

SPRING.

Merry sunshine, sweet and bright—
Rushing of the river;
Love-voices of the birds, whose songs
Make the sweet air quiver.

Enough of fragrance in the woods
To make one wish for more;
The sleepy drip-drip of the sap
O'er and o'er and o'er.

Balm winds so fresh and clear
Brush our faces over;
Meadow lands are turning green
With soft grass and clover.

Long, long strolls for sweethearts
In the dewy air,
Love in eyes, and love in words,
Love, unmix'd with care.

The year is in her maidenhood,
Sweet and fresh and pure,
Soon the sun with ardent glance
To a fuller life will woo her.

H. I.

ALGIERS.

BY HENRY LACROIX.

Jewish vendors, in front of their small shops, are recognized at once by their grasping-like, bold set of features. The regime in Algeria has been a happy event for this race, who are here what they are elsewhere, who are what they were when a sort of distinct people—and, therefore, detested by those who have any dealings with them. As the Koran forbids lending money at interest, the Jews of Algiers have ever been the pliant and exacting lenders or usurers of the Mussulmans in straightened circumstances. As a consequence of their sharkish propensities and habits, it used to occur, now and then, before the French occupation, that the excited rabble, during revolutionary moments, would make raids on the Jews, exterminate them by wholesale, men and women, and seizing the young ones by the feet, would dash their heads against the walls. That summary process can no more be carried on, but the Algerine Jews have lost none of their disfavor among other citizens.

The old upper town, where the great bulk of the Mahomedans reside, is closely packed with stone houses varying a good deal in height according to location. The upper ones are scarcely ever more than one or two stories. The streets which lead up the steep hill or mountain are far from being straight, and like those on the continent dating from the middle ages, they are so narrow that vehicles cannot pass through most of them. Their steepness, besides, is such that they are furnished all along with wide steps. The most frequented of these streets is in *Kasba*, the name of the old fort on the peak bearing that title, and to which it leads most directly. The buildings in this antiquated ward, which serve as residences to the Arabs, Moors, &c., are without windows, the only thing of that kind being a small barred opening alongside of the low arched door, often carved with inscriptions from the Koran, and which is seldom seen open for any length of time. The flat roof, now and then ornamented with gardens, is the only place where women are occasionally seen peeping discreetly or otherwise at what is going on outside of their prison-like houses. An open interior court, with a gallery above, around which the rooms are situated, admits a good flood of light. In the lower part the general household duties are performed. There the women and children congregate, squatting down on mats; there female visitors are received and the light topics of the day discussed.

The fair sex when outside wear the same uniform costume, generally white, consisting in a sort of cloak, *haik* (cotton, woolen or silk) arranged around the head and falling in large folds to the ankles; *seroual*, pulled trousers reaching the ankles, and the *haïjar*, veil, which leaves exposed but the eyes. When the haik is opened in front the under garment, the chemise is seen to be of a very light texture, exposing more or less the breast. None would think of going out with the face uncovered; young girls even wear the *haïjar*. At home, however, the street costume is set aside and the under garments alone are kept. Being fond of dress and ornament the women then go to great pains to deck themselves in fanciful ways. They often make use of a reddish dye called *henné* or *copul* to stain and elongate their eyebrows so as to get them to join in a single line; adding *mouches*, or points of beauty (!) here and there on the face; the finger nails are also stained; being often without stockings the ankles and the upper portion of the feet are seen adorned in the same way. In the house, therefore, the Moorish women put on the *frimble*, vest, which is at times richly embroidered with gold or silver threads, intermixed with silk of brilliant colors, trinkets, gewgaws of every description; sometimes the *Kafan* is added as a second outer vest, lapping over the first in a coquettish way, and being different from the other in cut, color and style, it becomes a valuable auxiliary to complete the toilette and render it flashing. A rich silk sash of many hues encircles the waist, and trinkets on the brow and bosom, and bracelets on the wrists and even on the ankles make the wearer attractive and satisfied with herself.

