

INCREASE OF SORROW ALSO.

BY NED P. MAH.

Whom the gods love die young; to them life's page seems fairly traced and stainless. At their age they cannot read the terrible truths that lie hidden in words, we learn to dread to die. To them existence is but as the breath of the calm ocean. Of the things that rest beneath the surface in a hideous sleep—Monsters, and marrowless bones, and wrecks—there deep whispers not as it idly lays the shore Of the new world their eager eyes to explore Happy, indeed, are they. To us, the years bring but increase of knowledge and of tears.

IN PRAISE OF IDLENESS.

A visitor from another planet where people still live in the state of Eden would probably wonder at the hard words we use concerning the mere ceasing from productive labor and a little folding of the hands. We have got into a habit of glorifying many of the things we do, merely because, in consequence of our inveterate custom, it would be painful to us to cease from them. Hardly any one in this eager air of ours knows how to be idle; yet idleness is still denounced as a vice we are not only capable of but addicted to.

It is a misfortune, and an injustice to our language, that from the very nature of things the term "idleness" has been ill defined by the industrious. Of what use is it to search in the laborious pages of the unresting Johnson for the definition of an enjoyment which he could never have experienced when he wrote? He who looks for a just definition of idleness does but waste his time in a vain expectation; for none but the idle might give it to us, and how shall such men compile lexicons? Here and there a poet has had a suspicion of the virtues of sheer idleness. Lord Byron perhaps comes nearest to a right knowledge on this subject. He calls the occupation of doing nothing—we mean what the unintelligent industrious world calls doing nothing—by its older, gentler and more feeling name. True it is that he does but make allusion, in passing to ruder subjects, to that

... calm languor which, though to the eye idleness it seems, hath its morality.

Most people unhappily will not perceive the morality of this sublime idleness; but the poor negro, who splits a great gourd and seats himself in one half of it with the other half inverted on his head—that hemisphere the only object in a direct line between himself and the too fervent sun, which is the cause of activity and idleness alike—the negro knows the virtue and wisely feels the delights of soothing idleness. The preacher will not praise him, but will rather bid him arise and make sugar, and of that rum, to warm others in the frigid zone, instead of cooling himself in the torrid one. But it is permitted to us, so much has our language been distorted, to say that if it is idle of the negro to sit vacant, detached and separated alike from the cares of heaven and earth by the insulating halves of a gourd, it is no less idle in the preacher to exhort him to toil. Yet true idleness cannot be compassed by the mere cessation from work, useful, useless, or destructive. The operative on strike may indeed be idle—he often is so even when nominally at work—but it is not given to him to taste of the pleasures of idleness, for the habits of labor will not allow him to rest. The politician and the lawyer are in the same case; they will try to amuse themselves idly—that is to say they will turn to other work. They will encroach upon the separate profession of the fisherman or the hunter, or the man of science; but they will not be idle, body and soul. To exercise the body in order to relieve the mind, or to employ the mind that the body may take rest, is no more to possess idleness than to stand first on one leg and then on the other, as the grege do, is to lie at length.

The word idleness, if we consider how oddly we use it will reveal to us something of what is obscure in the matter of idleness. Now, idleness, which meant at first—and means now in strictness—the freedom from pain, has got to be a name for one of the favorite vices; yet it might strange that not to be in torment should be appear wrong, even though the virtuous be often fatigued by their excellencies. But the word has been so thoroughly wrested from its earliest sense that to describe a man as indolent is now to condemn him for predisposition to all the vices. It is asked by the "wicked wizard" in "The Castle of Indolence":

"what, what is virtue but repose of mind?"

And, as no worthy person at once confutes the questioner, we may imagine that the poet did not see his way to a triumphant negative. The rights of the matter are indeed obscured because good actions are commonly performed by those who suffer from restless and unquiet consciences. Repose of mind is hardly consistent with the doing of any active thing which we may be praised for. The man indolent—not suffering—will not give a penny in charity; for he needs not to purchase contentment, since he has no present lack of it. To go and succor the suffering, or relieve the needy, will be the act of him who is sensitive to the pain which others endure; and he who feels any ache, be it in his own tooth or another's, is not indolent. Yet though to be indolent one need have a tough and unimpressionable nervous system—for the world is full of troubles—why should we blame him who happens to be so constituted as not to feel at all those blows when they fall upon others which he perhaps would not greatly notice were they to happen on his own shoulders? It is

not true to say, "Nous avons tous assez de force pour supporter les maux d'autrui." There are some so weak that wrongs ten centuries old importune them to weep. Surely it is hard that indolence, which denotes only a state of being, like whiteness or smoothness, the negation of darkness and of rugosity—that the absence of anguish, the presence of comfort, should be turned into a quality, and condemned for a bad one.

