

HOW OLD ARE YOU?

This delicate question is upon every one's lips with reference to others, and is the one question which every one thinks of, whether he asks it or not. It is delicate because, in the conventional arrangements of society, there is an allowed privacy at a certain point in life about one's age. A woman at times feels greatly inclined to regard her age as an unknown quantity, and, if she wishes to gain certain ends, her only safety is in keeping her secret from others. It is no matter what age a child is, but when a young woman has grown to be "a sweet girl-graduate with golden hair," the age is of the greatest consequence, or when the same woman has remained single till she is 30 years old, and the charms of her person begin to fade, there is no point in her individual history which she more desires to cover up than her age. She will blush when you venture to guess it, and tell stout little falsehoods if you guess too closely. The age is her greatest anxiety. It has been said that one of the three wittiest things ever said in Boston was that the natural woman thinks infinitely more of being well dressed than of being religious, but a woman so highly values the illusion of youth when her charms, or what are held by some to be charms, are passing away, that there is almost no compliment which she receives with sweeter gratitude than your statement that she looks ten years younger than she is. She does not want to have the question asked at all, but, if you are clever enough to ask it by a compliment, you are always forgiven. With a man, age is another matter. He is not good for anything till he is twenty-one, not hardened and seasoned for the struggle of life, and is hardly worth much before he is thirty for what is beyond manual labor and mere physical dexterity. The woman always wants the man older than herself out of compliment to Adam, who in this respect had the precedence of Eve, and out of a deep sense of respect which women feel to one who is stronger than themselves. But there are cases of *luxus matris* in matrimony which show that the laws of human nature are not invincible like those of science. We know of a man of forty-five, older, in fact, than his own mother. The woman gushed with as much enthusiasm at that age as if she had been a sweet girl-graduate, and in the process of time each has neared to the other, the woman growing younger as the man has grown older, till they are now about equally venerable, and the natural gush of the woman abiding with undiminished force till the present time. This must have been a case of genuine attachment which lasts into matured life, but when middle-aged widows like Mrs. Hicks, are married to well-fattened widowers, like Mr. Lord, or when young maidens enter into matrimony with men who might have been their grandfathers, one always questions whether there can be any genuine affection in relations which are so entirely out of nature. The truth is, as wise old Solomon said in a previous century, that there is a time to marry, and the point of disparity in age is a very serious impediment to a thoroughly happy marriage. It is the question of marriage which chiefly influences women's sensitiveness as to their age. "To be or not to be, that's the question," not less in Hamlet's soliloquy than in theirs, and still the feeling of the Hebrew woman, that marriage is the chief highway to a useful and pleasant earthly life, is the natural instinct of the human heart. Let us put in a caveat here that no slur is intended on the single men or women who choose what some religious people are pleased to call the higher life, and who make the most of its somewhat narrow conditions. It was the truthful saying of an old philosopher that, whether a man liked a married or a single life, he would regret his course either way, and, according to Mr. Emerson's law of compensations, there is much to be said on both sides.—*Boston Herald.*

CHAT WITH CORRESPONDENTS.

R. S. McGinn, Bensenville, Ohio. Simple copies sent. We allow 10 per cent. commission on clubs of ten, or more. As an extra inducement the latter up, of club, is entitled to a chance, in the prizes, for each club of ten he sends us.
 LEAN, Boston. Much obliged for letter. Always pleased to hear from you.
 J. W. L., Boston. Letter received. Thanks for good wishes, and kind appreciation of TORCH.
 E. E. W., Boston. Letter received. Will answer in a few days.
 JAMES BURGESS.—Much obliged. Do so some more.

CHESS COLUMN.

All communications and contributions to be addressed to J. E. NARRAWAY, P. O. Box 70.

GAME No. X.

Played between a Dr. J. C. R. of Dayton, Ohio, and H. C. S. of Cincinnati.

BY LOPEZ GAMBIT.

