

Musical.

All correspondence intended for this column should be directed to the Musical Editor, CANADIAN SPECTATOR Office, 162 St. James Street, Montreal.

Notices of Concerts in Provincial towns, &c. are invited, so as to keep musical amateurs well informed concerning the progress of the art in Canada.

THE third concert of the Philharmonic Society will be given in the Skating Rink on the 20th inst. Special efforts are being made by the Conductor and Committee to make this performance an unequivocal success, and we trust they will receive the hearty support of the public in their laudable endeavours to raise the taste of our people.

THE second of Mr. Barnes' Chamber Concerts took place in the Synod Hall on Thursday evening, a fashionable audience being present. A feature was the singing of Mrs. Barnes who has returned from the United States where she has been singing in Comic Opera. Mr. Barnes deserves great credit not only as a performer, but as a manager of first-class entertainments.

MR. SIMS REEVES is about to retire from public life. His son Mr. Herbert Reeves (also a Tenor) is studying with the hope of filling the honourable position occupied by the world renowned Artist.

VOCAL METHOD.

BY W. H. DANIELL.

"What method do you teach, sir?" "Vocal method, madame." "No; but I mean, what particular method do you use?" "A series of exercises with certain explanations, by the means of which I am enabled to assist the pupil in gaining a proper use of the voice." "But you do not yet understand me; I mean, what is the name of the method used by you, or, in other words, whose method is it?" How often does it happen that this persistent question is asked, and how seldom does the inquirer understand what she asks! "What method?" "Whose method?" And yet, if a name is given, what significance attaches to it! One answers, "the Garcia method"; another, "the Bassini method"; another, "the Streeter method"; while others claim "the pure Italian method"; and how much wiser is the questioner? How can she discriminate, or form any better opinion of the merits of the teacher after receiving her answer than before? What does she know of the various controversies that may have taken place between the exponents of different theories? Which brings us to another series of questions. What do people mean by this very formidable word which is so much used and abused? Are there so many different results to be arrived at; or are the results intended to be the same, though the roads be different? Have the persons whose names are attached to these various "methods" each discovered some new truth regarding vocal development, which properly entitles them to recognition as benefactors of the race; or have they merely dignified their own way of teaching with this high-sounding name?

That the last question may be answered affirmatively, we may ascertain by looking about our own city, where, at least, three teachers have asserted the existence of "methods" bearing their own names. As I believe that nobody will claim for either of them that truths heretofore unknown are now for the first time brought to light, it is fair to presume that the name is intended to apply to their individual manner of teaching. If this be the case, methods will be as numerous as teachers; for all teachers that are in earnest must differ in manner of teaching! No teacher can be the exact counterpart of another, without sinking his whole individuality, in which case his teaching becomes mechanical. Every teacher must have, and make use of, ideas of his or her own, especially as hardly two pupils can be taught in precisely the same way. Every teacher must know the needs of each pupil, and study out means to convey desired information. Frequently he must state the same truth over and over again, using different language each time, before it will be understood. Illustration must be used, and the dullness of the pupil be counteracted by the brightness of the teacher. Shall his particular manner of imparting information be called his "method"?

But there are those who claim to teach new truths who claim to have discovered some process by which singers may be made in short order! Others again, who claim to have gained new light, and having plausible tongues, create a furor for a time, and then disappear. Such are entitled to call their schemes "methods," even though they may not be such as we should approve of. But can any new truths be brought forward regarding "vocal culture"? Well, perhaps so, when the old models of architecture, sculpture, and painting are set aside for some improved work of the present century, but not until then! Why? Because the art of singing was brought to perfection one hundred and fifty years ago! Because the subject was most exhaustively treated by Bernacchi, Porpora, Redi, Mancini, and a host more, who followed the lead of the great head and founder of the Italian school of singing, FRANCESCO ANTONIO PISTOCCHI, and who taught so well that none since their time have been able to improve on their work! Of this last-mentioned great man, history has made but slight mention; yet the fact exists, that from him came the true school of singing. Of him it was said, "He refined the manner of singing in Italy, which before his time was very crude!" Bernacchi was his pupil; and it is not impossible that Porpora and Redi might also have been, but of that there is no certainty. Mancini was the pupil of Bernacchi, and wrote a book which is in print to-day, in which he gave some account of his contemporaries, and also "reflections" on the art of singing. Most assuredly the ground was all covered at that time. Let any one at this day make a statement regarding singing which proves to be correct, and you will surely find it in the teachings of those old masters! The Streeter "method," which so astonished the musical world of Boston a few years since, was indebted to the "Old Italian School" for all that was truthful therein. To this, the really good part, were added certain fallacious doctrines, such as "no register," and "definite location of tone," which were accepted by the disciples of the new method as being necessarily true, because the part relating to "ease of tone" was undeniably true. Dr. Streeter was entitled to his opinions, but, as a part of his "method" which produced the results had been long ago established as one of the principles of the "Italian School," it would seem proper to speak of the Streeter doctrine rather than method!