The Moorish women, as generally all the *beaux* is called in Algiers, are of middle size, with regular rounded features; their complexion, light olive, is animated with a good deal of expression; the eyes, brown or black, are full of

tenderness, quasi langor, and sparkle at times like meteors, when excitement sets them into activity; the mouth is small and the teeth are regular and pretty; the hair is abundant, fine and often matted. The Algerine women, in fact, are called the prettiest in Algeria, and it is owing to their predominant Moorish blood. The children of both sexes are remarkably handsome, and the men, Moors especially, are, as a rule, the most aristocratically refined and beautiful I ever met anywhere; they dress well and the dress suits them so well; the ample folds of the burnous, snowy white, seem alive with the importance and inherent dignity of the wearers; their colored *panitch*, under vest, and *beadain*, over vest, besmeared with gold and silver embroidery, harmonize well with the brilliant silk sashes that encircle loosely their waist. The appearance, indeed, of most Moors is truly courtly and reminds one of the gallant nobles who so ornamented the courts of Louis XIV and XV in France.

The Arabs, of pure blood, are dark, tall and spare, with sharp beaked noses, jet black eyes and angular features. Like the Moors they generally wear the full *beadain*. Those enrolled as *Spahis* or *Zouaves*, in the French cavalry and infantry, seem at home in their military rôle and deport themselves with strict mechanical precision even out of the ranks. They are a warlike people and feel ill at ease without a gun or cutlass. As agriculturists or workers they are far behind the Kabyles. Like half tamed lions their taciturnity seems ominous, while the springy elastic motions of their legs, strong and wiry, would indicate that they are ever on the *qui vive*. The Arabs *thou* one another and even address strangers in that good familiar Quaker style.

Algiers is said to be the busiest city of the east; its ancient and modern character and aspect blend together well and make it a charming resort for tourists and invalids who seek a mild climate in winter. During my stay of seven weeks to the middle of December, I enjoyed almost the whole time the caressing rays of a gorgeous sun. There is just outside of the city, above *Macin* or *Superieur*, in the thick foliage of the mountain, perched up high—an elegant English quarter—with pretty villas and large palatial mansions, where most of the owners come to spend the winter; others reside there the year round.

The citadel, *Kasba*, on the extreme height above the city, is enclosed within enormous high walls. Its buildings, old forts, palaces and mosques of the days, have been transformed into barracks, losing thereby much of their picturesque quality. It was here where the last Day slapped the French Consul in the face with his fan, which event led to the occupation of the country by its new masters. That pavilion where that uncourteous act took place is still kept up, and is called—*le pavillon du Coup d'Eventail*. The view all around from the *Kasba* is magnificent. The archeologist will find about the citadel interesting ruins of forts, walls, the latter containing a row of four and five cement pipes, one above another, for the conveyance of water from the interior—dating back to the ancient time of the Roman occupation. Many artistic relics, consisting in statues, rich mosaics, &c., have been found in different parts of the country; many fine specimens are exhibited in the museum of Algiers.

Many practical endeavors have been made to improve the condition of the natives. Several institutions for the manual, moral and social education of young girls exist in Algiers. In the *Lycée*, for young men, out of two pupils 200 are Arabs. This government institution or building, of cut stone and elegant plan, was erected in 1863. In digging for the foundations some precious Roman relics, lamps, &c., dating back evidently to the cremation period were found; these are exhibited in the Lyceum.