White—H. C. S.	Black—J. C. R.
1 P-K4	1 P-K4
2 Kt-KB3	2 Kt-QB3
3 B-QKt5	3 P-QR3
4 B-QR4	4 Kt-KB3
5 P-Q4	5 P×P
6 P-K5	6 Kt-K5
7 Castles	7 Kt-QB4
8 B×Kt	8 Q×B
9 K×P	9 Kt-K3
10 Kt×Kt	10 B×Kt
11 Kt-QB3	11 B-K2
12 Q-K2	12 Castles
13 B-K3	13 P-QKt4
14 P-QKt3	14 B-QB5
15 Q-Kt4	15 B×R
16 B-K6	16 P-Kt3
17 B×R	17 Q×B
18 R×B	18 P-KB4
19 P×P (ch pass.)	19 Q×P
20 R-K	20 R-KBsq
21 Q-Kt3	21 B-Q3
22 Q-K3	22 P-QR4
23 Kt-Qsq	23 P-QKt5
24 P-QR4	24 Q-KB4
25 Q-K6 (ch)	25 Q×Q
26 K×Q	26 K-KB2
27 R-K4	27 R-Ksq (a)
28 R×R	28 K×R
29 Kt-K3	29 B-Q4
30 Kt-B4	30 B-QKt3
31 Kt-K5	31 P-QB4
32 K-B	32 K-K2
33 K-K2	33 K-K3
34 Kt-B4	34 P-KR4
35 P-KR3	35 P-KKt4
36 K-K3	36 Resigns

(a) Black remarked that this move lost him the game. We think, however, that the game was White's before this, with the best play, as Black's doubled Pawns, and the inequality between the B and Kt must tell heavily against his success.

ENIGMA No. 5.

BY C. H. WHEELER.

White, K at Q R 7, Q-KR8, B at Q B 7, Kt at K 6, Pawns at Q 2, K 3.
 Black, K at K 5, Kt at Q B 5, B at Q 6, B et K 2, Pawns at B 4, Q 4, K B 4, K B 6, K Kt 5.
 White to mate in 2.

Poll tax should be levied per cap-ita.

A popular military command at present, "Re-form company." Who said Hur-ray?

Cats mew-tinate, and then they mew-till late each other.

Sewing circles are generally a-round at this season of the year.

A lun-atic—one who is "gone in the upper story."

A LEADING MEDICAL AUTHORITY says:—"Consumption is essentially a disease of degeneration and decay. So it may be inferred that the treatment for the most part should be of a sustaining and invigorating character—nutritious food, pure, dry air, with such varied and moderate exercise in it as the strength will bear, the enlivening influence of bright sunshine and agreeable scenery, and cheerful society and occupation, aided by a judicious use of a diastolic tonic and stimulants, are among the means best suited to restore the defective functions and structures of frames prone to decay."

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Special Notice.

STEAMER "New Brunswick" will leave Saint John on MONDAY, 25th January, and "City of Portland" on THURSDAY, January 31st, after which the "City of Portland" will be withdrawn from the route for a short time, to be put in order for summer business. "New Brunswick" will leave Boston, MONDAY, Feb. 1st, and will continue to leave Boston, touching at Portland and Eastport, every MONDAY, and Saint John every THURSDAY, at 8 o'clock until further notice. In consequence of this change there will be no boat leaving Boston Thursday, Jan. 31st.

W. W. CHISHOLM,
 Agent.

VICTORIA SKATING RINK.

NOTICE.

IT having come to the notice of the Directors that persons without tickets have obtained access to, and many holding Promenade tickets have been skating in the Rink, the public are hereby informed that for the future it will be necessary for those desiring admission to the Rink to SHOW THEIR TICKETS AT THE DOOR, and Promenade tickets will be forfeited if the holders are found skating in the building.

Saint John, January 31st, 1878.

C. E. SCAMMELL, President.
 G. C. COSTER, Secretary.

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