

THE TALE OF THE TERRIBLE FIRE.

I will tell you the tale of the terrible fire : It springs from the earth—it is dreadful and dire.

In the dark Wintry sky, See the spark Upward fly; See it glow In its frame— See it glow Into flame!

See it burning and blazing, See it spring into life With a vigour amazing— How it longs for the strife! Hear the noise and the rattle— How it swells, how it grows, Like the crash of a battle, Like the clash of the foes

See it rushing and rising and roaring, See it trying to touch a tall star : It seems in the sky to be soaring Like a flag of fierce flame from afar. See it turning and burning and blazing— See it streaming and gleaming and red! Ah! the smoke in the air now is waving Like a winding sheet of dull lead.

Hear it laugh with wild glee at each futile endeavour To quench or to quell its exuberant force : It is flaming and free and fantastic forever : It delights and exults with no pang of remorse. With no pain, with but passion—and passion—it quivers With its pennon of scarlet, the bloodiest hue. With its gleaming streams and its roaring river, It dares to do all things that flame dares to do.

How it darts, how it dances and dashes, As though it had taken for aim To reduce all the world into ashes And to fling all the stars into flame! It is glittering and glowing and glaring— And raging it rings its own keel! It is showing its wonderful daring— It is turning the sky into hell!

How it lazily lingers With its swell and its fall, With its busy fingers Weirily weaving a pall, With its horrible hiss, Like the wind in a storm, With its blistering kisses, On face and on form!

Of its flashes Bewell! Only ashes Are left : Till its cries Tell its doom— And it dies In the gloom

I have told you the tale of the terrible fire : It has sung its last song to its luminous pyre— It has sung its last song, it has breathed its last breath, It has lived without life, it has died without death.

—From Appétour Journal for July.

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

Solutions to Problems sent in by Correspondents will be duly acknowledged.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. W. S., Montreal.—Letter and contents received. Thanks

E. S. W., St. John, N.B.—Many thanks for the diagram, although not suitable for our Column, it shall receive attention.

C. B., Montreal.—Letter and score of game received. Thanks. We hope to be able to insert the latter shortly.

F. A. R., Montreal.—Your problem has been inspected, but it is too easy for our Column.

Student, Montreal.—Correct solution of Problem No. 176 received.

LADY CHESSPLAYERS.

(From the Field.)

COLLEGE CHESS CLUB.—Mr. Blackburne gave a blindfold performance on Friday, the 17th of last month, at this club, which consists of ladies and gentlemen who meet at the Ladies' College, Little Queen street, Holborn. The usual attractions of such exhibitions were greatly enhanced on this occasion by the quality of his opponents, who, six in number, all belonged to the fair sex; they were Mrs. Down, Mrs. Skellock, Miss Florence Down, Mrs. Jamieson, Mrs. Whittington, and Miss Nellie Down. The first-named lady has already earned the reputation of being, probably, the best metropolitan lady player, and she won, a short time ago, the first prize in the tournament of the above club, though some of the male competitors were practised members of other strong metropolitan chess societies. Mrs. Down held her own successfully against her celebrated blindfold antagonist, who had to resign a well-fought contest after about thirty moves on each side. The other amateurs made as good a fight as could be expected against such a gigantic opponent, but had ultimately to succumb. The proceedings were watched by a large number of metropolitan chess masters and amateurs.

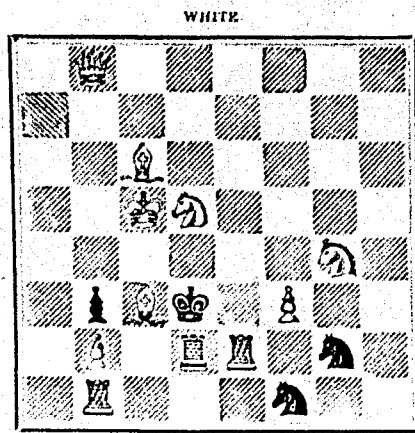
The Huddersfield College Magazine, in calling attention to the Canadian Chess Correspondence Tourney, in its last number, makes the following remarks:— "In a letter which appeared in the Canadian Illustrated News some months ago, suggesting this same Tourney, Mr. Shaw alluded to the "seeming indifference" with which Canadian Chess was regarded by English journals. We trust this magazine was exempted from such an accusation. We have on various occasions given items of news from the colony, we beg pardon, the "Dominion" of Canada, and shall be pleased to publish some of the games when finished, that are now in progress in our good friend's tourney."

We had a glance at a copy of Mr. Bird's long anticipated work "Chess Openings," which has been sent to a gentleman in Montreal. It seems excellently got up, and we have no doubt the contents are equally satisfactory. We shall be glad to say more about this, however, when we obtain a copy for inspection.