It must be questioned whether perfect indolence is compatible with the doing of anything whatever—beyond breathing, which consists with sleep and even with the article of death. For he who feels the necessity of putting one leg before the other, or of turning on to his left side when he has lain long enough on his right, must, it would seem, experience some slight discomfort in the position he would change for another one. Any act whatever must properly be regarded as a preparation for indolence rather than a part of it. Said the demon of "The Castle of Indolence":

"But if a little exercise you chuse, Some zest for ease, 'tis not forbidden here."

The indolence of that castle was evidently mixed, like that of all the world. How complete and absolute indolence is compatible with the occurring of the necessity for "some zest for ease," were difficult to explain, except on the hypothesis that indolence is like repletion, and wears off. This indolence, it is plain, is, after all, but a sleepy pleasure, though a perfect one. But idleness is of a more wakeful sort. It was idlesse, and not real rounded indolence, which Thomson described in the verse:

Here nought but candor reigns, Good-natur'd lounging, sauntering up and down: They who are pleased themselves must always please: Nor heed what happens in hamlet or in town: Thus, from the source of tender indolence, With milky blood the heart is overflowed, Is sooth'd and sweeten'd by the social sense; For interest, envy, pride and strife are banish'd hence.

From "the source of tender indolence" we draw idleness—a better possession, though few there be who know how to use it.

Ah, gentle idlesse! how many rich and rare gifts do not we owe to thee, which Industry—more hurried in her walk, and more concerned to arrive at her appointed field of work than with enriching herself on the road thither—which Industry, I say, had never stopped to gather for us! Condemn thee who will, I will praise thee and acknowledge thee as the rightful owner and occupier of Leisure, thine own domain—where thou dost permit and welcome us to stray. If thou appointest there no tasks for us, thy "Fays ce que tu voudras" is yet a command not to go wholly unemployed; for at least we must live—and, should we do no more, have not we there an occupation sufficient for most of us?

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. W. S., Montreal.—Papers to hand. Thanks. H., Montreal.—We will send you a copy by post.

The consultation, telegraphic chess match recently fought between Toronto and Detroit has attracted much attention from its international character, and on that account we are glad of an opportunity of furnishing fuller particulars in our Column to-day, than we were able to give last week.

It appears that in the match there were three boards used, named respectively A, B and C. At board A, Messrs. Northcote and Clark of Toronto, were opposed to Messrs. Keeler and Punchedard of Detroit; at board B, Messrs. Gordon and Littlejohn of Toronto, to Messrs. Bell and Rosenfeld of Detroit, and at board C, Messrs. Lee and Phillips of Toronto, to Messrs. Allen and Richter of Detroit.

The contest lasted three evenings, and ended in a decided victory for the Toronto players. The following is the score:—

Table with columns TORONTO and DETROIT, showing scores for Board A, Board B, Board C, and Total.

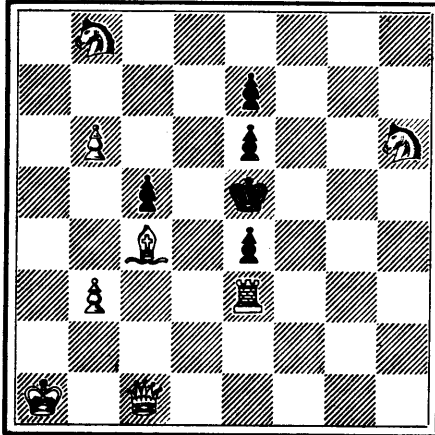
We have seen it stated that Mr. Blackburne is about to publish, in a small volume, the games which he won in the recent Berlin Tourney. The price is to be one shilling sterling. Such a collection of games would be invaluable to the chess student, would prove a means of improvement during the coming winter evenings, and amply repay any outlay in the way of time and labour.

