixed on the right square, he could gain all the time he wanted by making impossible moves with that piece!

If the theory of the "No Movers" be correct, it appears to me that it follows that there is no penalty but the "touch and move" for any impossible move made in a game by telegraph, which suggests to my mind another case that might arise: Suppose a move read "B takes Kt," and the player had already lost both his Bishops; the "touch and move" law could not apply here, and what would be the penalty?

The whole question, however, lies in the point, What constitutes a move in a game played by telegraph? If I am right in my conclusion that it is the message handed to the operator that is the player's move, then, if, for any reason whatever, it is impossible to make on the board a move to correspond with that message, then the player has made a false move.

Explanations as to why the board cannot agree with the move do not affect the matter, and cannot be admitted. In the case in dispute I presume the player moved, on his board, Q R to K 7. Now does not the law expressly state that the board must be made to conform to the message sent, and does not that imply that the message is the "move"? thus showing that a move made over the board is not made in the same manner as by telegraph, and consequently an argument on what constitutes a move over the board does not touch the question at issue.

New York, August 28th, 1879.

Yours very truly,

A. P. Barnes.

To the Chess Editor of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR:

DEAR SIR,—In reply to the article which appeared in your column of the 30th ult. regarding the "Move or No Move" question, I beg to remind your correspondents that the question must be settled by the Canadian Chess Association, according to the rules of that body now in force.

It seems to me endless work to show, that in accordance with those rules, a move has been made, and the C. C. A. cannot wriggle out of the matter, but must abide by their own rules, and not by what any individual member considers "ought to be."

The winning of a game is of minor importance to the just administration of the laws guiding our play, which I hope will be carried out in the present instance, according to the rules of the C. C. A. as they stand, and that those rules shall undergo revision so as to make them conform to the rules of chess as far as practicable as when playing over the board.

To pass over the views of your correspondents might seem like an admission that they were possible, which I deny. No "arbitrator" could, contrary to the regulations of the C. C. A., rule the "touch and move" penalty; neither could the receiver of the move, 18, Q R to Q 7, claim forfeit for not receiving a move on time, inasmuch as, according to the rules of the C. C. A., he did "receive a move," and there is no way of getting out of it. The rules regulating the present Correspondence Tourney are foreign to the subject.

I will conclude by an analysis of your analogy. Writing a move on a slip of paper is analogous to touching a man on the board, but this great and insurmountable difference exists, that while you can enforce the penalty of "touch and move" over the latter, you can exercise no power over the former. If it were even possible for a player to show his written move to his opponent, the latter could not act on it, nor could he force him to send that move; all moves must go through the operator, and until that slip of paper is in the hands of the operator, it is the property of the sender. When once the move is in the hands of the operator all analogy to "touch and move" vanishes into incorporeal air! it becomes, according to the rules of the C. C. A., a bona-fide move.

It is just as well to cease further discussion in the matter. No honourable body of men, when they look into the question as it should be looked into, can have a doubt as to how to deal with it.

I leave it now in the hands of the C. C. A.

Yours truly,

I. Ryall.

[We were obliged to hold over the foregoing letters till the present week. Referring to

Dr. Ryall's concluding remarks, are we to infer that he considers any body of men who may take an opposite view of the question to be the reverse of "honourable?" We may say with Marc Antony,

"This was the most unkindest cut of all!"

and with this slight paraphrase may we not ask:—

"Are not they all, all honourable men?"

—Chess Ed.]

## THE MONTREAL CHESS CLUB.

"I cannot but remember such things were,  
That were most precious to me."—*Macbeth*, Act IV., Sc. 3.

Looking back into the past, we can remember the time when the Montreal Chess Club was a flourishing institution. It had a goodly roll of members, and could boast of the best chess talent of the country in its midst. Its weekly gatherings were numerous attended and its officers were active and efficient in the performance of their duties. Local tournaments, and matches with sister clubs in the Province followed each other with gratifying regularity, and everything betokened a most successful future.

What is the condition of the club at the present time?

Its list of membership does not contain one-half the array of names as at the time referred to—a decade of years ago.

No more can be witnessed the animating scene when half-a-score of tables were occupied by the devotees of the "most fascinating pastime the wisdom of antiquity has bequeathed to us."

