

oured a doctor and a stone-mason, went back to the house with them, and desired the latter to remove the stone step at the foot of the cellar stairs.

He did so, and they discovered underneath it some bones which the doctor, after a hasty examination, pronounced to be those of a woman. They also detected a quantity of quick lime, which had evidently been placed there for the purpose of destroying the skeleton. Mrs. Merrit collected the remains, gave them Christian burial, and was never again troubled by the "Calico woman."

Some time afterward Mrs. Merrit learnt that in former years the old mansion had been an abode of smugglers, who were known to have a woman—a sort of "Ruth," in fact—among their number.

When they departed she mysteriously disappeared, and it was never exactly known what had become of her.

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DRAUGHTS-CHECKERS

Where is the *American Checker Review*? Neither the April, May nor June numbers have reached Halifax.

RETURN MATCH.

The Shubenacadie team have promised to meet the Halifax team for a return match in this city on the 21st instant. We expect that the same players will take part in this contest that engaged in the match at our recent visit to Shubenacadie. We have no doubt that it will be a pleasant occasion for all concerned. If it does not prove so it will not be through the neglect or inconsideration of the Halifax players.

SOLUTIONS.

Problem 167.—The position in 167 was;—Black men 1, 6, 9, 10, 11, 15; white men 13, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 28. Black to play and win
15--19 23--26 a-26--23 15--11
20 16 11 s 1-b S 12 12 16
11--20 26--30 23--19 1--5
18 15 8 3 12 8 16 14
19--23 30--26 19--15 9--25
15 11 3 8 8 12 b. wins.

(a) At this point 20 24, etc, as given by Joseph E. Cox in last week's issue, is a decisive win and, therefore, the best solution!

(b) Here we noted that Mr. Gates was the only solver who detected the value of 22 18. In regard to this move "Alpha, of Ottawa" writes as follows:—"I also noticed that move before sending in my solution, but as black could not force white to make it and, as white had really nothing to gain by making it, it seemed to me that any solution which brought in that move would not be sound, as it might be objected that white was not forced to give away the piece. It seems to me that a solution is not sound if it be contingent on a move which the opposite party may or may not make. You may reply 22 18 was white's best move. But is that a sufficient answer? Suppose the white does not choose to make his best move—what becomes of the solution? Again, seeing that it does not enable him to draw—how could you justify him in giving away the piece? I can understand how 22 18 might be given as a possible variation. But should it be given as the trunk move of the solution? In other words is any solution sound which does not rest on forced moves? As I am only an amateur in checkers I would like to have your views on the question." In reply: Our opinion is that a sound solution is one wherein the best moves have been made by both the attack and the defence. Variations should be given in the order of their respective merits. As to the 22 18 move above, "Alpha" has proven that it is better than 8 12 as he wins the latter but fails to do so against the former as shown in

VARIATION I.

22 18 17 14 11 7 11 7
c-23--14 10--17 2-18--14 10--14
3 11 21 5 7 11 d-13 9
14--18 6--10 14--17 drawn.

c This forms Problem 169.

d Here "Alpha" allowed black to win by playing 7 11.

VARIATION II.

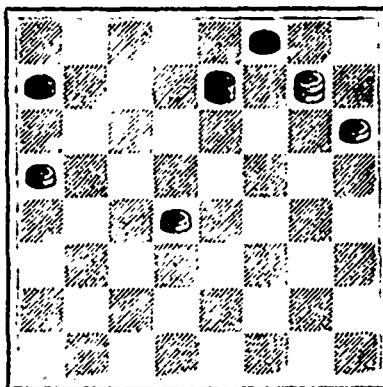
By Gates, Halifax.
10--14 7 3 26--22 5 1
6 10 21--25 15 11 15--19
14--17 3 7 22--18 1 6
13 9 25--30 11 7 20--24

18--14 7 11 18--15 6 15
10 7 30--25 9 6 19--3
17--21 11 15 1--10 b. wins.

Want of space forbids our giving further variations.

PROBLEM No. 171.

By Mr. Lumley, in *The Northern Leader*, England.
Black men 3, 5, k. 7.



White men 12, 13, 18, k 8.
Black to play and draw.

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