

MIGNONNE.

Mignonne! Mignonne! let me tell
One sweet olden story:
Linger yet within the dell
Bright with sunset glory.

Mignonne! Mignonne! lift your eyes,
For the green dell darkens!
Evo's first star is in the skies,
And the sweet bird harkens—

Mignonne! Mignonne! once again,
As we wander slowly
Homeward through the fragrant glen,
Lift your glances holy.

SUSAN E. DICKINSON.

FROZEN MEAT.

I was greatly pleased by the receipt of an invitation from a friend connected with the eminent firm of Australian merchants, Messrs. Dargety, Ducroz, and Co., of Lombard street, to accompany him to the Royal Albert Docks in order to get on board the Orient Company's steamship Gacome, just arrived from New South Wales, having as part of its freight 4,357 carcasses of frozen mutton and 186 quarters of beef, consigned to them for sale.

Starting from Fenchurch street, a run of half-an-hour by train brought me to the Albert Docks, of the existence of which I was unaware, and the magnitude of the undertaking, connected as it is with the Victoria Docks, extending in length somewhere about two miles, the vast steamships, the arrangements for loading and unloading, the system of electric lights, the gangs of dockyard laborers, the newly-arrived passengers, the mountains of luggage and merchandise, told me that though it is the last of this description of enterprise it is not the least.

Passing up the side of the vast ship, jostling with a host of passengers disembarking after the long passage of fifty-two days from Sydney, I reached the deck, and after looking at the grand saloon and comfortable berths of this noble vessel, I descended a remarkably steep ladder, not such as a landsman is accustomed to, in order to board the hulk which was being moored alongside.

On previous occasions, when a consignment of frozen meat arrived in the docks, it had immediately to be landed, and placed on the market for sale; consequently it suffered in condition, and the venture did not turn out as satisfactory as expected.

It was evident that some plan for storage must be adopted in a place where the temperature would be the same as that in the frozen chamber of the vessel in which the carcasses were brought over.

The hulk of an old vessel has therefore been fitted up with an engine and machinery in order to carry on the process of freezing in a similar way to that employed in the steamship. As soon as the luggage was cleared away the hermetically sealed doors of the chamber were opened, and gangs of men lifted the carcasses, handing them over the side to the hulk, where they were placed in the hold, there to remain in a frozen state, only to be dealt out as required from time to time, according to the market demand. The prudence of such an arrangement is obvious; the valuable consignment has no longer to be thrown on to a glutted market, or exposed to a humid atmosphere by which its keeping qualities are endangered after so long a term of artificial preservation.

Each carcass is wrapped in a cloth, and every one that I examined was perfectly sweet and fresh, representing mutton of very excellent quality—not, perhaps, equal to our South-down sheep, which was hardly to be expected, but an article which will most satisfactorily help to fill the gap that now exists in our meat markets. In order to support such an undertaking the public must abolish prejudice, and not be dissatisfied should the first trial prove unequal to their expectation. The meat must be thoroughly thawed before being cooked, and it will then be found to be palatable and wholesome. Arrangements have been made on board the hulk by which, if desired, the meat may be thawed prior to delivery. There is, as yet, much to be learned as to the treatment of frozen meat; and it is in the interest of the whole community that a fair trial should be given, and every allowance made for any shortcomings at first in a trade which ought to prove a partial remedy for the state of things now affecting grievously the housekeepers of England.

Unless a fair trial is given to the importance of frozen meat, and every encouragement held out to shippers, we shall run the risk of losing what may hereafter become a regular and large supply. The first shipments are said to have resulted in a loss to the colonial exporters of £3,000 on 21,000 carcasses. This loss is attributable, no doubt, to the fact of one or two cargoes arriving out of condition; but when we

read that those carcasses which arrived in good order realized fully 6d. a lb., which is something like 400 per cent. on the price in Adelaide, there is little doubt that every exertion will be made to reduce the cost of transport and render the process of freezing the meat perfect, which can only be done by time and experience in so novel a trade.

It appears from statistics which have been recently compiled that the stock of sheep in Australia amounts to the large total of eighty millions. Let the fact only be demonstrated that a regular supply can be obtained of mutton such as I examined at the Gacome, and I can see a way to the diminution of the difficulty now looming largely in the future as regards our meat supply. Let the trade be established with Australia, and it will not be long ere other countries will contribute. The Argentine Republic possesses sixty-eight millions of sheep, and Russia sixty three millions. It will be our own fault if meat should remain at famine prices for want of encouragement to those embarking in such important ventures. During the present week the carcasses will be delivered at the Central Meat Market for sale, and the public will be able to judge of the quality, and to ascertain the market price of this important addition to our meat supply.

Agriculturists need not fear the competition. All that can be sent to us from other countries, as well as all we can produce at home, will undoubtedly find a ready and remunerative market; whilst the British farmer may always uphold his supremacy in the meat market if he will maintain the quality of his sheep and cattle.

F. F. W.

"HAROLD," BY WILDENBRUCH.

