

NOTES AND QUERIES.

NOTES.

No. 7. I send you, among old scraps, the riddle of the year, which is very ancient and quaint: There is a father with twice six sons; these sons have thirty daughters a piece, partly-coloured, having one cheek white and the other black, who never see each other's face, nor live above twenty-four hours.

AYLMER.

No. 8. When you met me the other day you asked for a few ancient saws on the present month and weather. I have not had time to look the matter up, and send only the following:

A January Spring Is worth nothing.

But I trust we shall not have a January Spring. Again

"If the grass grow in January, It grows the worse for all the year."

But the grass will not grow, fortunately.

"March in January, January in March, I fear."

"If January extends he summerly gay, 'Twill be winterly weather till the calends of May."

We shall test that this winter.

The blackest month in all the year Is the month of January.

That is true, if applied to cold, otherwise December is blacker as containing the winter solstice when the days are the shortest of the year. Still, notwithstanding the lengthening of the days, it is remarkable that the cold usually goes on increasing during the month of January. The proverb says:

"As the day lengthens The cold strengthens"

Or, as they have it in Germany:

Wenn die Tage beginnen zu langes, Dann kommt erst der Winter gekragens

BEAVER HALL.

No. 9. It is well at the beginning of the year to give warning by publishing in your excellent column the 32 unlucky days or Dies Nefasti, as contained in an old calendar of the time of Henry VI.

In January 7-1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 10th, 15th.

In February 3-9th, 7th, 18th.

In March 3-1st, 6th, 8th.

In April 2-9th, 11th.

In May 3-20th, 21st, 7th.

In June 2-7th, 15th.

In July 2-20th, 19th.

In August 2-15th, 16th.

In September 2-20th, 7th.

In October 1-6th.

In November 2-15th, 16th.

In December 3-15th, 16th, 17th.

QUERIES.

No. 6. Pray let me know through this column the origin of Boxing Night, in connection with the 26th December, in London.

Montreal. PRAYGER.

No. 7. I had the pleasure of meeting many of my Masonic friends on St. John's Day, and they were all in good spirits. I happened to enquire of several what connection the beloved disciple had with the Order, except that of charity which he preached so constantly, and I could get no satisfactory reply. Is there any other connection?

Montreal. N. F.

No. 8. I never could make out why we Scotchmen call New Year's Eve "Hogmanay." The word is evidently not Gaelic, and must be some corruption or other which perhaps one of your contributors might reveal.

Beth. FERRIS.

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.

J. W. S., Montreal. Solution of Problem No. 154 received. Correct.

Student, Montreal. Solution of Problem No. 154 received. Correct.

E. H., Solution of Problem for Young Players No. 151 received. Correct.

Sigma, Montreal. Solution of Problem No. 150 received. Correct.

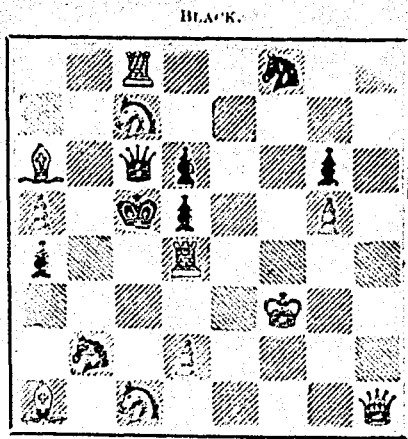
The Lincoln County Chess Association Tourney (Eng.) is likely to prove a very interesting event, and shows the interest taken in the game on the other side of the Atlantic. The contest is to begin on Monday, the last day of the year, at Grantham, and will be under the patronage of H. R. H. Prince Leopold. It is to be divided into several classes, the first of which will contend for three prizes. The first prize will be of the value of £15 sterling, including a silver cup.

The Rev. J. Fraser gives a prize of five guineas to be contested for by the players of class No. 1, with the understanding, however, that the pieces are, in some respects, to be disposed before the beginning of each game. The time limit for first prize to be twenty minutes an hour. To prevent games being lost by default, each competitor is to be called upon to make a deposit, which he will forfeit should he fail to play all his games. Another very useful arrangement is that each competitor must give the score of every game he plays.

PROBLEM No. 155.

By A. E. STUDD.

This problem, under the motto "Dum spiro, spero" received "honorable mention" in the *Edinburgh Herald* tourney.



White to play and mate in two moves.

CHESS PLAYING, PAST AND PRESENT.

