

JOTTINGS FROM THE KINGDOM OF COD.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "QUEBEC PAST AND PRESENT."

II.

"The sea, the sea—the open sea. The fresh, the free, the ever free, The ever—ever free."

THE LOWER ST. LAWRENCE—ITS STEAMERS—ENCHANTED ISLES—THE PASPYJACKS—LIGHTS AND SHADES IN THE LIVES OF GASPEIANS, &c.

Who has not heard of the Gulf Port Steamers—those snug ocean crafts, which plough the lower St. Lawrence from May to December; and from December to May, the heated surface of the gulf stream, in Bermudan waters? Until last year, each season, they used to be crammed with tourists, jolly anglers, keen sportsmen, sailow invalids and lily-cheeked belles, in quest of the bracing sea-breeze of Gaspe, or making the fashionable grand tour from Montreal to Prince Edward's Island and back.

Now the Gulf Port Steamers have to breast a storm of opposition from the Intercolonial, but they will live long to bring health and comfort to the travelling community.

There were, however, on this identical 5th June, many sights, many other subjects to discuss on board of the staunch craft of blockade renown—for many years past commanded by Capt. Davidson—much more palatable than Mr. Bridges' recipe for making the fortune of the Intercolonial. Rapidly we were leaving behind Quebec, its glittering spires, mob law and special five cents taxes, and edging in close to the green slopes of Orleans, its smiling villages—the quiet home of many pilots—and their white roofed cottages nestling tenderly like chickens under the wing of their maternal protector—Mother Church. Heaux Reaux, He Madame, Grasse He—since 1832 the quarantine station with all the gloomy memories of cholera, typhus, ship fever, *plurima curtis imago*—He Marguerite, one and all we shot past as rapidly as if Commander Wilkes was at the helm of our old blockade runner, when she bore a different name and that we had issued from the harbor of Charleston, instead of that of Quebec. Soon the graceful maple fringe of *Pointe aux Pins* and the cosy old harbor of Crane Island opened on us. Some of the passengers being desirous of inspecting more closely the historic shooting box of Governor de Montmagny, in 1646, one turn of the wheel took us inside of the Beaujeu shoal, in the deeper though very narrow channel, within a stone's throw from the beach, which bounds the ornamental grounds and flower garden of the *Sigmar* Macpherson Le Moyne, Esq., who, after a lapse of nearly two hundred and fifty years, has succeeded to the Chevalier de Montmagny. Next to Crane Island we noticed the fertile islands so rich in pasturage and game, Little and Big Goose Islands, the property of the Hotel Dieu nuns of Quebec. From these farms they draw a large proportion of the dairy and farm supplies required by their educational and charitable institution. On we steamed until the lofty tower on the summit of a high rock, the Pilgrim light house, with its revolving moon, visible at thirty miles, brought all hands on deck. To the south of it and very close, lit up by the last rays of the sun, lurked that round boulder, covered at quarter tide, LA ROCHE A VEILLON, hard of aspect, yea harder than the ribs of any of Sir Hugh Allan's iron clads, as the defiant CANADIAN, if resuscitated, could tell the tale. On this treacherous rock, we well remember seeing the ill-fated steamer, with her bow high in the air and her stern sunk in deep water. A structure now covers this insidious foe with a reflector, to reflect the glare of the Pilgrim light house. Beware, O mariner, of *La Roche a Veillon*! Such an avalanche of questions and comments, some passing queer, were elicited by the fate of the CANADIAN! "Was Sir Hugh Allan himself in command," asked a beetle-browed old fellow, "when it was attempted to steer over this rock? I read that Sir Hugh was one of those men who liked to come in contact with gritty substances, the harder the pleasanter." None of us could fathom the exact innuendo here implied. "Was the pilot mad, drunk, dazed or bulldozed by blue glass?" inquired an intelligent-looking Yankee, with a quid in his left jaw (some said he was a Judge), "in attacking the rock? I guess a Cape Cod or Hell Gate pilot will do as much as any Canuck, but by *Tiberius Gracchus*, I have yet to learn of either attempting to climb over such a rock, with a 4,000 ton steamship worth \$500,000, rather than porting his helm to go round." To all the feat of the "Canadian" remained an unsolved, an unsolvable mystery. Not one man, I am sorry to say, had the hardihood to champion the cause of the Canadian Steam Navy. Sir Hugh's seamanship all went for naught. A short distance lower down, like a duck afloat, we noticed the red ball of the "Floating Light Ship," which remains there until December, each evening hoisting to the masthead its lantern for the guidance of the thirteen hundred square-rigged ships sent out from Britain to denude our forests of their priceless wealth—yea, too often priceless, in another sense of the word, as some of our timber merchants have found—when it reached British ports. The St. Lawrence is about fifteen to twenty miles wide at the Traversa, opposite St. Roch, though the deep water channel for ships on the south side is not much more than six acres in breadth; the tide rushes through like a mill sluice; in December, with the ice forming, woe to the homeward-bound ships grounding in the Traversa. Until 1759, the north chan-