PROBLEM No. 179.

By G. E. CARPENTER.

From "Miles" forthcoming "Chess Games," (From the Derbyshire Advertiser.)



BLACK.

White to play and mate in two moves.

GAME 296TH.

(From Land and Water.)

BLINDFOLD CHESS.

One of the games played by Mr. Blackburne against six lady opponents, at the College Chess Club recently.

(Centre Gambit.)

WHITE.—(Mr. Blackburne) BLACK.—(Miss Nellie Down.)

- 1. P to K 4 1. P to K 4
2. P to Q 4 2. P takes P
3. B to Q B 4 3. B to B 4 (a)
4. B takes P (ch) 4. K to B sq (b)
5. B takes Kt (c) 5. R takes B (d)
6. Q to R 5 6. P to Q 4
7. B to Kt 5 7. Q to Q 2 (e)
8. Q takes P 8. Q to B 2
9. Kt to K B 3 9. Kt to B 3
10. Castles 10. Kt to K 4 (f)
11. Kt takes Kt 11. P takes Kt
12. P to K B 4 12. Q to K 3 (g)
13. Kt to Q 2 13. B to K 2
14. Kt to B 3 14. B takes B (h)
15. Kt takes B 15. Q to K sq
16. P takes P (dis. ch) 16. K to K 2
17. R to B 7 (ch) 17. K to Q sq
18. Q to R 4 18. B to Q 2
19. P to K 6 19. B to Kt 4 (i)
20. P to R 4 20. B takes P (j)
21. Q to B 4 21. Q to B 4
22. R takes B 22. P to K 4
23. R to R 6 23. Q to B 4
24. P to Q Kt 4 (k) Resigns.

NOTES.

- (a) De Vere favoured this move, and no doubt as between players of equal skill it may be used sometimes by way of variety in off-hand games. However Kt to K B 3 is the correct continuation.
(b) The Bishop should be taken.
(c) Mr. Blackburne would admit that B to Kt 3 is somewhat stronger. However, the move in the text has its points.
(d) The King should take.
(e) Blocking up the Q B, and thereby slighting those spiteful things the principles. Q to K sq should have been played.
(f) Not good, but it is difficult to suggest any satisfactory line of play for White here—B to R 4, and then Kt to R 3. Black's best resource is perhaps B to K Kt 5, with the object of yielding the Q to R 4.
(g) P to Q 6 (dis. ch) yields no sense, and in fact there is really nothing hopeful to be done. If there were any misogynist present, no doubt the contemptible creature rubbed his hands with unguilty glee.
(h) Determined at any rate to take vengeance upon that most annoying Bishop.
(i) Best under the sad circumstances of the case, because if B to B third, then 2) Q to B fourth, winning easily.
(j) She could do nothing better, for if B to R third, then R to Q seventh (ch), followed by Q to B fourth.
(k) All this is skillful, though unelaborate.

GAME 297TH.

CANADIAN CHESS CORRESPONDENCE TOURNEY.

Game played recently between Messrs. Black and Wythe, Halifax, N. S.

(Evans Gambit.)

- WHITE.—George P. Black, Halifax, N. S. BLACK.—John T. Wythe, Halifax, N. S.
1. P to K 4 1. P to K 4
2. Kt to K B 3 2. Kt to Q B 3
3. B to Q B 4 3. B to Q B 4
4. P to Q Kt 4 4. B takes P
5. P to Q B 3 5. B to R 4
6. P to Q 4 6. P takes P
7. Castles 7. P takes P
8. Q to Q Kt 3 8. Q to K B 3
9. P to K 5 9. Q to Kt 3
10. Kt takes P 10. K Kt to K 2
11. Q Kt to K 2 11. P to Q Kt 4
12. B to Q 3 12. Q to K 3
13. Q to Q Kt 7 13. Kt to K Kt 3
14. Kt to K B 4 14. Kt takes Kt
15. B takes Kt 15. P to K R 3
16. Q takes Q Kt P 16. R to Q Kt sq
17. Q to Q B 4 17. Q takes Q
18. B takes Q 18. R to Q Kt 5
19. Q R to Q B sq 19. B to Q R 3
20. R takes B 20. R takes B
21. B to Q Kt 5 21. Kt to Q 5
22. Kt takes Kt 22. R takes Kt
23. Q R to Q sq 23. R takes R
24. R takes R 24. P to Q B 3
25. B to Q B 4 25. B to Q Kt 3
26. P to K Kt 3 26. P to K Kt 4
27. R to Q 6 27. P to K R 4
28. R to K B 6 28. R to R 2
29. K to Kt 2 29. K to K 9
30. P to K B 4 30. B to Q 5
31. R to Q 6 31. B to Q B 4
32. R to K B 6 32. P takes P
33. P takes P 33. B to Kt 5
34. K to B 3 34. P to Q R 4
35. B to Q Kt 3 35. P to K R 5
36. R to B 5 36. P to B 6
37. R to B 6

The game was here by agreement considered drawn.

