

"Very well. I will let you know how it ends, by means of the gardener. Take my advice. Go home." Benjamin placed my arm in his. I looked back, and saw the doctor and the gardener ascending the stairs together, on their way to the locked-up room. "Never mind the doctor!" I whispered. "Let's wait in the garden." Benjamin would not hear of deceiving the doctor. "I mean to take you home," he said. I looked at him in amazement. My old friend, who was all meekness and submission, so long as there was no emergency to try him, now showed the dormant reserve of manly spirit and decision in his nature, as he had never, in my experience, shown it yet. He led me into the garden. We had kept our cab; it was waiting for us at the gate. On our way home Benjamin produced his note-book. "What's to be done, my dear, with the gibberish that I have written here?" he said. "Give it to me!" "What are you going to do with it?" "I don't know yet. I will ask Mr. Playmore."

CHAPTER XI.

MR. PLAYMORE IS A NEW CHARACTER.

By that night's post—although I was far from being fit to make the exertion—I wrote to Mr. Playmore, to tell him what had taken place, and to beg for his earliest assistance and advice.

The notes in Benjamin's book were partly written in short hand, and were, on that account, of no use to me in their existing condition. At my request, he made two fair copies, one of the copies I enclosed in my letter to Mr. Playmore. The other I laid by me, on my bedside table, when I went to rest.

Over and over again, through the long hours of the wakeful night, I read and re-read the last words which had dropped from Miserrimus Dexter's lips. Was it possible to interpret them to any useful purpose? At the very outset, they seemed to set interpretation at defiance. After trying vainly to solve the hopeless problem, I did at last what I might as well have done at first—I threw down the paper in despair. Where were my bright visions of discovery and success now? Scattered to the winds! Was there the faintest chance of the stricken man's return to reason? I remembered too well what I had seen to hope for it. The closing lines of the medical report which I had read in Mr. Playmore's office recurred to my memory, in the stillness of the night. "When the catastrophe has happened, his friends can entertain no hope of his cure; the balance once lost, will be lost for life."

The confirmation of that terrible sentence was not long in reaching me. On the next morning the gardener brought a note, containing the information which the doctor had pointed to give me on the previous day.

Miserrimus Dexter and Ariel were still where Benjamin and I had left them together—in the long room. They were watched by skilled attendants; waiting the decision of Dexter's nearest relative (a younger brother), who lived in the country, and who had been communicated with by telegraph. It had been found impossible to part the faithful Ariel from her Master, without using the bodily restraint adopted in cases of raging insanity. The doctor and the gardener (both unusually strong men) had failed to hold the poor creature, when they first attempted to remove her on entering the room. Directly they permitted her to return to her Master, the frenzy vanished; she was perfectly quiet and contented, so long as they let her sit at his feet and look at him.

Such as this was, the report of Miserrimus Dexter's condition was more melancholy still. "My patient is in a state of absolute imbecility"—these were the words in the doctor's letter; and the gardener's simple narrative confirmed them as the truest words that could have been used. He was utterly unconscious of poor Ariel's devotion to him—he did not even appear to know that she was present in the room.

(To be continued.)

HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

Feb. 16.—The French libel suit of Gen. Wimpfen vs. M. Paul de Cassagne has gone in favor of the Defendant, with costs against Wimpfen.

The steamer Leipsic, from Bremen for New York, ran ashore at Plymouth, yesterday. Passengers, mails and stores were safely landed.

It was stated in the Imperial House of Commons, last night, that instructions were to be immediately sent to the British Minister at Madrid to recognize Alfonso.

Feb. 17.—General Lazerna has been appointed Chief of Alfonso's Military Cabinet.

The British steamer George Batters is reported lost, with 21 persons on board.

The Montreal City Omnibus and Transfer Company's bill has passed the Upper House, without further amendment.

John Mitchell has been elected to the Imperial Parliament by acclamation, to represent the County of Tipperary, Ireland.

The French Prince Imperial has taken a very high position among his fellow students at Woolwich, both in scholastic and physical studies.

Dr. Kennedy has been elected to the English House of Commons for the constituency of Stoke-upon-Trent, Notts, by a majority of 2,000.