The Garcia and Bassini "methods" are said to be nearly identical, and are only means used by those masters to teach the principles of the "old school." In fact, you cannot take up a single written "method" for vocal instruction (except Dr. Streeter's) without finding therein much reference to the doings of the old singers, and quotation from the words of the old teachers. It must of necessity be so, for reasons stated above: they said all that could be said! But one thing was very noticeable with regard to the teachers of old: they took plenty of time to do their work! No "method" would make people sing, unless they did their part!

It is unfortunately the fact that many people desire to become singers without work, which has given rise to numerous so-called "methods," whereby the inventors make money, and the victims have the satisfaction of experimenting, but necessarily to no purpose; for it is not the case now, and never was, that singers could be formed without effort on their own part. It may be said, however, that, to the thoughtful student, no study is more enjoyable, more satisfactory, or more fruitful of pleasurable results than that of the voice, when such study is pursued with "method."

Boston Musical Herald.

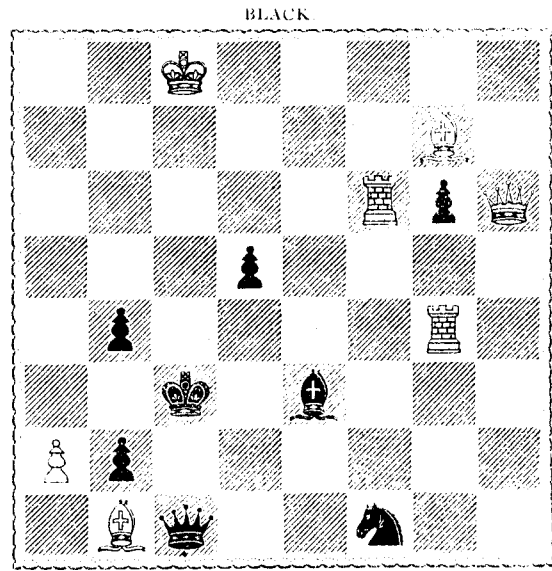
Chess.

All Correspondence intended for this Column, and all changes, should be directed to the CHESS EDITOR, CANADIAN SPECTATOR Office, 162 St. James Street, Montreal.

Montreal, May 1st, 1880

PROBLEM NO. LXIX.

By Th. Jensen, of Christiania. From the *Nordisk Skakblad*.



WHITE.  
White to play and mate in two moves.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM NO. LXVI. By J. Paul Taylor. Kt to Q 7.

Correct solution received from J.W.S., "A pretty stroke;" J.H., "A neat problem;" C.H.W.; J.B.

GAME NO. LXIV.

Played between Mr. John Watkinson, the President of the Huddersfield Chess Club, and Mr. Lindsay, Conservative candidate at the late Huddersfield election, March 25th, 1880. From the *Huddersfield Daily Examiner*.

