

DRAUGHTS-CHECKERS

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THOUGH BLIND, A SUCCESSFUL PLAYER.

That a man deprived of sight should take up the game of checkers as a profession is unusual, but the remarkable success achieved by John Thompson, of New York city, who is known throughout America as the blind checker player, illustrates the fact that natural aptitude, though handicapped by physical defects, will assert itself, and that where a man has the necessary perseverance he can overcome almost any obstacle. Mr. Thompson lost his sight through an accident in 1869, when he was 10 years of age. He was educated in the New York Institution for the blind. Two years ago he became interested in checkers, and began the study of the game under the tuition of Mr. Stone, a good player, at Columbus, Ohio. In a short time Mr. Thompson was able to play all comers, and to win a majority of the games. Since then he has depended upon his earnings from matches and exhibitions, and has become widely known as an able player. The ingenious combinations of the game give him enjoyment, and he is an enthusiast on the openings and analyses, and studies frequently when at leisure. Mr. Thompson uses a board and men that are different from those in ordinary use. The squares upon which the pieces are played are depressed, so that the men are nearly on a level with the adjacent squares. The men are distinguished by being round and square. In playing he extends his hands over the board so that he can touch all parts at once, and can thus always locate his own and his opponent's pieces. Mr. Thompson's wife assists him in his checker studies by reading the recorded games, while he follows the positions with his fingers over the board. During an eight-month's engagement in New York he played 12,000 games, of which he lost only 328, though many were drawn. He has, during the past few weeks, been giving exhibitions in Pennsylvania, and has engagements at Toledo, Erie, Detroit and Toronto. [The above facts are slightly condensed from an account of this remarkable case given in the American Checker Review for the current month.]

SOLUTION.

PROBLEM 329.—The position was: black men 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14; white men 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 29; white to play and draw.

- *22 17 29 25 22 18 5 1
13-22 1-7-11 24-27 32-27
25 18 *20 16 18 9 1 6
9-13 11-20 2-10-14 27-18
18 9 25 22 9 5 6 9
5-14 20-24 27-32 drawn.

* Only moves to draw.

VAR. I.

- 14-17 22-26 27-23 18-14
21 14 17 14 14 10 9 6
10-17 26-31 7-14 14-10
25 21 23 18 18 9 6 2
17-22 31-27 23-18
21 17 19 16 15 11 drawn.

VAR. II.

- 22-31 18 14 27-23 15 10
23 18 10-17 19 15
31-27 21 14 23-18 drawn.

GAME 215.—"DYKE."

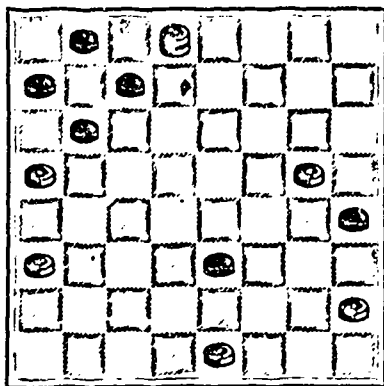
Played recently between Mr. Wick-wiro, of Shubenscadio, (black), and our checker editor, (white).

- 11-15 10-19 7-10 12-16
32 17 33 27 27 23 11 7
15-10 3-7 16-20 16-19
23 16 20 25 23 16 23 16
12-19 4-8 12-19 14-23
24 15 22 18 23 18 1-7 2
10-19 7-11 10-14
25 22 25 22 26 23
7-10 11-16 19-26
27 24 18 15 30 23
8-12 a-2-7 8-12
24 15 17 13 15 11

a 9-13 looks strong here.
b This brings us to the following position, which we present as

PROBLEM 331.

Black men 1, 5, 6, 9, 20, 23.



White men 13, 16, 21, 28, 31, kg. 2. Black to play. What result?

Our editor failed to win this shakyl-looking position, and, being somewhat disappointed at the result, will give a Freeman-Barker book to the solver who will first send a sound white win.

IMPERIAL CREAM TARTAR BAKING POWDER PUREST, STRONGEST, BEST. Contains no Alum, Ammonia, Lime, Phosphates, or any Injurious. E. W. GILLETT, Toronto, Ont.

Have you tried the 'Cable Extra' CIGAR?

HERE AND ELSEWHERE.

Subscribers remitting Money, either direct to the office, or through Agents, will find a receipt for the amount enclosed in their next paper. All remittances should be made payable to A. Milne Fraser.

TENNYSON'S SUCCESSOR.—A London despatch says that Prime Minister Gladstone has offered the Laureateship to the author and art critic, John Ruskin. This move will surprise many, but will also meet with commendation from a large number in the literary world.

PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED.—M. J. Keating, advertising and press agent Canada Atlantic and Plant S. S. Co., is soliciting good photographs of Nova Scotia scenery to be placed on exhibition in the leading American cities with a view to directing the attention of prospective tourists to the advantages of our Province. Mr. Keating is on the right track in booming Nova Scotia, and it is to be hoped his request for pictures of our picturesque country will be granted by our professional and amateur photographers.

BRUN FEASTS ON MAPLE SUGAR.—Last week a resident of West Chester, Cumberland County, met a strange visitor in his maple woods. Upon going to the trees to collect the maple sap, Mr. J. W. Rushton found a large bear calmly helping himself from the cans. Mr. Bruin, upon realizing that he had a spectator, leisurely walked away, a fortunate move for Mr. Rushton. Although men and dogs were put on the bear's track, owing to the absence of snow his whereabouts could not be traced.

A SUB-MARINE PASSAGE PREFERABLE TO A BRIDGE.—At a meeting of the Institute of Science held on Monday evening, Dr. Murphy, the Provincial Engineer and President of the Institute, gave the substance of an article which he has prepared on crossing the Strait of Canso. He proposes to construct a tubular sub-marine passage between the two shores, instead of a bridge as has been proposed. The various sections could be constructed on land, floated into position and then sunk and pumped free of water. This, he maintained, would be the cheapest and most effective method and occupy least time.

CAUGHT!—A woman giving her name as Mrs. Forrest, residing at 133 North St., was on Saturday last suspected of stealing goods from the dry goods establishment of McPherson & Freeman on Gottingen St., and a search of her house was made by Detective Power, who found a large quantity of new goods of various kinds. These have been identified as coming from the stores of McPherson & Freeman, John Silver & Co., A. W. Redden, H. L. Hart, Le Bon Marche and others. The woman has been arraigned charged with stealing and pleads not guilty. The examination in the case is going on this week.

THE TOWN OVER THE WATER.—The Street Committee of Dartmouth propose macadamising a number of the streets in the suburbs of that town this summer, leaving the central streets until next year. The reason for this course is that a large number of householders are having the water put in their houses this summer it is not worth while tearing up good work which is intended to be permanent. Dartmouth is progressing, and now that its advantages, as well as many much needed reforms, are being set forth by its enterprising weekly paper its citizens are justified in entertaining great expectations for its future.

It is not what its proprietors say! at what Hood's Sarsaparilla does, that tells the story. Hood's Sarsaparilla CURES.

PERSONAL.—In another column will be found the announcement that John F. Kelly, saddler and harness maker, has moved from the Northrup Block, Buckingham Street, where he has been located for the past twelve years, to Granville Street. By this change he gets more commodious quarters and a far better opportunity to display his large and varied stock of everything in his line than he had at the old stand. Mr. Kelly has the largest stock of harness, saddlery and saddlery hardware in the Maritime Provinces. All the latest and newest devices in this connection are to be found there, and orders are always promptly filled by him.

GULLED!—The good people who carry on mission work in our city have been badly taken in by a man giving his name as Gibbs, professing to be a converted actor, who has been holding a series of religious meetings in the Jost Mission House. He was accompanied by a woman and child, whom he introduced as his wife and daughter. On Sunday Evangelist Gibbs was shown a despatch stating that he and his companion were wanted in New York, being charged with bigamy and alleged forgery. After pawnning some jewellery and a bible the frauds hired a team and drove to Bedford, put up at the Bedford Hotel all night, and took the outgoing train on Monday morning. The affair created quite a stir in the city.

OUR MEDIUM OF EXCHANGE.—It is not surprising that there are people in the world who have never heard the name of our historic city, but it is hardly credible that in so large a city as St. Louis, where a number of Nova Scotians are domiciled, the editor of a leading paper should disclaim all knowledge of this city. He waxed indignant over the fact that in the mythical city the bankers have lost confidence in American silver, and he demands that a guide book and a geography be brought him at once. We trust that some of our Provincialists now residing in the city will oblige him with these necessary articles, and that he will take their advice and "Go to Halifax" with a good supply of what he deems to be the common medium of Provincial exchange—coonskins and tanbark. There have been some funny things in circulation lately, greengoods, gall, and Chinese curios, but the man with his trunks full of tanbark and coonskins will probably corner the market.

GUARD AGAINST CHOLERA.

Keep the blood pure, the stomach in good working order, and the entire system free from effete matter by using Burdock Blood Bitters, which cleanses, tones and strengthens the whole system. Cholera cannot attack the healthy.