

**NEW YEAR'S CAKE.**—Three and a quarter pounds of flour, one of butter, and a half of sugar, one pint of milk, two teaspoonfuls of cream-tartar, one teaspoon of soda, caraway seeds. Cut in squares or ovals, and stamp.

**CHRISTMAS CAKES FOR GOOD CHILDREN.**—Three heaping tablespoonfuls of sugar, two heaping tablespoonfuls of butter, one egg, two tablespoonfuls of ground rice, put into three cups of flour, a small cup of sweet milk, a heaping teaspoonful of cream of tartar, and half of soda, a pinch of salt, and a few Zante currants. Roll out in powdered sugar.

**TO CLEAN GILT FRAMES.**—Half a pint of vinegar, a large painter's brush, small sponge; mix the vinegar with a quart of cold water, dip your sponge (which should be one never used for any other purpose) into the water and vinegar, squeeze it as dry as possible, then dip your brush into the mixture, and apply it to a bit of the frame, as if painting it. Immediately follow the brush with the sponge, absorbing and drying the part washed. Continue until the whole frame is done, constantly washing your brush in cold water after using it. Well wash the sponge and brush in cold water, and put them away in a clean place until wanted again.

**TO PRESERVE OIL-CLOTHS.**—While on the subject of floors, I will give an idea for keeping oil cloths fresh and nice. I know of one that lasted ten years on a hall where

there was a great deal of wear all the time, and it was not one of the very best cloths either.

It was an American cloth, and we all know that the English cloths are far superior to any others. About once in three months it was rubbed with a preparation of beeswax and turpentine. First wash and allow time to dry; then take the beeswax and turpentine, well mixed together, and rub on with a woollen cloth; then rub over it again with another woollen cloth, and lastly, polish with a clean cotton cloth. It requires considerable hard rubbing, but well repays for the work. It is like a varnish, and forms a coating which preserves the cloth.

It is rather slippery at first, and care must be taken in walking on it not to fall. The night before you wish to use it, put your beeswax (cut up in small pieces) into a bowl, and pour the turpentine over it; in the morning stir it up, and if too thick, add more turpentine; have it like a thick paste; rub on but a little at a time. Some people use milk to wash oil-cloth with, but I prefer the beeswax and turpentine, because in many cases the milk makes the colors dull and gives a greasy appearance.

## CHESS.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM NO. 7.

White.

Black.

1. Kt. to Q. B. 6th.      1. K. moves.
2. Q. to K. B. 3rd.      Mate.

## Notices.

**H. R. H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH  
AND H. I. H. PRINCESS MARIE  
ALEXANDROVNA,**

H. R. H. the Duke of Edinburgh, known previous to 1866 as Prince Alfred, was born in 1844, and after receiving his education took service in His Royal Mother's navy as a midshipman. In this capacity he has made one or two voyages round the world, sharing the dangers of the deep with his messmates and crew, among whom he has always been very popular, as indeed he is with the British people generally, who have such a peculiar fondness for sailors.

The Grand Duchess Marie Alexandrovna

is the only daughter of Alexander II., Czar of all the Russias. She is a year or two older than the Duke of Edinburgh, and is a very handsome and highly accomplished young lady, possessing a sound education and much good practical sense.

The nuptial ceremonies of the above high-born pair take place at St. Petersburg in January next. They will be married according to the rites of the Greek Church, and again by the Archbishop of Canterbury according to the Church of England. Issue of the marriage are to be brought up in the latter communion. They will spend the honeymoon at Tzarskoe-Selo, a grand palace of the Czars. May they have a prosperous matrimonial voyage.