Feb. 18.—Le Pays says Prince Napoleon will henceforth devote himself to the Imperialist policy.

A St. Petersburg despatch says the Russian Government is engaged in discussing its relations with England.

Sir Garnet Wolseley is to be sent to Natal, to reorganizing the defensive system and regulate affairs with the natives.

John Mitchell, member elect of the Imperial House of Commons from the County of Tipperary, announces his intention of again running should his election be annulled.

Feb. 19.—President Grant has issued a proclamation for an extra session of the United States Senate on the 5th prox.

An Encyclical letter from the Pope to the Russian Bishops condemns the Falk ecclesiastical laws, and excommunicates all clergy receiving benefices from the State.

Mr. James F. Frazer, Conservative, has been returned by a majority of 133 for London, Ont., to fill the vacancy occasioned by the disqualification, for personal bribery and corrupt practices, of Major Walker, the late member. Chief Justice Wood of Manitoba, yesterday, fined Mr. Laxton, Editor of the Free Press, \$200, and imprisonment till it was paid, for publishing strictures on the Judge's action in the Schultz perjury case. The fine was immediately subscribed.

In the Imperial House of Commons, yesterday, Mr. Disraeli's motion for the expulsion of John Mitchell was carried without a division. A motion to refer the matter to committee was negatived by a large majority. A new writ has been issued.

The Right and Left Centres of the French Assembly have agreed upon a new Senate Bill, which provides that the Assembly shall appoint 75 Senators, who may be removable; the remaining 225 to be elected by Councils-General, Municipal Councils and Councils of Arrondissements, one-third of that number to be renewed every three years.

Feb. 20.—Prince Bismarck has consented to remain in office at the personal appeal of the Emperor.

The inspection of ballots in the Montreal West election case commenced at Ottawa, yesterday.

John Mitchell has again announced himself as a candidate for Tipperary. It is said he will encounter no opposition.

Five girls lost their lives last Saturday, by an explosion in the safety fuse works at Redruth, Cornwall, England.

The indemnity to be paid by Spain to the relatives of the American victims of the Virginias outrage has been fixed to \$24,000.

The Germania, a Prussian newspaper, has been confiscated, and its proprietors are to be prosecuted for publishing the Pope's late encyclical to the Protestant Bishops.

Germany is becoming alarmed at the outflow of her population, and is taking measures, by opposing the action of Emigration Agents and otherwise, to remedy the matter.

The Left have given their support to the Senate Bill now before the French Assembly. The Bonapartists will move an amendment to the Bill, to elect Senators by universal suffrage.

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

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

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. W. B. Toronto.—Correct solutions of Problems No. 2 and 3.

A. D. Carleton.—Correct solution of Problem No. 3. Solutions of No. 4 and No. 5 not quite correct.

E. L. Montreal.—Solution of Problem No. 4 not correct. Suppose Black's Book should check after White's first move.

D. Trappe, Montreal.—Correct solution to No. 4 of Problems for Young Players.

We learn that the Tournament of the Quebec Club is not finished, so we cannot as yet, give any results. We have had one of the games already played kindly sent to us, and it shall appear next week. The club in old Stadacona is in flourishing condition, and, we are informed, more than sixty members.

It appears that next year an International Congress of chess players will be held at Philadelphia, under the auspices of the American Chess Association. Mr. Morphy, it is said, will take part in the play. The best players of England and the Continent are also expected to be in attendance. Chess interest on this side of the Atlantic is certainly on the increase.

SOLUTIONS.

Solution of Problem No. 6.

- WHITE. 1. B to Q 7th ch. 2. K to Q B 4th, discover, covering check. 3. K to K B 6th ch. 4. Q Kt P two checkmate. BLACK. 1. K takes R (best). 2. R takes Q. 3. K to Q B 4th. 4. R takes Q.