nel was used by the French; deeper water and in summer a nearly constant up-stream current attracted inward-bound crafts to the north shore channel. The traverse was then made at *Pointe Argenteau*, at the lower extremity of the Island of Orleans, in the direction of *St. Vallier* or *St. Michel*. Admiral Saunders and his friend, James Wolfe, sailed up in June, 1759, all the way from Louisbourg to Quebec, without meeting with any casualty, though the thing had been declared impossible, the landmarks, buoys and signals having all been removed by the French that summer. What a capital joke they must have thought it! They were, 'tis true, in possession of excellent French charts of the River St. Lawrence, and they also had an experienced mariner and pilot on board, in the person of Denis de Vitre, an old Quebecer, then a prisoner of war in England, whom they had brought out with them, and lastly by hoisting French colours about Bic, they succeeded in decoying some French pilots of the lower parishes; threats of instant death rendered these ancient mariners particularly careful not to run the ships on shoals. In those primitive days, the national rivalries burnt fiercely—a Frenchman hated an Englishman nearly as much as a *Blue* hates a *Red* patriot in the present day, and Capt. John Knox, one of Wolfe's officers, records the fact of a French priest of the lower parishes on witnessing through his spy-glass the successful trick of the English on the French pilots, falling down dead, from a fit of apoplexy.

BRELOQUES POUR DAMES.

A MAN being commiserated with on account of his wife's running away, said, "Don't pity me till she comes back."

A TROPICAL maid said she would rather be a black bombazine band on her adored one's hat than live without him.

A BACHELOR editor, who had a pretty unmarried sister, lately wrote to one similarly circumstanced, "Please exchange."

BRIGHTON YOUNG will begin celebrating his silver wedding next month, and it will be three years before he gets through with it.

A BOY having been told "that a reptile was an animal that creeps," on being asked to name one, on examination day, promptly replied, "A baby."

"MADAM, a good many persons were very much disturbed at the concert last night, by the crying of your baby."—"Well, I do wonder such people will go to concerts."

THE time is at hand when a young man with only ten cents in his pocket, vainly tries to lead his girl to the side of the street most remote from ice-cream and temptation.

AN American journal asks what is the difference between a good soldier and a fashionable young lady? and replies—"One faces the powder, and the other powders the face."

THE young lady who was so delighted that the fine old gent loved birds, was somewhat abashed when he told her that his favorite bird was a nicely-stuffed and well-cooked goose.

GIRLS have their sorrows and their troubles, but nothing is more humiliating to the average young lady than to be beaten at a game of croquet by a girl who still wears her last year's dress.

Observing boy: "Ma, Aunt Dora has been eating the honey."—Astonished mother: "How do you know, my dear?"—Son: "'Cause I heard Mr. Smith say he wanted to sip the honey from her lips."

A GENTLEMAN advertising for a wife says, "It would be well if the lady were possessed of a competency sufficient to secure her against excessive grief, in case of accident occurring to her companion."

THERE are many followers of the cynic who wrote: "Our curate's eyes my daughter's praise. I cannot tell if they're divine: for when he prays he closes them, and when he preaches I shut mine."

AN American artist was so remarkably clever, that having exercised his skill on a very deaf lady, who had been hitherto insensible to the nearest and loudest noises, she had the happiness next day of hearing from her husband in California.

THE human body expands immensely with age. When eleven young men are seated on one side of a street car, they can easily sit up a little closer and make room for a pretty girl, but three of them can monopolize an entire seat to the utter exclusion of an old woman.

AMONG Russian women there is no happier class than the wives of the priests of the Greek Church. The rule forbidding a second marriage of the priest renders the wife secure of the devotion of her husband, who, in case of his becoming a widower, retires to a monastery, where his only compensation for his loss is the hope of ecclesiastical promotion.

AN Illinois clergyman is reported to have said, the other day, at the laying of a cornerstone of a new meeting-house: "If boys and girls do their sparring in church, I say amen to it. I have a daughter whom I cherish as the apple of my eye. When she is of suitable age I would rather she should be courted in the house of God than in a theatre."

A LARGE number of ladies of St. Petersburg have entered into a solemn engagement with one another to abstain, so long as the war lasts

from wearing silk, satin or jewels, as well as from giving balls or indulging in any kind of luxury, and to devote the money they would have expended upon these objects to the succoring of the sick and wounded amongst their compatriots.