SOLUTIONS.

Solution of Problem No. 177.

- WHITE. BLACK.
1. R to K 7 1. Kt takes R at K 7 (a)
2. Kt to K 8 2. Aught
3. Kt mates
(a) If 1) Kt takes R at B 4, White plays 2) Kt to K 3 (ch) etc.

Solution of Problem for Young Players No. 175.

- WHITE. BLACK.
1. Kt to Q B 7 (ch) 1. K to Q Kt sq
2. Kt to Q R 6 (dou ch) 2. K to R sq
3. Q to Q Kt 8 (ch) 3. R takes Q
4. Kt mates

PROBLEMS FOR YOUNG PLAYERS, No. 176.

- WHITE. BLACK.
K at K B 5 K at K R 4
R at K R sq B at K R 5
P at K Kt 2 Pawns at K R 3 and K Kt 6
White to play and mate in two moves.

SOME of the most palatial cafés on the Boulevards have lately been the haunts of well-dressed and aristocratic-looking card-sharps. Foreigners have been constantly warned that the people who frequent these places are tricksters with high-sounding names. A night or two ago an Englishman was sufficiently imprudent to play with some of these adventurers at the game known as "baccarat chemin de fer." He had in his pocket-book bank notes to the amount of 5,000L, all of which he lost or was robbed of.

LITERARY.

WILKIE COLLINS, the most "plotty" of novelists, spends as much money as he earns.

JAMES LAMBERT, the brave Scotchman—Charles Rade's "Hero and Martyr"—died in Glasgow a short time ago.

MR. MACKENZIE WALLACE has won, by his book on Russia, the Langlois prize of 3,000 francs from the French Academy.

MR. TENNYSON'S publishers are on the point of issuing a new edition of the "Poetical and Dramatic Works of the Poet Laureate" complete in one volume.

CANON FABER has in the press the lectures on "Sainted Workers" which he delivered during Lent at St. Andrew's, Holborn.

THE poem by George Eliot, which will appear in the July number of Macmillan's Magazine, will be entitled "A College Breakfast Party."

THE forthcoming number of the Nineteenth Century will contain an important article by Midhat Pacha on the past, present and future of Turkey.

MR. ARCHIBALD FORBES, who, for the present, has exchanged journalism for lecturing purposes, is going to the United States this summer, in order to deliver his lecture on his experiences with the Russian army.

A CURIOUS book is about to be published in London entitled "The Life of Jeremy Catnach," a ballad-monger of the Seven Dials. There will be forty-two woodcuts by Hewick. Only a limited number of copies will be printed.

IN the year 1869 there were but forty-nine libraries in the United States, containing in the aggregate 80,000 volumes. There are now in the country 3,622 libraries. All the libraries contain 13,000,000 volumes, not counting those in common and Sunday-schools.

MR. BRYANT'S first collection of poems did not fill his youthful pocket. A gentleman who long ago purchased for five dollars a copy of this first edition, now very rare, took the book to the venerable poet, asking that he should write his autograph therein. Mr. Bryant complied, saying, "Five dollars is more than I received on that whole edition."

THIS is about the time of year when the old man knocks off work and tells his wife he is going fishing, and he leaves home in the morning with a fishing-rod and a lunch, and in the dim twilight he is trundled up to the front door in a wheelbarrow by a semi-sober connoisseur, who says the old man has been sunstruck. Nobody ever finds out what becomes of the fish.

THE African explorer, Stanley, seems to have made himself rather unpopular at the Press Fund dinner. Some of his remarks drew down what were called upon a certain memorable occasion "unmistakable epithets." It is said that his remarks had something to do with supposed jealousies between England and America, but both the manner and the matter of his observations seemed to be equally displeasing to a large portion of his audience, and the speech came to an abrupt termination.

WHEN, nearly twenty years ago, Frederic Mistral dedicated his "Mireis" to Lamartine, the study of Provençal was not considered so important as it now is. Mistral, however, who has a strong belief in the regeneration of the tongue of the Troubadours, has been for years engaged upon a Provençal French Dictionary, which seems now to have a fair prospect of being published. It is to appear in *l'irratouat* at two francs each, and will form two volumes when completed.

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