THE DEATH OF THE YEAR.

A cloud came out of the golden west, A bell rang over the silent air. The sun god hurried away to test, Flushing with kisses each cloud he prest, And oh:! but the day was fair!

"How bright the year goes out!" they said;
"The glow of the sunset lingers long,
Knowing the year will be over and dead,
Its sad hours over—its sweet hours fied—
With service of evensong."

"How sadly the year came in!" they said.
I listened and wondered in dusk of night.
To me the year that might come instead
off the old friend numbered among the dead,
Could ever be half so bright.

The sun-kissed clouds grew pale and grey,
The bells hung silent in high mid-air,
Waiting to ring the year away
In strains that were never so glad and grey
For me as I listen there.

Oh, hearts! that beat in a million breasts, Oh lips! that utter the same old phrase, I wonder that never a sorrow reets In words you utter to friends and guests In the new year's strange new days!

Is it just the same as it used to be! Have new years only a gladder sound? For ever and always it seems to me That no new faces can be sweet to see As the old ones we have found.

There is no cloud in the darkened west,
The belt is silent in misty air,
The year has gone to its last long rest,
And I who loved and knew it best
Shall meet it—God knows where!

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. W. S., Montreal.-Letter and paper to hand. Correct solution received of Problem No. 463.

C. E., de St. Giles, Sorel, P. Q.—Letter received-Many thanks for Problems. They came too late for insertion in to-day's Column.

A week or two ago we spoke of comparing the best play of the experts in chess of the present time with that of the great masters of sixty or eighty years ago. Within the last few days we have come neross a pleasing article on the same subject, which originally appeared in the "Milwankee Sunday Telegraph." The article is evidently written by one who is much interested in the subject, and we are sorry we cannot give the whole of his remarks. He says: "As we look over records of chess play of the past, we cannot but wonder whether the mants of old who fought the battles on the checkered field, could hold their own against the experts of today. In actual warfare, science has advanced wonderfully. The impregnable fortress of the last century would melt away like snow under a tropical sun before the batteries of a modern gamner. How would be the winner in a match between Philidor and Blackburne?" Further on he says: "Philidor's games have many of them been preserved, and if we can step back eighty years it is possible to judge of his strength. The lover of chess should go over his games; he will be puzzled to decide who would win, Blackburne or Philidor. But if Deschappelles was living, how would he come out with Steinitz as an opponent? The question to us is an open one. We are prepared to be convineed either way." It is evident from these extracts that the writer declines to settle the matter, and, no doubt, wisely. It is now impossible to test the question by trial. The modern players are here, but the heroes of days gone by, have gone, and have left but few specimens of their skill to enrieh our chess literature. Philidor's games, and the games played between La Bourdonnais and McDonnell, which are to some extent fair specimens to compare with the skill of modern players, will always afford an intellectual treat to the chess student, but it would take a long time with elose study before any decision could be given of their merits when compared with the best games of our own time. It may be well to consider, also,

DR. ZUKERTORT'S VISIT.

DR. ZUKERTORT'S VISIT.

The intelligence that Dr. Zukertort, the famous chess player, is to visit Canada, which was made known through those columns a few days ago, has been received with much satisfaction by lovers of the game here. The places mentioned as likely to be visited by him were Toronto, Niagara Falls, and Montreal. Since that time an invitation has been sent to the doctor by the Dominion of Canada Chess Association to attend their fournament in Ottawa during the coming session of Parliament. Sufficient time has not yet clapsed to receive a reply to the invitation, but as Dr. Zukertort, so far as is known, having no fixtures ahend that would conflict, the probability is that he will accept.

A letter addressed to Herr Zukertort, care of this office, has been forwarded to the Doctor's address in New York.

Dr. Zukertort, in response to the challenge of Herr Steinitz to playlifun a match at the Paris Chess Club upon the Doctor's return to Europe, writes as follows:—"I do not propose to play Herr Steinitz outside of London. Neither of us is a member of the Paris Chess Club. It is a mistake to suppose that I will only play in the St, George's Club, of which I am captain. I will olay Herr Steinitz in any respectable club in London."—Toronto Globe.

MR. BLACKBURNE AT NEWCASTLE.

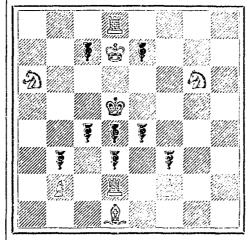
On Tuesday, 13th current, at Newcastle-on-Tyne, Mr. Blackburne played 22 simultaneous games, of which he won 19, lost one (to Mr. F. Downey), and drew two (with Miss Kate Spence and Mr. J. Campbell respectively): and on Thursday, the 15th current, he played eight games, simultaneous and blindfold, at the Newcastle Art Gallery, of which he won five, lost one (to Mr. Zollner), and drew two (with Messrs, J. Nicholson and W. Park respectively).—Glasgow Herald,

PROBLEM No. 465.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE.

