

"We must have Crow down to-morrow," he said confidentially to Mr. Bain, when he had assisted at Sir Aubrey's removal, and seen him made comfortable in the vast four-post bed, which had the grandeur and funereal gloom of a catafalque. "The case is serious, and we must have a good nurse," he added, in a louder tone.

Lady Perriam, Mr. Bain, and the doctor were all in the dressing room adjoining Sir Aubrey's bed-chamber.

"Cannot I nurse my husband?" asked Sylvia. "He likes me to be with him."

"As his companion, no doubt, but to attempt anything more in his present state would be to impair your own health. We must get some reliable person to be in constant attendance upon Sir Aubrey. His valet, of course, will be able to do a good deal—but a woman will be wanted as well. I know what ordinary servants are; they soon get tired of sick rooms."

A curious look flashed into Lady Perriam's face. It had been cold and expressionless as marble till this moment.

"I think I know of a person in London who would do," she said, quickly.

"Has she had any experience as a sick nurse?"

"O, yes—she has had experience. Shall I write to engage her?"

"It would be better to telegraph," answered Mr. Stimpson.

"I can take the message, if you'll be so good as to write it."

"No, I'd rather write to her. She'll want money for travelling expenses. I can enclose a bank note in my letter."

"Would it not be wiser to get some one from Monkhampton?" suggested Mr. Bain.

"I do not know anyone in Monkhampton, and I do know this person in London," said Lady Perriam, looking at the doctor, and not at Mr. Bain. "If my husband is to have a nurse, I should like her to be a nurse of my choice, rather than any one else's."

This was her first defiance of Mr. Bain, and trivial as the occasion seemed, Sylvia felt that it was not without its significance. She had an inward conviction that Shadrack Bain wanted to be master in that house; aspired, in his presumption, to rule her even. Sir Aubrey's helplessness laid the household in a manner at the agent's feet. Now, therefore, was the time for her to assert her supremacy.

"I'll write to this person, Mr. Stimpson," she added, without once looking at Mr. Bain, yet feeling that those cold grey eyes were watching her. "You may consider that matter settled."

"Very well, Lady Perriam, we must contrive to get on till she comes down. You are sure she is experienced?"

"Quite sure. Do you suppose I would engage her if it were otherwise?"

"Certainly not, Lady Perriam. Only your own experience of illness has been happily so slight. What is this woman's name, by the way?"

"Carf—Carter," replied Lady Perriam.

Mr. Bain observed the hesitation, and a bright red spot that kindled in the cheek of the speaker, and slowly faded back to pallor.

The slow steps of shuffling, slipshod feet sounded without, the door opened, and Mordred Perriam came into the room, carrying an old-fashioned silver candlestick, with a guttering candle that had burned almost to the socket. It was one of the absent-minded book-worm's habits to let his candles burn down to the socket, and to let his fire go out half-a-dozen times a day. Custom had made him independent of servants, and he relighted his own fire, and had a stock of candles at hand to fill the empty candlesticks. No one ever gave less trouble in a household than harmless Mr. Perriam.

As he came into the dimly-lighted room with the yellow glare of that flaming candle on his face, the same thought entered the minds of Sylvia and Mr. Bain. They were both alike impressed by the awful resemblance which Sir Aubrey's countenance, changed as it was by the paralytic stroke, bore to the face of his younger brother. That painful change which had aged the elder man by ten years made the brothers as much alike as if they had been twins. Mordred stared at the three in a helpless agitated way for a minute or two before he spoke.

"Is there anything wrong?" he asked at last. "Has anything happened? It's eight o'clock, and the dinner bell hasn't rung."

"You had better dine in your own room to-night, Mr. Perriam," answered Shadrack Bain; "our brother is very ill."

"Is he worse than he was this morning?"

"Much worse," said Mr. Stimpson, and then he told Mordred about the seizure.

"Why wasn't I sent for?" asked Mordred piteously.

"You would have done no good," replied Mr. Bain, with his practical air. "Don't agitate yourself, Mr. Perriam. Sir Aubrey will be all right in a day or two, I daresay."

"Is he in there?" inquired Mordred, pointing to the open door of the bedroom.

"Yes, but you had better not disturb him," said the doctor. "Chapelain is with him, and he has fallen into a doze. Quiet is a grand point—supreme quiet. No one must go in and out but Lady Perriam."

"Very well; I will do whatever is best, though I should like to see him," said Mr. Perriam, with resignation, yet dolorously. "But please don't keep me away from him longer than is necessary. I am very fond of my brother; indeed I have reason to be so, for he is the only friend I have."

Mr. Stimpson said something reassuring.

"Would there be any objection to my sitting here for an hour or two?" enquired Mr. Perriam; "I shall not make any noise. I won't speak a word, so I don't think I can disturb my poor brother. I should like to feel that I was near him."

"I see no objection," said Mr. Stimpson, "unless Lady Perriam—"

he added vaguely, appealing to Sylvia.

(To be continued.)

Chess.

It is impossible for us to answer letters by mail. Games, Problems, Solutions, &c., forwarded are always welcome, and receive due attention, but we trust that our correspondents will consider the various demands upon our time, and accept as answers the necessarily brief replies through our "column."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

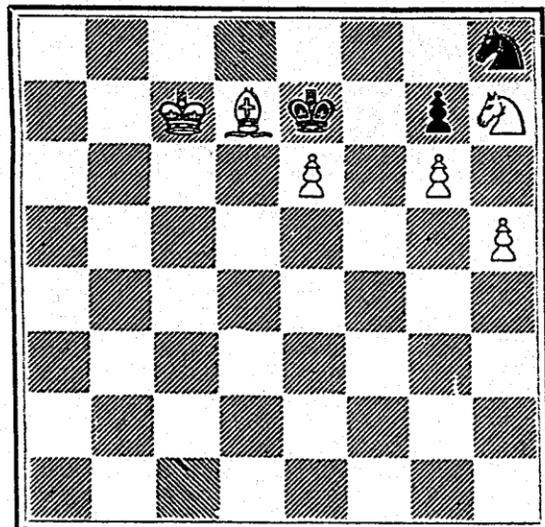
W. H. P., Montreal.—We do not see how the Bishop can mate. If Black King moves, the White King must move also, and then Rook mates.

CORRECT SOLUTIONS RECEIVED.—No. 109, J. T. W., Halifax; Nos. 110 and 111, F. X. L., Ottawa; No. 111, Delta, Rock Island, P.Q.; No. 112, J. W. B., Toronto.

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By J. W. B., Toronto.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 113.

White.

- 1. B to Q sq
2. K to K 6th
3. Kt to Q 6th mate.

Black.

- 1. K takes K Kt
2. P moves.

A.

- 2. K to Q B 6th
3. Kt to Q 6th mate.

- 1. K takes Q Kt
2. P moves.

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