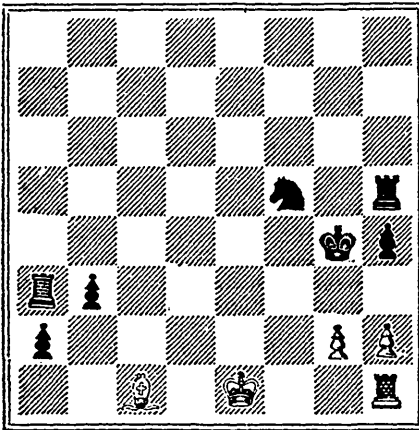


time to get a song for this number, and, if even there had been time, there would not have been room, for I am sorry to tell you, Laird, that your facts must be of the shortest; and Mrs. Grundy, too (Major, ring the bell for Mrs. Grundy), will be, I am afraid, not over well pleased at the limited space I can afford her. [*Enter Mrs. Grundy.*] I must ask you, my dear Madam, to make your observations for this month as short as possible. We are already rather late, from an accident which has happened to Mr. Taylor's paper mill, and has thrown us a little behind hand. We must, therefore, husband both our space and time. I have, however, received the chess type, and I have prepared a problem, which I will now read. Laird, I will tell you about Ole Bull by and bye. In the meantime, listen. [*Doctor reads.*]

PROBLEM No. I.

BY A CANADIAN.

—
BLACK.



—
WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

—
CHESS.

CHAP. III.—THE OLD WRITERS ON CHESS.

It is said that the first book printed in London was a work on chess, and entitled "William Caxton of Chesse," it appeared in folio, with figures, in the year 1474.

Damiano, a Portuguese, was the first chess author of any note, the date of his birth is uncertain, but he died in 1544. His treatise was originally written in Spanish and Italian, and early editions are now very scarce. The best portion of his works are the problems, which, in point of simplicity, beauty, and skill, have rarely, if ever, been surpassed. About thirty years

after this publication, appeared a work by Ruy Lopez, a Spaniard. Towards the end of the sixteenth century, chess seems to have been much studied, if we may judge from the many excellent players who flourished at that time. Among the most celebrated may be mentioned Paoli, Boi, Lionardo, Gianutio, Salvio, and Carrera.

In the year 1596, Gianutio published his treatise on chess, at Turin; and the superior work of Alessandro Salvio made its appearance in 1604. Sarratt published translations of the above authors, but they are of little value, owing to his abridgments. An excellent translation of Carrera's work, by W. Lewis, was published in 1822. Carrera's recommendation of chess is very quaint and worth quoting. He says—"I do not deny that the time which is spent in playing might be better spent in holy and praiseworthy works; but human weakness does not permit us to find ease in the constant practice of virtue, so we are easily inclined to pleasures, to vanities, and to vices; and in order not to be led into them, and offend the Creator, we choose to apply ourselves to exercises of the body and mind. Whence, that youth who employs himself at chess, though he may have played all day, will have gained this much, that he has not played at dice, and that he has eschewed idleness, which abounds in sin."

Contemporary with Carrera was a noble author, Augustus, Duke of Brunswick, Lunenburg, who published a work under the cognomen of Gustavus Selenus. The next author on our list was a very brilliant player in his day, Gioachino Greco. His work abounds in brilliant and instructive situations, and the attacks in some of his games are conducted in so brilliant a manner, that a careful study of his works cannot fail to delight the student. A small work, called "The noble Game of Chess," by Capt. Bertin, was published in 1735. Stamma, a native of Aleppo, published, in 1738, a small work, composed chiefly of situations and ends of games.

In 1750, Ercole del Rio published his work, under the name of "The Anonymous Modenese." This same work was, in the year 1763, the groundwork of Lollis' great work on chess, which Mr. Walker pronounces to be the most classical work on chess extant. Philidor, the greatest player of his time, published his celebrated analysis of chess in the year 1749. In 1786, a very remarkable work on chess, by a society of amateurs, who frequented the cafe de la Regence, was published, under the title of "Traite des Amateurs." Portions only of this capital work have been translated into English.