Chess playing used to be, some years ago, a very slow affair. In an article on Chess in one of the earliest numbers of that excellent miscellany, *Chambers Journal*, we read of a Mr. Mortimer Mason, a gentleman of fortune, who, in seeking for means to occupy his leisure time, stumbled upon Chess, and became enthusiastically devoted to the game. Once, on a visit to a friend's house, he met with an antagonist equally fond of this pastime, and their play was protracted to such a late hour that the host was compelled, by a summons which he dared not disobey, to retire for the night, and a domestic was stationed in the room to report to the master the result of the contest. Towards the break of day the first intelligence was communicated, to the effect that there had been at length an exchange of Rooks. In the Chess Tournament of 1851, in London, Eng., there was some slow playing, and in the notes on one of the games, the score of which was taken by an onlooker, we find, near the end of a remarkably tedious battle, the following amusing observation: "Both players evidently fast asleep." In these days, however, of railroads and telegraphs, not to speak yet of telephones, we seem to be in a fair way of getting out of the old-fashioned way of playing our scientific game, and a contest which used to last for hours may, ultimately, be reduced to as many minutes, and there is no knowing what the future may have in store for us. We have been led to these remarks by a glance at the subject game, which was played at a short time ago between Mr. MacDonnell and an amateur at Simpson's Divan, London. We are indebted to the *Dramatic Times* for this Chess curiosity.

GAME 230TH.

A curious and lively game lately noted off at Simpson's Divan in less than five minutes.

(Remove White's Q Kt.—Evans' Gambit.)

- WHITE.—(Mr. MacDonnell.) BLACK.—(—)
1. P to K4 1. P to K4
2. Kt to B3 2. Kt to Q B3
3. B to B4 3. B to B4
4. P to Q Kt 4. B takes P
5. P to B3 5. B to B4
6. P to Q4 6. P takes P
7. P takes P 7. B to K3
8. P to Q2 8. P to R1
9. B to Q3 9. P to Q3
10. Castles 10. Kt to K2
11. Kt to K5 11. Castles
12. Kt takes R P 12. K takes Kt
13. Q to R5 13. K to Ksq
14. P to K3 14. Kt to K3
15. P to K6 15. Q to B2 (ch)
16. P takes Kt 16. Q to K1
17. B takes P 17. B takes P
18. B takes Kt 18. Resigns.

NOTES.

(a) This is very spirited and sound enough for an off-hand game.

(b) Studd's. His safest course, perhaps, was to play Q to R3, losing a pawn, but effecting the exchange of Queens, and so relieving himself from his difficulties.

GAME 231ST.

Played between the Rev. J. Coker, one of the strongest provincial players of England, and Mr. A. E. Studd, the former yielding the odds of Pawn and two moves.

(Remove Black's K B P from the board.)

- WHITE.—(Mr. Studd.) BLACK.—(Mr. Coker.)
1. P to K4 P to Q4 1. P to Q B4
2. P takes P 2. P to K3
3. B to K3 3. Kt to Q B3
4. Kt to K B3 4. Q to R4 (ch) (ch)
5. Q to Q2 5. Q to R2 (ch)
6. B to Q B4 6. Kt to K B3
7. Kt to B3 7. P to Q R3
8. P to Q R3 8. B to K2
9. P to Q Kt 4 9. Kt to R2
10. P to K R3 10. Castles
11. B to K B4 11. Q to Qsq
12. Kt to K5 12. Kt to R4
13. B to K3 13. Q to B2
14. Kt to K B3 14. Kt to B5
15. B takes Kt 15. B takes B
16. Castles (Q R) 16. P to K R3
17. Kt to Q5 (ch) 17. P takes Kt

NOTES.

(a) The check might have been given with advantage on the second move. Now it serves to assist the development of the adverse forces.

(b) Q takes Q would have saved the time here.

(c) Mr. Studd, whose ability as a composer of problems is well known to the Chess world, shows a keen perception of the position. Whether Black takes the Kt or not, he has now a lost game.

SOLUTIONS.

Solution of Problem No. 153.

- WHITE. BLACK.
1. R to K4 1. K to Q5
2. Kt to Q B3 2. K takes R
3. B mates.

Solution of Problem for Young Players, No. 151.

- WHITE. BLACK.
1. Kt to Q7 (ch) 1. K to Q R sq
2. Kt to Q B6 (ch) by dis 2. K covers
3. Kt to Q Kt 6 mate

PROBLEMS FOR YOUNG PLAYERS NO. 152.

- WHITE. BLACK.
K at K6 K at Qsq
R at K4 R at Q R sq
B at Q Kt 4 Pawns at Q R2 and Q Kt 2

White to play and mate in four moves.

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