To a large number of our Canadian players who have been heartily engaged in correspondence chess play during the last three or four years the following extract from the Chessplayers' Chronicle may be of some interest:

"Through the kindness of one of our subscribers, who has offered as a prize an article of not less value than one guinea (to be selected by the winner), we are enabled to announce to our readers the prospect of a Correspondence Tourney in connection with the CHESS-PLAYER'S CHRONICLE. In doing so, we wish it to be understood that this announcement must be considered as of a preliminary character. We think that in order to make such a contest completely successful, the support of several of our friends should first of all be secured. For ourselves, we are quite willing to contribute to a prize fund a kind of proportion or per centage on the total subscribed, and although it is hardly our wish to make any appeal to the general body of our readers, we would urge on intending or likely competitors the advisability of working harmoniously together, so as, at all events, to secure a prize of a character worth striving for. The manner in which this should be done, whether by payment of an entrance fee, or otherwise, we must leave for them to decide. All we can do at present is, to thank the friend who has made the proposition, and assure him and others interested that we will do what

lies in our power to make the tourney, if started, a success. We may add that in such a case we should like to give, each week, the moves made in the several games, in the same way as was done at the time of the Liverpool-Calcutta match, although we may not always be able to spare the space for diagrams. We are convinced that this form of chess is destined to become more and more popular as increased facilities are provided for its practice; in evidence, we may mention that during the past few weeks upwards of fifty players have been introduced to each other through us, and in answer to the notices inserted from time to time in these columns."

PROBLEM No. 357. By J. Thursby. BLACK.



WHITE. White to play and mate in two moves.

GAME 484TH.

An excellent game played at the Berlin Congress. (Sicilian Opening.)

Chess game record showing moves for White (Herr Winawer) and Black (Herr L. Paulsen) from 1. P to K4 to 32. QR to KB sq.

NOTES.

- (a) A hazardous move. (b) Leading to a brilliant termination.

SOLUTIONS.

Solution of Problem No. 355.

Solutions for Problem No. 355, White and Black moves.

Solution of Problem for Young Players No. 353.

Solutions for Problem for Young Players No. 353, White and Black moves.

PROBLEMS FOR YOUNG PLAYERS No. 354.

Problems for Young Players No. 354, White and Black moves.

White to play and mate in two moves.

HE HAD THEM ON.—In one of the Bureaux de Police Correctionnelle, recently, a hardy son of toil, accused of stealing a pair of trousers, was discharged by the sitting magistrate, after a long and patient investigation of the case, on the ground that the evidence brought forward against him was insufficient to establish his culpability. He continued, however, to keep his seat on the prisoner's bench after his acquittal had been formally pronounced. The lawyer who had conducted his defence, observing that he did not move, informed him that he was free to go about his business, if he had any. He shook his head slightly, but did not budge. By this time, no other case being on hand, the Court was nearly empty. Again addressing him, his defender inquired with some irritation, "Why the deuce he did not get up and go?" "Step this way a moment, please," replied the steadfast sinner, "and let me whisper in your ear. I can't go till all the witnesses for the prosecution have left the Court." "And why, may I ask?" "Because of the stolen trousers—don't you understand?" "Most assuredly I do not understand. What about the trousers?" "Only this. I've got 'em on!"—London Daily Telegraph.

Montreal Post-Office Time-Table

NOVEMBER, 1881

Large table with columns DELIVERY, MAILS, and CLOSING, listing various routes and times for Montreal Post-Office.

Mails leave for Lake Superior and Bruce Mines, &c. Mails for places on Lake Superior will leave Windsor on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Mails for Bruce Mines, Garden River, Little Current, &c., will leave Parry Sound on Tuesdays.

Mails leave New York by Steamer: For Bahamas, 5th and 22nd November. Bermuda, 3rd and 17th November. Cuba, 3rd November. Cuba and Porto Rico, 10th, 17th and 24th November. Cuba, Porto Rico & Mexico, 3rd, 17th & 24th Nov. Cuba and Mexico. Curacao and Venezuela, 12th & 26th November. Jamaica and West Indies, 17th November. Jamaica and the U.S. of Columbia (except Panama) 11th and 25th November. St. Thomas and Barbadoes. For Hayti direct, 4th, 15th and 25th November. Hayti, St. Domingo and Turks Island, 1st Nov. Hayti and Maracaiba. Porto Rico, 9th, 23rd and 30th November. Santiago and Cienfuegos, Cuba, 8th November. South Pacific and Central American Ports, 10th, 19th and 30th November. Brazil and the Argentine Republic, 5th and 18th November. Windward Islands, 5th and 22nd November. Greytown, Nicaragua, 10th November. Mails leave San Francisco: For Australia and Sandwich Islands, 19th November. For China and Japan, 4th and 19th November.