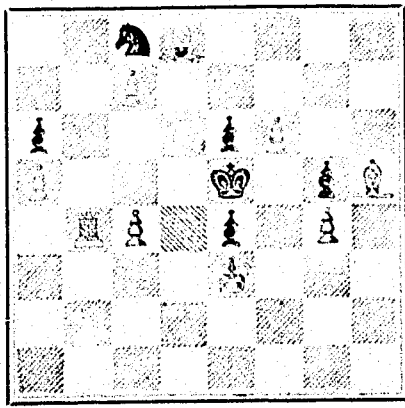
Solution of Problem for Young Players.

- No. 5. WHITE. 1. Q takes K B P ch. 2. R to Q 8th ch. 3. B to Q 4th ch. 4. Q to K Kt 8th ch. 5. K to K B 7th ch mate. BLACK. 1. K to R sq. 2. R takes R (best). 3. Kt takes B, or CA. 4. R takes Q. (A) 3. Kt from R 4th to Kt 2. 4. Kt takes Q.

PROBLEM No. 8.

By J. Henderson (St. Liboire), Montreal.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in four moves.

PROBLEMS FOR YOUNG PLAYERS.—No. 6.

- WHITE. 1. K at Q R sq. 2. Q at Q B 6th. 3. R at Q B sq. 4. Kt at Q 4th. 5. Pawn at K R 2nd, K 3rd, Q Kt 2nd, and at Q R 2nd. BLACK. 1. K at Q Kt sq. 2. Q at K 5th. 3. R at K Kt sq. 4. Kt at K R 3rd. 5. Pawn at K R 2nd, K Kt 2nd, Q 4th, Q Kt 3rd, and at Q R 2nd. White to play and mate in five moves.

GAME 12th.

Played in London, Eng., between Mr. Harrwitz and a skillful Metropolitan Amateur.

Amateur. (Ginoco Plan.)

- WHITE. 1. P to K 4th. 2. K Kt to B 3rd. 3. R B to Q B 4th. 4. P to Q B 3rd. 5. P to Q 4th. 6. P to K 5th. 7. K B to Q Kt 5th. 8. P takes P. 9. Q B to Q 2nd. 10. Q Kt takes B. 11. Q to Q B 2nd. 12. Q Kt takes Kt. 13. Q B takes Kt. 14. B takes Q Kt P. 15. B takes P. 16. P to Q 5th. 17. Q to K 4th. 18. P to K B 4th. 19. K to Q 2nd. 20. K to Q B 3rd (ch). 21. P to Q Kt 4th. 22. Q to Q B 2nd. 23. P to Q R 3rd. 24. Q R to K sq. 25. R takes R. 26. K to Q Kt 3rd. 27. P takes P. 28. Q to Q B 3rd. 29. R to K sq. 30. P to K R 3rd. 31. R to K 6th. 32. K to Q 4th. 33. K to Q B 5th. 34. Q to K sq (ch). BLACK. P to K 4th. Q Kt to B 3rd. K B to Q B 4th. K Kt to B 3rd. P takes P. P to Q 4th. K Kt to K 5th. K B to Q Kt 5th (ch). B takes B. Q B to K Kt 5th. Castles. P takes Kt. P takes K Kt. P takes K Kt P. Q B to Q B sq. Q to K Kt 4th. K R to K sq. Q to K R 5th (ch). Q to K B 7th (ch). K R to Q Kt sq (ch). P takes K B P. R takes K B P. P to Q R 4th. P takes R (ch). P takes K Kt P. Q to K 6th (ch). Q to K 2nd. Q to Q 3rd. B to K R 4th. B to Q 4th (ch). B to K 5th (ch). B to Q R 5th (ch). Q to K 5th (ch).

- (a) A dangerous place for a King. (b) Black immediately takes advantage of White's move. (c) A good move. (d) Well played. (e) And Black gave mate in three moves, which we will leave as a problem for young players.

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LA BANQUE DU PEUPLE, NOTICE. THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the STOCKHOLDERS of the BANQUE DU PEUPLE will be held at the Office of the Bank, ST. JAMES STREET, on MONDAY, the FIRST of MARCH next, at THREE o'clock p. m., in conformity with the 16th and 17th clauses of the Act of Incorporation. By order of the Board of Directors, A. A. TROTTER, Cashier. 11-7-3-91.

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