In place of cordiality and a sentiment of *esprit de corps*, a spirit of disunion now unhappily prevails, and in consequence of *no meeting* having been held for the election of officers during a period of *twelve years*, the very name, even, of a club may be denied to the sparse community of individuals who visit the Montreal Gymnasium twice a week to play chess in a desultory sort of way, and to mourn over their fallen greatness.

What is the cause of this decline?

We answer—a want of proper organization. No body of men can agree to form a society for recreative purposes without the wholesome restraint of a code of laws and regulations, and officers energetic enough to see them carried out. The game of chess is no exception to the rule.

A list of rules and regulations being adopted, what conduces more than anything else to the success of a chess club? We answer emphatically—an active and zealous Secretary; he it is who is the actual worker; in comparison with him, the President, and the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Vice-Presidents are mere figure-heads. It is the Secretary who levies the contributions, who calls the meetings and gets the members together on all occasions; who arranges all matches, both in his own and with other clubs; who keeps minutes of all proceedings; who acts the part of host to visitors, and performs all and sundry actions pertaining to his office. If his duties extended also to the care of the chess materials and furniture of a club-room, he would find ample scope for the exercise of such care in the case of the Montreal Chess Club.

The chessmen are thrown higgledy-piggledy into open boxes, and as much time is occupied in finding complete sets of men as in using them for play afterwards; and as for the chairs—well, the Montreal players are a long-suffering race! To sit down on the rickety structures is to incur the risk of injury to one's limbs, and it is not unusual, therefore, to see a member standing while playing a game. Some years ago one of the members, then M. P. for the Western Division of Montreal, moving uneasily in his chair while absorbed in a game, was suddenly *unseated*, not less to his own astonishment than to the dismay of those of his constituents present!

The writer has received from a New York friend a copy of the "Constitution and By-laws" of the Manhattan Chess Club. Provision is made in them for monthly, quarterly, and annual meetings, and the affairs of the club appear to be managed in a thorough business-like manner.

Again, the Croydon (Eng.) *Guardian* of a recent date contained the report of the Secretary of the Croydon Chess Club, which included a tabular statement showing the average attendance of the members throughout the year. How long will it be before the Montreal Chess Club possesses a similar good system of government? A torpor is benumbing its existence—when will it show signs of awakening?

## Musical.

All correspondence intended for this column should be directed to the Musical Editor,  
CANADIAN SPECTATOR Office, 162 St. James Street, Montreal.

## ORCHESTRAL MUSIC.

The third of the series of orchestral concerts under the direction of Dr. MacLagan will be given in the Mechanics' Hall on Monday evening. The programme is well selected, and includes Haydn's Symphony in C, which is to be performed in its entirety for the first time in Montreal; Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" is also to be given, besides a waltz by Strauss and other works of a lighter character. The vocal soloists are to be Miss Lizzie Scott, of Montreal, and Mr. W. Denyer, of the Toronto Philharmonic Society, the latter being down for "Les Rameaux," by Faure. These concerts afford our citizens an opportunity for hearing a class of musical compositions that would otherwise be unknown to them, and we hope that the audience may be even larger than at the last concert, so that the members of the orchestra may be induced to keep together and to give us during the winter season some of the master-pieces of Haydn, Beethoven and Mozart.

THE Mendelssohn Quintette Club of Boston is to give a concert here next month. It is now a long time since this excellent organization has visited us, and we rejoice to know that we are not to be passed over this season. The members of the Mendelssohn Club have done much to educate the people of our city, and the oftener they come here the better, for us at least.

AN American contemporary speaks of Mr. Frank King as the "husband and manager" of Miss Julia Rive!

MISS EMMA THURSBY has been unanimously elected *Sociétaire* of the French Artists' Association.

A NEW dramatic copyright law has been passed in England, one effect of which is to permit authors publishing in America to retain their British rights.

"PINAFORE" has at last come before the French musical and literary public, thanks to a grave and exhaustive critique in *Le Temps*. "H. M. S. Pinafore"—or, as the reviewer calls it, "The Vessel of Her Majesty, the Pinafore"—is, we are informed, sung everywhere. The French will be apt to come to the conclusion that the children of perfidious Albion now-a-days, as five hundred years ago, in the time of Froissart, amuse themselves sadly and are not half such good sailors as they would like to have other people think.