

DRAUGHTS-CHECKERS

It was understood that a checker tournament was arranged to come off in Toronto beginning on the 11th instant, and we have anxiously scanned the columns of the *Mail*, of that city in the hope of getting some detail about it, but so far without satisfaction. What is the matter? Has the project fallen through? We hope that it has been merely postponed, and would suggest that if the time should be fixed for the summer or fall, players from a distance would probably find it more convenient to attend than in the depth of winter.

SOLUTION.

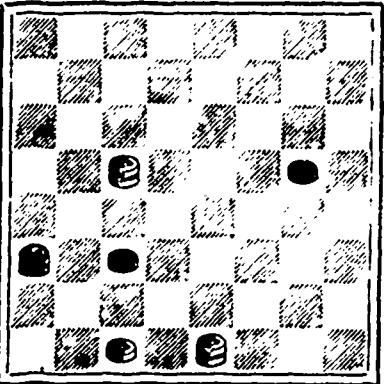
PROBLEM No. 152.—By Wm Brooks, Dartmouth. The position was:—Black man 7, kings 22, 23; white men 12, 17, king 13; black to play and win.

7—10	8	3	1—3	7	7	14
12	8	2—30	30	25	25—21	
23—26					b. wins.	

Var. I.						
3	8	26—21	11	15	13	22
30—25	17	14	22—18	18—25		
8	11	10—17			b. wins	

PROBLEM No. 154.

By Mr. A. Clarke, Aberdeen.
Black men 16, 22, king 21.



White man 30, kings 14, 31.
White to play and win.

This is a gem from the *Aberdeen Free Press*. We will send a late copy of the *American Checker Review*, to the person giving the best solution of the above.

The *Aberdeen Free Press* of the fourth of January copies the following from an unknown source, and we regard it as of sufficient interest to warrant us in reproducing it:—

"It has often and confidently being asserted that there is nothing in the game of draughts, but people frequently express opinions which are both crude and thoughtless in inception. That 'ignorance more frequently begets confidence than does knowledge,' is a truism of which Charles Darwin himself, who wrote it, was extremely conscious. It is one which applies equally to draughts philosophy as to natural philosophy. It is certain that, poorly as we moral southern folks estimate and appreciate this game, compared with our harder-headed brethren of the North, (it is quite a national game in Scotland, and very popular in the northern counties), it is in reality one which, as to its inherent peculiarities, its age and history, its position in the current literature of the day, prove it to be well worthy of study, and calculated to afford an intellectual domestic amusement surpassing many other pastimes. Though apparently simply in its nature the earnest student will soon discover that it is extremely

abstruse and big with possibilities, and we warn him that it is not to the careless observer or heedless player that its subtleties, its intricacies and its combinations are unfolded. No! he stop at the outset will more completely dwarf an aspirant in the game than the mistaken notion that the acquirement of a fair amount of knowledge will suffice to shut up the term of study in measureless content. No, it is only to the careful, painstaking, persevering student that the real merits and morals of the silent game are discovered."

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CITY CHIMES.

The fancy dress carnival in the Exhibition Rink on Tuesday evening was a great success. The decorations were grand, and when the scene was lighted with two thousand lights of various tints, it seemed like fairyland. There were about two hundred and fifty skaters in costume on the ice, and the spectators must have numbered about three thousand. Very few of the costumes were new, and many that had made their first appearance at the world's fair two summers ago were noticed. The d-d-crossed number of dorkies and such like ugly costumes and characters was an improvement over former carnivals. The quadrille of all nations was very pretty, as was also the Maypole dance. The troupe of Bedouin Arabs on horseback were new in Halifax and attracted considerable attention. The music was particularly good, the West Riding and 66th bands furnishing splendid programmes. Owing to the mildness of the weather the ice became very wet as the evening wore on, and those who were unfortunate enough to lose their perpendicular found their experience anything but pleasant. There were but few however who suffered in this way and the carnival was voted a success by all who attended it either as skaters or spectators. The Children's Carnival will take place on St. Valentine's day, February 14th.

The next Orpheus concert will take place on Tuesday, the 18th inst.

Prof. Seth, of Dalhousie College, gave his "talk" on Wordsworth in the Y. M. C. A. Hall on Tuesday evening. The lecture was very interesting, and included a sketch of the poet's life and a comprehensive and loving criticism of his poetry. Dr. Arthur Morrow presided.

Hon. J. W. Loughley delivered a lecture in Grove Church Hall on Tuesday evening to a good audience on "Men I have met." The lecture was under the auspices of Grove Division S. of T., and was exceedingly interesting.

Miss Lulu Warrenton gave two dramatic recitals in the Academy of Music this week. It was unfortunate for the lady that the carnival at the rink had to be postponed until Tuesday, her opening night, and so drew many people away who would otherwise have attended the recital. Those who were present were much pleased with the entertainment. Miss Warrenton is very attractive in appearance, being tall and graceful, and her voice is very clear and distinct. From the beginning to the end of the programme she held the attention of her audience, and the variety of the selections which she interpreted showed the versatility of her talent. The pieces which were given in character were most appreciated, the sleep walking scene from *Macbeth* and *Meg Merillies* being about the best. Miss Warrenton's costumes were handsome, and she changed them with a commendable alacrity, considering the fact that there was no orchestra to lighten the time between the numbers. The management apologized for this fact on the first night, as the band was obliged to be present at the carnival, and promised that there should be a full orchestra present on Wednesday evening.

PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW.

Some members of the opposition complain that the number of employees in the civil service has greatly increased and that larger salaries are paid than are necessary. Speaking of the civil service, it is stated that a number of young Britishers have been engaged, and in order to reserve the appointments for young Canadians a bill has been introduced which provides that a five years' residence in Canada shall be one of the qualifications for those seeking office. This appears to draw a dividing line between the people of Britain and Canada, which is at variance with the idea of Imperial unity. It is proposed to enact a law making it compulsory for engineers in charge of stationary engines to be certificated. This will necessitate many practical men passing an unnecessary examination, but if the bill can add a jot or tittle to the safety of life and property, it is worthy of consideration. Mr. Mulock has succeeded in pressing an address to Her Majesty the Queen, in which the loyalty and devotion of our people is clearly set forth. This assurance of attachment to the crown is sorely necessary, but its adoption may have the effect of putting a quietus upon some irresponsible scribblers, who assert that annexation to the United States is our destiny, and that annexation sentiments permeate the public mind. The French support to Mr. Mulock's address was strong, cordial and complete. There is an agitation on foot to obtain a rebate upon corn which is used as feed, just as there is a rebate on corn used in the manufacture of starch. To our mind it would be better to abolish the corn duty, as a rebate upon corn fed out to animals would be difficult to adjust. The estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1891, have been brought down, and show a total of \$46,727,494, of which \$5,122,700 is to be expended on railways and canals. The Dominion Franchise act, which has cost much gold to establish, and which apparently works smoothly, has been attacked upon the ground that the Provincial Franchise Acts supply all the machinery necessary for obtaining correct lists of voters. The Provincial Acts are not uniform, the qualifications varying in different Provinces, and the Dominion Act was adopted in order to secure perfect uniformity throughout Canada. We should like to see the Dominion as well as the Provincial Acts abolished, and manhood suffrage, with simple registration, substituted in their stead. This would save the country a heap of coin and give to every intelligent citizen his birth right. Clark Wallace is hammering away at his bill for the incorporation of Orangemen. Some years ago this question was agitated in Nova Scotia, and the Orange body steadily increased in number while the agitation was in progress, but since the Provincial Act of incorporation was obtained the society has steadily lost ground, and to-day there are but