The mystic Orient is somewhat represented in Algiers by the society or sect of the *Aissoua*—so named from Aissa, who founded the order some few centuries since. Strangers visiting Algiers are always induced by the eunuchs to attend a seance and witness the feats performed by the adepts during their abnormal trances. A small fee introduces one into the sanctum or seance-room, where a large number of men and boys are seen congregated, squatted down in an irregular circle on the ground floor, partaking beforehand of the national dish, *couscous*, contained in a large wooden bowl, and which is eaten with wooden spoons and the fingers as well. After this customary repast the adepts are called by the presiding officer or minister to form a regular circle at one end of the inner court, where all congregate. Each one is then furnished with a large tam-tam or sort of tambourine, which is previously presented to the officiating master of ceremonies for his muttering blessing of the same. Chants, plaintive and increasing gradually into commanding notes until the musicians seem themselves possessed with the paroxysm of wildness, accompanied by rhythmical beatings on the tam-tams, soon bring one, two, three, four or more of the wished for performers, who jump, whirl and twist themselves while singing, bellowing, screeching wildly and imitating the roarings and other sounds of beasts of prey. They stream with sweat and foam at the mouth during the process of working themselves up to the proper pitch, when from a small adjoining room an attendant is seen issuing with a large red hot poker, which he hands now to one and then to the others of the performers, who lick it with their tongues and pass its glaring end over their breasts and limbs—with perfect impunity. This first act is repeated several times. Then a

sharp sword is held by two men, edge upwards, upon which, one after another of the "invulnerables" jump and dance with naked feet. A scorpion is afterwards exhibited in a small paste-board box and shown around, twirling itself around the fingers of several of the performers, when at last one is seen deliberately swallowing the horrid poisonous reptile. The culminating act consists in one or two gouging out their eyes with a dagger, the balls most evidently hanging on the cheeks; replaced in their orbits, no sign of the operation is seen. Impurity throughout is invariably the result of every such action. The grossness of the exhibition was such, however, as to convince every unbiased mind to what extremes human nature may be made to attain under certain conditions constituting abnormality in the system. Since the above was written, Algeria has been granted, for the first time, a civil government.

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

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

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. W. S., Montreal.—Paper to hand. Many thanks.
T. S., St. Andrews, Manitoba.—Correct solution received of Problem No. 272.

F. A. K., Montreal.—Letter received. We will send an answer by post.

E. H., Montreal.—Solution received of Problem for Young Players No. 272. Correct.

TELEGRAPHIC CHESS MATCH BETWEEN MONTREAL AND QUEBEC.

On Thursday evening last, May 14th, twelve members of the Montreal Chess Club attended at the office of the Montreal Telegraph Company for the purpose of playing a chess match with a like number of the Quebec Club.

The Company had kindly placed at the disposal of the players one of their large rooms, and after some preliminary arrangements and the balloting for opponents, at about 9 p.m. the twelve contestants had fully entered into the business of the evening.

The following were the Montreal players: Messrs. Ascher, Baker, J. Barry, Henderson, F. Hicks, W. H. Hicks, Howe, Panchard, Shaw, Skiffe, Watkins and Workman.

The Quebec players were: Messrs. Andrews, Black, Bradley, Champion, Hensche, Holt, Leblond, Leblond, McLeod, Pope, Sanderson and Sanderson jun.

Mr. J. Sterling was Umpire at Montreal, and Mr. J. Fletcher at Quebec.

For six hours play was uninterruptedly carried on, and not a game having been brought to a conclusion, it was decided to adjourn the contest till the following evening, Friday, May 15th, when it was resumed at about 7 p.m. and continued for several hours, with the results as shown in the following table.

Board.	Montreal.	Quebec.	Winner.
A.	Workman.	Sanderson.	Drawn.
B.	Skiffe.	Dr. Hensche.	Skiffe.
C.	Ascher.	McLeod.	Drawn.
D.	W. H. Hicks.	Leblond.	Drawn.
E.	Barry.	Sanderson jun.	Drawn.
F.	Dr. Howe.	Bradley.	Drawn.
G.	Baker.	Holt.	Drawn.
H.	Henderson.	Leblond.	Drawn.
I.	F. Hicks.	Pope.	Drawn.
K.	Panchard.	Blackston.	Blackston.
L.	Shaw.	Champion.	Champion.
M.	Watkins.	Andrews.	Andrews.

It is necessary to say with reference to the above statement of results that Dr. Howe and Mr. Watkins were absent on the second evening's play, and that Mr. Ascher had made arrangements to finish his game with his opponent on Tuesday next, at Quebec.