THE papers are discussing with great earnestness the relative excellence of country girls and city girls as wives. It is only a new phase of the old controversy between the redoubted knights who disputed as to the metal of the shield which appeared to be silver to one of them, and gold to the other, simply because they looked at it from opposite sides.

If you wish to understand woman's capacity for business, just undertake to overhaul a high-toned dressmaker's bill. The way one of the female harness manufacturers will graft bones, buttons, sewing silk, fringe, lining, cambrie, &c., on the original charge for making and trimming is enough to send a first-class double-entry book-keeper to a lunatic asylum.

HEARTH AND HOME.

TOO FAST.—One great source of vexation proceeds from our indulging too sanguine hopes of enjoyment from the blessings we expect, and too much indifference for those we possess. We scorn a thousand sources of satisfaction, which we might have had in the interim, and permit our comfort to be disturbed, and our time to pass unenjoyed, from impatience for some imagined pleasure at a distance, which we may perhaps never obtain; or which, when obtained, may change its nature, and be no longer a pleasure.

MODERATION.—Immoderate pleasures shorten men's days more than the best medicaments can prolong them. The poor are seldom sick for the want of food than the rich are by the excess of it. Meats that are too relishing, and which create an immoderate appetite, are rather a poison than a nutriment. Medicines in themselves are really mischievous, and destructive of nature, and ought only to be used on pressing occasions; but the grand medicine, which is always useful, is sobriety, temperance in pleasure, tranquility of mind, and bodily exercise.

GOOD TEMPER.—Every human creature is sensible of the propensities to some infirmity of temper, which it should be his care to correct and subdue, particularly in the early period of his life; else, when arrived at a state of maturity, he may relapse into those faults which were originally in his nature, and which will require to be diligently watched and kept under through the whole course of life; since nothing leads more directly to the breach of charity, and to the injury and molestation of our fellow-creatures, than the indulgence of an ill temper.

THE COMFORT OF UGLINESS.—We cannot say—and in truth it is a ticklish question to ask of those who are best qualified to give an answer—if there really be not a comfort in substantial ugliness; in ugliness, that, unchanged, will last a man his life—a good granite face in which there shall be no wear and tear! A man so appointed is saved many alarms, many spasms of pride. Time cannot wound his vanity through his features; he eats, drinks, and is merry, in despite of mirrors. No acquaintances start at sudden alterations—hinting, in much surprise, decay and the final tomb. He grows older with no former intimates—churchyard voices—crying, "How you're altered!" How many a man might have been a truer husband, a better father, firmer friend, more valuable citizen, had he, when he arrived at legal maturity, cut off—say, an inch of his nose!

HINTS FOR MARRIED PEOPLE.—It has been well said that married couples should study each other's weak points for the same reason that skaters look out for holes in the ice—in order to keep clear of them. Unfortunately, however, they often use their knowledge of such tender spots for a very different purpose, sparing no pains to give them a rub on every possible occasion. Hence "domestic difficulties" innumerable. Women have immense power over the men-creatures, and they know it; but alas! they do not always exercise their influence wisely. The wife and mother should be the primary orb of the domestic system, the centre of attraction to all the members of the family group; for when wives are "repellent bodies," away go husbands and fathers and sons, flying off at a tangent into space. Men should remember that many of our highest privileges are founded on compromises and concessions. It is so in the world political, and the policy that makes a state prosperous and happy is not bad as a home policy. Therefore, oh, husband! if thou wouldst acquire the right to ask a friend home to dinner without notice, neglect not to respond favourably when the partner of the joys and sorrows hints at a new bonnet, or a new silk dress. It is a faithful saying that the "wife's want is the husband's opportunity," and the converse of the proverb is equally true. It is one of the misfortunes of unregulated families that both wife and husband insist upon having the last word. Nothing can be more improper. The last word is an "infernal machine," and married folks should no more struggle for it than for a hundred pound shell with the fuse lighted. To married ladies who find their spouses not quite so perfect as they had supposed them to be, during the billing and cooing period, we would suggest that angels have not been permitted to wed with women since the flood.

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

Solutions to Problems sent in by Correspondents will be duly acknowledged.

All communications intended for this department to be addressed Chess Editor, Office of CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, Montreal.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. S. Montreal.—Correct solution of Problem No. 125 received.

M. J. M. Quebec.—Letter received; also, solution of Problem 126.

D. C. M. Quebec.—Letter received.

J. W. S.—Correct solution of Problem No. 126 received; also, letter and contents. Many thanks.

STUDENT, Montreal.—Correct solution of Problem No. 127 received.

The following remarks on a subject which at the present moment must be interesting to Chess players, have been sent to us by a friend. They are copied from the "English Mechanic," and are well worthy of perusal.