EVANS GAMBIT.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
Mr. Watkinson.	Mr. Lindsay.	10 B to Q Kt 5 (b)	B to Kt 3	20 Kt takes P (ch)	K to Kt 1
1 P to K 4	P to K 4	11 P to K 5	P takes P	21 Kt to Kt 4	P to K R 4
2 Kt to K B 3	Kt to Q B 3	12 P to Q 5	Kt to Q 5	22 Kt to K 1	P to K R 5
3 B to Q B 4	B to Q B 4	13 B takes B (ch)	Q takes B	23 K Kt to Q B 4	B to Q 5
4 Castles	P to Q 3	14 Q takes Q (ch)	K takes Q	24 Q R to Q sq	R to R 4
5 P to Q Kt 4	B takes Kt P	15 Kt takes P (ch)	K to K sq	25 K R to K sq	Q R to K sq (d)
6 P to Q B 3	B to Q R 4	16 Kt to Q R 3	P to K B 3	26 Kt to K 3	B takes Kt
7 P to Q 4	P takes P	17 B takes Kt (c)	P takes B	27 R takes Kt and wins.	
8 P takes P	Kt to K R 4 (a)	18 Kt to Kt 4	Kt to K 7 (ch)		
9 Q to Q R 4	B to Q 2	19 K to R sq	K to B 2		

NOTES.—(a) B to Kt 3 is undoubtedly the best move here.  
(b) White's first intention of playing 10 P to Q 5 would have turned out even better than the move actually made.  
(c) This wins a pawn; if Black play 17 P takes Kt, the reply is, of course, B takes P.  
(d) Tempting White to capture the B, when he would be mated by force in four moves.

CHESS INTELLIGENCE.

MONTREAL CHESS CLUB.—A special meeting of the Club was called for last Saturday evening to discuss a challenge from the Quebec Club to play a match by telegraph with not fewer than twelve players on each side, to be chosen by ballot, each player to play one game with his opponent. It was unanimously agreed to accept the challenge as it stood, with the exception of a few minor points which will not, we are sure, prove objectionable to the challengers, and the event will most likely take place next week.

CHESS MEN EXTRAORDINARY.—A few weeks ago we mentioned a set of gigantic and highly finished chess men, the property of Mr. J. W. Shaw of Montreal. We now chronicle a less artistic but more useful set of chess men, the maximum height of which is three-quarters of an inch. They are made by Mr. A. Hood of Barrie, Ont., as he himself says, with a jack-knife, and are formed to peg into holes in the squares of a small board eight inches square. Mr. Hood has made six sets and boards to match, so that he can at once see the position of his game with any one of his six opponents in Dr. Ryall's Correspondence Tourney. Each board being surrounded by a ledge of the same height as the men, the six boards rest comfortably on each other without the possibility of any of the men being displaced, and all fit into a box with lock and key. Mr. Hood says that these boards and men are so handy for playing correspondence games that he never thinks of setting up a post-card game on an ordinary board, and is of opinion that if the manufacture of them was taken up, and they were sold at a reasonable figure, there would be a considerable demand for them.

MR. H. C. ALLEN has not, we are glad to say, severed his connection with the *Turf, Field and Farm* chess column, but quite the contrary, having taken entire control of it. Captain McKenzie has, however, resigned his position in it and promises the chess public his best endeavours in some new sphere. The new arrangement augurs well for chess, for Mr. Allen announces a new and novel Chess Problem Tourney, to which the proprietors of the *Turf* have contributed a handsome sum for prizes. The particulars will very soon be announced. In addition to the *Turf* column, Mr. Allen will conduct a lengthy chess department in *Brentano's Monthly Magazine*. The preliminary article appears in the April number.

ITEMS.—The terms of the match between Zukertort and Rosenthal are settled and the deposits paid. It will come off shortly at the St. George's Club in London; the victor is he who first scores seven games.—Grundy alias Glover is in St. Louis, and says he intends to make that city his future home. His ways are, however, devious.—M. Grevy, President of the French Republic, has placed the sum of 6000 francs (\$1,200) at the disposal of the Paris Circle des Echecs for prizes in a grand National French Tournament.—The Chess Club Directory for England, Wales and the Isle of Man, by Mr. W. R. Bland, Chess Editor of *Design and Work*, Duffield, near Derby, is issued. Price two shillings and six pence (75 cents). This most valuable little book contains the particulars of 170 Chess Clubs throughout England and Wales; names and address of Presidents and Secretaries; times and places of meeting; terms of subscription, &c.; also an index to all the chess columns and periodicals known, with much other valuable information. We will notice it more extensively in a future number.