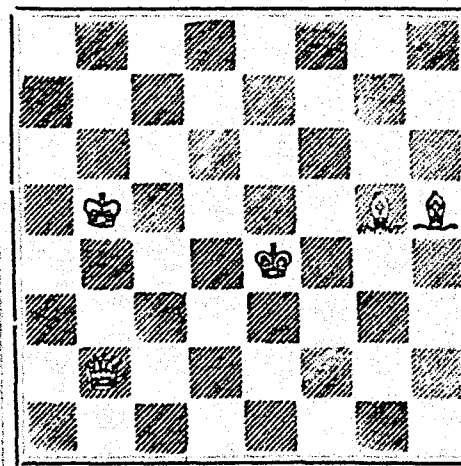
A recent number of *Land and Water*, in giving an account of a chess tourney connected with the College Chess Club of London, England, stated that there were twenty-seven contestants, of whom eight were lady players. Another lady amateur is spoken of at the same time as having joined the club, so that we may fairly presume that chess play is gaining favour with the fair sex across the Atlantic, and that we may now cease to think it a novelty if we hear of their taking a prominent part in tournaments and other chess encounters.

We insert in our Column this week a specimen of the skill of a lady player, and we are convinced that the remarks which accompany it made by so skilful a chess-player as Herr Lowenthal, will add greatly to its interest.

PROBLEM No. 272.

By A. HAWKINS, U.S.

BLACK.



White to play and mate in two moves.

GAME 406TH.

"I am about to introduce to your notice one of the most brilliant games on record. Brief as it is, it is replete with genius, and was recently played by a lady. It is a mistaken notion, too prevalent among persons who are not chessplayers themselves, that the fair sex, whatever its other qualifications, cannot excel at chess. The contrary is really the case." (Herr J. J. Lowenthal.)

King's Ki's Gambit.

Attack. A Lady.	Defense. Lowenthal.
1. P to K 4	1. P to K 4
2. P to K B 4	2. K P takes P
3. K Kt to B 3	3. P to K Kt 4
4. K B to B 4	4. K B to Kt 2
5. Castles	5. P to K R 3
6. P to Q 4	6. P to Q 3
7. Q Kt to B 3	7. K Kt to K 2
8. P to Q Kt 3	8. Q B to Kt 5
9. Q Kt to Q 5	9. Castles
10. Q to Q 3	10. Q Kt to B 3 (a)
11. P to K 5 (b)	11. Q B takes Kt
12. Q Kt to B 6 (ch)	12. K B takes Kt
13. K P takes B	13. B to K R 4 (a)
14. Q B takes P 6	14. Q B to K 3
15. Q to K R 3	15. K Kt to B 4
16. Q B takes Kt P	16. R P takes B
17. K R takes Kt	17. Kt takes Q P (c)
18. Q to K R 6	18. Kt takes K R
19. Q takes Q B (ch)	19. K to R sq
20. Q to K R 5 (ch)	20. K to Kt sq
21. Q takes Kt P (ch)	21. K to R sq
22. Q takes Q Kt and wins	

NOTES.

- (a) Threatening B takes Kt, and then Kt takes Q P.
(b) Highly ingenious, and the key to a masterly combination.
(c) H Kt to B sq, attack mates in two moves.
(d) Beautifully followed up and worthy a player of first-rate ability.
(e) B takes R costs mate in two moves or causes loss of Queen.

SOLUTIONS.

Solutions of Problem No. 272.

1. Q to K B 4
2. Mates accordingly

Solution of Problem for Young Players No. 272.

- WHITE.
1. K to K R 6
2. Kt to K 5
3. Kt to B 7 mate

BLACK.

1. Any move
2. Any move

PROBLEMS FOR YOUNG PLAYERS, No. 272.

Composed by Paul Murphy, when he was only 12 years old. His first problem.

- WHITE.
K Kt Q B
R Kt Q R
Pawn at Q Kt 6

- BLACK.
K Kt Q R sq
B Kt Q R sq
Pawn at Q Kt 6

White to play and mate in two moves.

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