

HALLOWE'EN.

OCTOBER AND ITS SUPERSTITIONS.

A good October and a good blast, To blow the hog scorn and mast,

So runs the old distich. With October, the tenth month of the Christian year, the autumn is fully accomplished. The days draw rapidly in; we begin to take tea by candle-light; we look up our warm clothing; in the evening we sit beside the fire, and cooily prepare for the coming winter.

October derives its name from the Latin Octo, eight, and imber, a shower. The zodiacal sign of the month is Scorpio, the Scorpion. During the thirty-one days great and sometimes violent changes of weather are observable; but in most years the temperature of October is mild and balmy—a sort of resting-time between the summer and winter.

In the folk-lore of Great Britain the most notable day in October is the last—Hallowe'en, the evening before All Saints' Day. In rural districts, and especially in Scotland, many are its fireside customs and observances. Nuts and apples are in great requisition—so much so, that in Northern England Hallowe'en is known as Nut crack Night. Nuts are not only cracked and eaten, but they are made the means of prophecy or divination by young men and maidens. In the well-known poems of Robert Burns we learn that the burning of nuts is a favourite charm. They name the lad and lass to each particular nut as they lay them in the fire, and accordingly as they burn the course and issue of the courtship will be. In Ireland the young girls, when they would know if their lovers are true and faithful, put three nuts upon the bars of the fire-grate, and as they do so, call the nuts by the names of their sweethearts. If a nut cracks or jumps, then the swain's love is doubtful; if it burns or blazes, then he has true regard for the maiden. If the nuts burn together, the young men and maidens will be united in true marriage ties. Similar customs obtain in rural England. Gay, in his "Spell," says:—

Two hazel nuts I threw into the flame, And to each nut I gave a sweetheart's name: The nut with the loudest bounce me sore amaz'd, That in a flame of brightest colour blaz'd, As blazed the nut so may thy passion grow, For 'twas thy nut that did so brightly glow.

It is remarkable indeed how the Hallowe'en customs are retained from year to year, and century to century, and much in the same fashion.

In the south of England at this period of the year it is regarded as unlucky for a bride about to go to church to look in the glass after she is completely dressed. Hence, very great care is taken to put on a glove, or some article after the last lingering and reluctant look has been taken in the mirror. The idea is that any young lady who is too fond of the looking-glass will be unlucky when married.

The custom of throwing the peel of an apple over the head, says Mrs. Conway, marriage of single blessedness being foretold by its remaining entire or breaking, and that of finding in a peel so cast the initial of the coming sweetheart, is as well known in America as in England.

In some parts, according to Mr. Henderson's Folk-lore, of the old Northern counties, cats are said to bring good luck; and in and about Scarborough, Filey and Whitby, the sailors' wives keep cats to ensure, as they believe, the safety of their husbands while at sea. A black cat is most in favour. Various proverbs, however, give preference to tabbies and white cats.

Whenever the cat of the house is black, The lasses of lovers will have no lack.

And again—

Kiss the black cat, And 'twill make ye fat, Kiss the white one, 'Twill make ye lean.

Cutting the nails on an October Sunday, or indeed on any Sunday, is thought unlucky. According to the Devon and Cornish jingle—

Who on the Sabbath pairs his horn, 'Twere better for him he had ne'er been born.

In some places Friday is the unlucky day; and in others each day of the week is named for this domestic operation:—

A man had better ne'er been born Than have his nails on a Sunday shorn. Cut them on Monday, cut them for health; Cut them on Tuesday, cut them for wealth; Cut them on Wednesday, cut them for news; Cut them on Thursday, for a pair of new shoes; Cut them on Friday, cut them for sorrow; Cut them on Saturday, see your sweetheart to-morrow.

Many versions of this old-world rhyme exist; and it even makes its way into a comic song.

Mr. Jones would have married Miss Lundy, But he lost her, he lost her, and only because He cut his toe nails on a Sunday.

In October a flush and glory so bedeck the trees that their very leaves are flowers. Queenly in decay, nature assumes her crimson robes again.

And in the woods are many varied colours. The garden indeed is dun and faded.

There is a beauty inexpressible— A charm that cannot be passed by Without in some sort speaking to the soul.

—Scottish American.

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. W. S., Montreal.—Papers to hand. Thanks.

It is not often that we see the columns of the London Times newspaper occupied with matter pertaining to sport or pastimes, and, therefore, many, no doubt, were surprised, a few weeks ago, to find a long article inserted in its pages on the game of chess.

It is evident this unusual occurrence was in a great measure owing to the Berlin Congress and Tourney, and the important part taken in the latter by an English chess-player. Mr Blackburne's success in this contest appears to have reached the hearts of hundreds in the British Islands, not excepting newspaper editors, who, ordinarily, are so accustomed to receive exciting news, that they seldom exhibit any emotion, except an earnest desire to satisfy public curiosity.