CHESS PROBLEMS.

"The superiority of Chess Problems over all others as an intellectual recreation has been for centuries acknowledged by philosophers and statesmen, who have praised it, not alone for the inexhaustible source of amusement which it affords, but for the educational advantages to be derived from its practice.

The popularity which the game has attained in recent times is proved by the number of publications on the subject; but no student of the Chess literature of the last twenty years can fail to perceive that it is in the problem branch of the game rather than in play that modern progress in Chess is most clearly demonstrated.

He would be a bold man who would, on a comparison of their published games, pronounce *Scholar* a better player than *Pillsbury*; whilst for people acquainted with the subject require to be argued into the conviction of the superiority of *Hoyle*, *Byer*, and *Lochl* over the problem composers of *Pillsbury's* time.

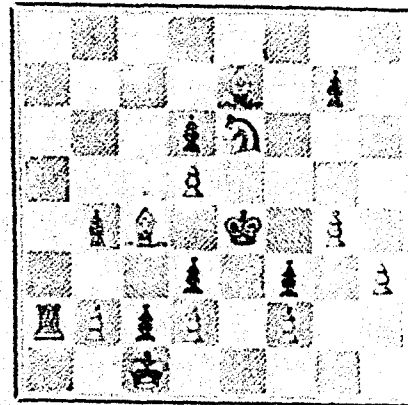
In fact, the case of *Problems v. Games* may be summed up in the statement that in the present day the genius of the composer has elevated the art of problem construction far above practical play, and that it is in the former that the highest manifestations of contemporary skill and subtlety in Chess can be found. The popularity of the Chess problem is beyond cavil."

We are requested to state that ordinary subscriptions to the funds of the Canadian Chess Association are now due, and should be sent in without delay to the Secretary Treasurer, D. C. Mackenzie, Quebec.

PROBLEM No. 128.

By M. J. MURPHY, Quebec.

BLACK



WHITE

White to play and mate in four moves.

CHESS IN MONTREAL.

GAME 18510.

Between Messrs. Bird and Hicks. Being one of seventeen played simultaneously by Mr. Bird at the Montreal Chess Club in February last.

(Irregular Opening.)

(From the Illustrated News, Yorker.)

- WHITE.—(Mr. Hicks.) 1. P to Q 4. 2. P to K B 4 (a). 3. P to K 2. 4. Kt to K B 2. 5. B to Q 3. 6. Castles. 7. P to Q B 3. 8. Q takes B (d). 9. B to B 2 (e). 10. P to Q Kt 3. 11. P to B 5 (f). 12. P takes Q B P. 13. P to Q Kt 4. 14. Kt to Q 2. 15. Q to K 2. 16. P to K R 3. 17. Kt to Kt 3. 18. R to Q Kt. 19. Kt to Q B 5. 20. P takes Kt. 21. B to R 4 (ch). 22. R takes P (ch). 23. R to Kt 5. 24. B to R 3 (ch). 25. B takes B (ch). 26. Q to Q. 27. R to Kt 3. 28. Q takes Q (h). 29. R to Kt 6 (ch). 30. B to Q. 31. Kt to R 2. 32. Q to B 4 (ch). 33. B to R 4 (ch). 34. B to Kt 3. 35. Q to Q Kt 8. 36. Q to R 8 (ch). 37. Q to K B 8 (ch). 38. Q takes K B P. 39. K to Kt 3. 40. K to B 4. 41. K to K 5. 42. Q takes Kt P (i). 43. Q takes Kt (ch). 44. P takes R. 45. Q takes R P. 46. K takes Q P. 47. K to B 5. 48. K to Q 4. 49. Q takes K P. BLACK.—(Mr. Bird.) P to Q 4. Kt to K B 3. B to B 4 (b). P to K R 3 (c). B to K 5. P to K 3. B takes Kt. P to Q B 4. Q to Q Kt 3. Q Kt to Q 2. P to K 4. B takes P. B to Q 3. P to K 5 (g). Q to Q B 2. Q takes Q B P. B to K 4 (a). R to Q B. Kt takes Kt (i). Q takes P. K to K 2 (j). R to B 2. Q to Q B 5. B to Q 3. K takes B. K R to Q B. Q takes R ch (k). R to Q B 8. P takes R. R to B 7. K R to Q 7. K to B 3. P to Kt 4. R to Q Kt 7 (m). K R to Kt 8. K to B 4. K to Kt 3. R to R 8 ch. K R to K 8. Q R to B 8 ch. R takes K P. R takes B. K to R 4. P to K 6. K to K 8. R to Q 8 (ch). R to B 8 (ch). R to K 6. Resigns.