Composed for the "Canadian Illustrated News." By Chev. E. de Saint-Giles.

BLACK.



White to play and mate in two moves.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM NO. 463.

White.

1 Kt to KB6 2 Mates acc.

GAME 592nd.

The following rather curious game was played in the Vizayanagaram Tourney: (Four Knights.)

WHITE.

BLACK.

(Rev. C. E. Ranken) (Mr. Gossip.) (Rev. C. E. 16

1 P to K 4

2 Kt to Q B 3

3 Kt to B 3

4 Kt to Q 5 (a)

5 Kt takes K P

6 Kt to Q 3 (d)

7 Kt takes B

8 B to K 2

9 Castles

10 Kt to K sq

11 P to Q 3

12 P to K B 4

13 B to B 3

15 Kt takes Kt

16 P to Q 4

17 Kt to Q 2

18 P to B 3

19 B to B 3

19 B to B 3 1 P to K 4 2 Kt to K B 3 3 Kt to B 3 4 B to Kt 5 5 Kt takes P (b) 6 B to B 4 (c) 7 B to K t 3 5 B to B 4 (c)
B to K t 3
R P takes K t
Castles
P to Q 4
P to B 4
K t to B 3
K t to Q 5
B to K 3
K t takes B ch 14 B to Kes B ch
16 P to B 4
17 Kt to K5
16 P to B 4
17 Kt to K5
19 P to B 5
19 P to B 5
20 P to Q 8
21 P to Q 8
22 E takes B
23 P to R 2
24 K to K 2
25 R to K 2
26 Q to Q 3
20 Q to Q 3
20 Q to B 3
30 Q to B 3
31 B to B sq
32 P to B R to B sq
33 B to B R sq
34 B to B B sq
45 B to B Sq
47 B to B Sq
48 B to B Sq
49 B to B Sq
40 B to B Sq
40 B to B Sq
41 B to B Sq
42 B to B Sq
44 B to B B Sq
45 B to B Sq
46 B to B Sq
47 B to B Sq
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48 B to B Sq
49 B to B Sq
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42 B to B Sq
42 B to B Sq
44 B to B Sq
45 B to B B Sq
46 B to B Sq
47 B to B Sq
48 B to B Sq
40 B Sq
40 B to B Sq
40 B Sq 20 B takes Kt
21 B takes Kt
22 B takes Kt
22 B takes Kt
22 B to R 5
21 Q to R 5
21 Q to R 8
22 Q to R 8
23 Q to R 8
24 R to K 5
29 Q R to K 5
29 Q R to K 3
31 K R to K 2
33 K R to K 2
34 K to B 3
32 Q to K 5
36 R takes R 6
40 K to B 6
40 Q to R 7
40 Q to R 5
42 K takes Q
44 K to K 6
45 K to K 6
46 K to K 6
47 K to B 2
48 K to K 5
50 Q to K 5

(a) An interesting variation, about which but little is known. (b) B to B 4 is slightly preferable, but the text move

is good enough.

K to B 2 K to K 3 B to K sq B to B 4 B to B 6

51 B-to B 6 52 B-to Kt 7 53 K to B 2 and wins.

(a) If 6 Kt takes Kt. then Q to K 2, which preserves Black from any serious damage, though White would have a slight superiority.

have a slight superiority.

(d) If 6 Q to Kt 4.7 Castles, Q takes Kt, 8 Kt takes Kt with an advantage, N.B.—7 B takes P eh would not turn out well for White.

(c) The fighting since the opening moves, if not free-from grounds for exception, especially on White's part, has been on the whole fairly well fought. Black has a slight advantage, and it may be assumed that White would be content with a draw. The onus, therefore, lies upon Black, who, if he play to win against White's well-defended position, must necessarily incur risks. There is this much, however, to be said, that with Knight against Bishon, and having regard to the enemy's doubled Pawn, Black is quite justified in trying to win. justified in trying to win.

(t) Black being in perfect possession of the King's file, is in a position to make all orolitable preliminary moves, such as P to K R.4 and K to B 2. The former need not necessarily be followed up by P to R 5, though in some contingencies such further advance would be good.

(a) K to B2 or P to K R 4 would still be our choice, not minding if the Rook and Queen be changed off, for Black would then have a promising end game.

(h) Intended on his last move. It is, of course, a great blunder. One would think that he must have forgotten that Kt to K5 and Kt takes Q would take

(i) Thinking, perhaps, to draw, but such positions are never drawn.

are never drawn.

(3) The game is lost however he plays. White has, in fact, three strings to his bow. He can get his King to Q B 3, and then play P to Q Kt 4; or conduct his Bishop by way of B 6 to Kt 7, as in the text; or, keeping his King at K 3, play B to K Kt 4, so as to break through easily if the Bishop be taken, or win, as in the actual game, if the K R P goes on to R 1.—Land and Water.

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