The Times, besides giving full details of the Berlin Tourney, enters into some instructive remarks on the nature and history of the game, and, then, strongly recommends it for study. It says that all young people ought to learn chess, and that this should be done in early life, "as without that it cannot be played with the requisite rapidity."

It also says that "the present age is sufficiently addicted to amusement, but, then, it takes the athletic varieties."

"Our young men and maidens bid fair to be strong and lusty enough, as far as outdoor sports and exercises can do this."

And then follow remarks which we cordially recommend to the notice of our young chess-players.

"This kind of training will have its value even to the end of life in the health and strength to which it naturally contributes. But if the healthiest and strongest live long enough, they will survive gymnastics, and yet find an increasing difficulty in spending cheerfully their evenings at home."

We must say that it gave us much pleasure to see our noble game brought so prominently and, at the same time, so favourably, before the notice of the thousands who daily read the pages of the Times. It is strong evidence of the fact that chess is progressing so rapidly in public estimation, that, instead of its being, as it was some years ago, the recreation of only a few, it will, in a short time, be recognized as the most popular home amusement of every civilized community.

CHESS IN SCOTLAND.

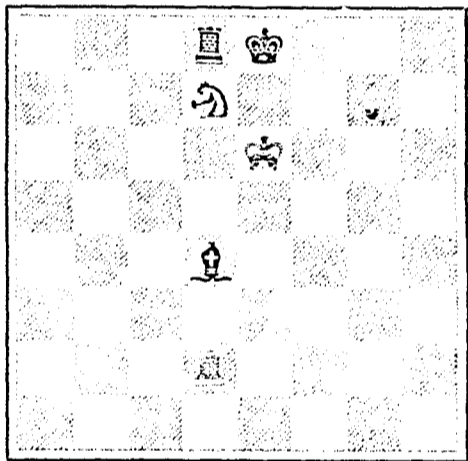
The Gold Medal Tourney at the Edinburgh Club is virtually a competition for the championship. This year the medal has been won by Mr. John Fraser. In the Tourney the scores of Mr. Macfie and Mr. Fraser were equal at 10—the tie match resulting in the victory of the latter. Mr. Meikle's score was 9½.—British Chess Magazine.

PROBLEM No. 351.

(From the Glasgow Herald.)

By J. Russell, Glasgow.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

GAME 480TH.

A remarkably brilliant game played in the Berlin Tourney between Messrs. Schwarz and Schallopp. (Sicilian Defence.)

Table of chess moves for Game 480th, listing moves for White (Herr Schwarz) and Black (Herr Schallopp) from 1. P to K4 to 34. Q to R4 (ch).

NOTES.

(a) The Field says in a note on this move that "White's conduct of this game, as a whole, is an introduction of a coming master."

SOLUTIONS.

Solution of Problem No. 351.

White. Black.

- 1. Q to QR sq 1 Any
2. Mates acc.

Solution of Problem for Young Players No. 349.

White. Black.

- 1. Kt to Q1B4 1. K takes R
2. Kt to Kt2 mate

PROBLEMS FOR YOUNG PLAYERS No. 350.

White. Black.

- K at KR4 K at Q2
Q at Q1B4 Q at KR8
R at KR7 R at KR4
R at QR6 R at QR4
Kt at K7 Kt at KB6
Pa w at KB5 Pawns at K5,
K R2, R K3,
Q B2 and 3.

White to play and mate in three moves.

WHICH IS IT?—Two of our young men went to Henderson this week to see the Misses Jones' two very estimable young ladies there. A colored girl came to the door and the following conversation took place:

"Are the Misses Jones in?"
"Yes, sah, Mrs. Jones am in. Does you want to see her?"
"No, we want to see the Misses Jones."
"Mrs. Jones, dat's what I said."
"We want to see the the Misses Jones, can't you understand?"
"Course I kin. De Mrs. Jones am de old lady. Dat's de only missus in dis hear house."
"We want to see the old lady's daughters."
"O, de Miss Joneses. Why did'nt you say so? I reckon you'se both drunk. Come pesterin' round heah wid yo' misses and missus. You'd better clear out, you can't peddle no books heah, you heah me?" And she slammed the door in the faces of the astonished young bloods. This is an actual occurrence.—Evansville Argus.



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F. BRAUN, Secretary.

Dept. of Railways and Canals, Ottawa, Oct. 24th, 1881.

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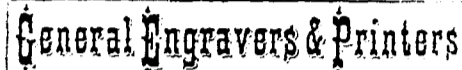
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