The tragedy, "Harold," by Ernest von Wildenbruch, is having a great success everywhere in Germany. The story is the old one of the last Saxon King of England. The first act takes place in the reign of that amiable idiot, Edward the Confessor, and introduces Gatha, the widow of Earl Godwin, and her sons, Harold and Wolfnoth, at the Castle of Dover. The citizens are complaining of outrages perpetrated by the Norman Count d'Evereux, when King Edward arrives. He comes, however, not to redress grievances, but to welcome Duke William of Normandy. Harold refuses to open the castle gates to the foreigner, even when ordered by the King. He reminds the King of his cotenation oath, and Edward replies that, so far from calling the Normans into the land, Duke William is coming to take the oath of allegiance to him. Harold still refuses to obey, and is deprived of his earldom, banished the realm, and is declared to have forfeited his estates. His young brother, Wolfnoth, is detained as a hostage. This finale of the first act is very powerful. Gatha had, like Harold, been sentenced to exile, and the parting between her and her youngest son is very effective, and brought tears from every eye. The rest of the play gives us Harold as King, and makes him beloved by Adela, the daughter of William. In her arms the boy Wolfnoth dies, and she sees in a vision the fatal field of Senlac, the deadly arrow and the death of Harold, and then herself dies broken-hearted. Duke William lands on the Sussex coast, but the Saxons are demoralised by the appearance of a comet, and the Papal curses against their native king. Then comes the battle of Hastings. According to the version adopted by Wildenbruch, it is not Edith, the swan-necked, who screeches among piles of dead for the body of her lover, but Gatha, the venerable matron who is looking for the body of her son. William asks whom is she lamenting. "Harold," is the answer. "Bury him," replies the Conqueror, "in the sands of the shore." The mother pleads again, but William the Bastard is relentless and rejects her prayer. Then in hot haste comes a messenger from France announcing the death of Adela. "Whose name was the last on her lips?" he asks with the love of a father. "Harold's" is the answer. "Harold's," he repeats. "Then give this woman the body of her son." On this the curtain falls. It will be seen that Wildenbruch takes some liberties with history, and adopts novel views of the characters, both of the unfortunate Harold and his conqueror William. But the play is one of rare power and vigor. The language is fitting the subject, elevated, poetic and noble, while some of the scenic effects are very striking. Wildenbruch is the rising dramatist of Germany, perhaps of the world. His "Die Carolinger" was a brilliant triumph, and in "Harold" he has surpassed his previous work.

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

All communications intended for this Column should be addressed to the Chess Editor, CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, Montreal.

Nearly the whole of the chess column of The Field and Farm was taken up last week with accounts of the achievements of Mr. Steinitz in New York recently, and his brilliant play seems to have been greatly admired.

The time for the departure of the great player is, however, drawing nigh, as the International Chess Congress to be held in London, next April, will hold out great attractions to him, and a few others, who like him, have won renown in the noble game of chess.

The total amount subscribed a month ago to this great gathering was £1333 sterling, and since that time, no doubt, there must have been a considerable increase. Chess must have many admirers on the other side of the Atlantic, and it is but natural to anticipate good results from their liberality.

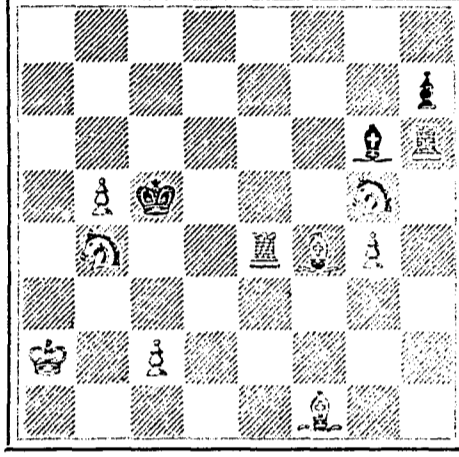
The champion chess-player of the world is still in New York. Last week he defeated such players as Delmar as easily as a lion kills a mouse. Mr. Teed, one of the best players of the metropolis, won one game from him. On last Thursday he played twenty-seven games at one time, winning nineteen, losing three and drawing five. He also played in a blindfold contest against four players on Saturday, the 17th inst., and at the same time took a hand at whist. Only one game was lost, which, Mr. Steinitz says, was due to a move not being distinctly called. There were present at the last encounter a number of ladies, who, we suppose, must have enjoyed themselves, although we can not understand how they endured being silent so long.—Globe-Democrat, St. Louis.

SOUTH AFRICA.—In a recent number we announced the formation of a chess club at Kimberley, Griqua Land West, by the zeal and energy of Mr. A. Michael, late of Birmingham, but now residing in the capital of the Diamond Fields. We have since received two copies of the Kimberley Daily Independent, from which we find that Mr. Michael has established a weekly chess column in that paper, and that on November 11th he gave a blindfold performance at the club, engaging simultaneously five of its members. Of these games he won three, and lost the other two, the winners being Messrs. Lowenthal and Schwabacher.—British Chess Magazine.

PROBLEM No. 423.

By S. Tyrell.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 423.

- White. 1 Q to Q B 6, 2 R to Q 6, 3 R mates. Black. 1 B takes R, 2 Any.

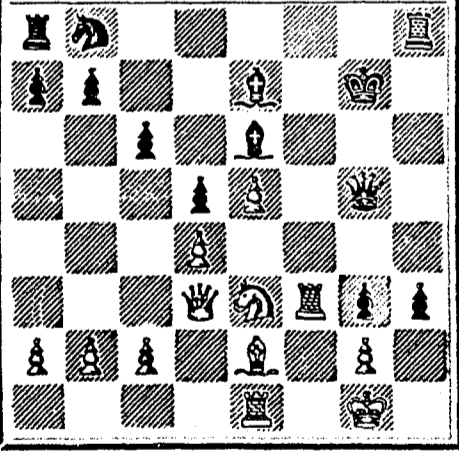
GAME 567H.

Recently played at Mephisto's Chess Room. Time half-an-hour. (Allgaier Thorold.)

- WHITE.—(Mephisto.) 1 P to K 4, 2 P to K B 4, 3 K Kt to B 3, 4 P to K R 4, 5 Kt to Kt 5, 6 Kt takes P, 7 P to Q 4, 8 B takes P, 9 R to K 2 (6), 10 Castles, 11 P to K 5 (6), 12 B to Kt 5 (6), 13 P takes Kt, 14 Q to Q 3, 15 Kt to B 3, 16 Q R to K sq, 17 Kt to Q sq, 18 R to B 3, 19 Kt to K 3. BLACK.—(G. F. Hope.) 1 P to K 4, 2 P takes P, 3 P to K Kt 4, 4 P to Kt 5, 5 P to K R 3, 6 K takes Kt, 7 P to Q 4, 8 K to B 3, 9 P to K R 4 (6), 10 K to Kt 2, 11 Kt to K 5, 12 Kt takes B, 13 Q takes P, 14 R to K 2, 15 P to B 3, 16 B to K 3 (6), 17 P to Kt 6, 18 P to R 5, 19 P to R 6 (6).

Position after Black's 19th move.

BLACK.



WHITE.

- 20 R takes P, 21 K to R sq, 22 Kt to B 5 ch, 23 Q takes Q ch, 24 P to K 6, 25 R to K B sq, 26 Q to K 5 ch, 27 Q to Q 6, 28 Q to B 4, 29 Q to Kt 4, 30 R to B 3, 31 R to R 3 (6), 32 B to Q 3, 33 Q to R 4 (6) Resigns.

We have much pleasure in drawing the attention of our readers to the above game, played and won by Master James F. Hope against Mephisto. The play shows some very high qualities, such as steadiness and good judgment. We do not know the exact age of Master Hope, which might be 12 to 14, but we confidently express it as our opinion, that long before he reaches the so-called years of discretion, he will develop into a first-class player.

NOTES.

- (a) Mr. Freeborough's variation. (b) Not advisable, as it allows the entry of White's pieces on Kt 5 which in some cases might be dangerous to Black, the Synopsis gives the following continuation 9 Kt to B 3, 10 Kt to B 3, 10 K to Kt 2, 11 B to K 5, 11 B to K 2, 12 B takes Kt P, 12 Kt takes Q B, 13 B takes B, 13 Q takes B, 14 P takes Kt, 14 Kt to R 2. (c) R to K 5 would have been better than P to K 5. (d) This of course is an oversight. (e) This shows good judgment, he develops his game well. (f) Although this loses the Queen, Black nevertheless gets three pieces. R to B sq would have served for defensive purposes. (g) The defence is very good and steady. (h) White could have won the game straight off by 3 B to Q 3, in which case Black could not prevent a mate, if R to Kt sq, R to R 3 ch wins, if R to B 3 then R takes R wins, or if R takes R then of course Q takes B wins, or if finally B takes B, then R to R 3 ch wins. (i) This of course is an oversight. (j) Black will now remain with a piece ahead.

—Chatterton's Chronicle.

The Chatterton-Hohrer concert company met with great success in Virginia last week, offers being immediately made for re-engagements. The harp, a novelty in the South, and in the hands of Mme. Chatterton-Hohrer, an artist of skill and power on her instrument, aroused the greatest enthusiasm. Miss Emma S. Howe's sweet soprano was highly appreciated, and Herr Richter delighted all hearers with his charming rendering of Brahms' "Hungarian Dances." The quartet combination of harp, violin, cello, violin and organ, selections from Handel and Corelli was on each occasion vociferously redemanded. Signor La Villa was the accompanist.

FITTS A Lending London Physician establishes an Office in New York for the Cure of EPILEPTIC FITS.

From Am. Journal of Medicine. Dr. Ab. Meserole (late of London), who makes a specialty of Epilepsy, has without doubt treated and cured more cases than any other living physician. His success has simply been astonishing; we have heard of cases of over 20 years' standing successfully cured by him. He has published a work on this disease, which he sends with a large bottle of his wonderful cure free to any sufferer who may send their express and P. O. Address. We advise any one wishing a cure to address Dr. AB. MESEROLE, No. 25 John St., New York.

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