

AGRICULTURAL.

SUGGESTIONS AND NOTES FOR THE MONTH.

(From the American Agriculturist for October.)

The glory of the year is at its height.—There is a gorgeous display of color in the woods, which beautifully contrasts with the sombre hue of the cleared fields, though it is the hectic flush that betokens the completion of the decay which is already marring the landscape. The sun looks askant upon the changing scene, and is slowly transferring his favors to other lands; the birds, like gay courtiers, follow to enjoy his smiles; the hum of insects is no longer heard, they have sought safe quarters for their winter repose; a gentle haze fills the atmosphere, and all things inspire thoughtfulness. The reflections of the husbandman will naturally turn to a survey of the year's operations. In the main, the season has been one of average fruitfulness, though some complain of a late spring and a too fervid summer. The drouth and the August frost completed the failure threatened in the early months. In some sections this was undoubtedly unavoidable. Human skill cannot make up for all the deficiencies of weather. There will always be some contingencies depending upon this cause, and these should be taken into account in estimating for future operations on the farm; a wide margin should be left on this score, when operations are contemplated requiring the outlay of large capital. He is an unskilful cultivator who depends entirely on favorable seasons for making farming profitable. He is at the mercy of the elements, and will often have reason to complain of their inclemency. It is equally unwise to conduct agricultural operations with reference only to a single year or a short term of years. The successful man looks into the future, and lays his plans to make his land increasingly productive. He who merely strives to realize the largest returns, year by year, without keeping the future in view, may be selling the fertility of his land piece-meal, which is in reality parting with his capital for what should be the basis of a large interest on that capital. The end of such management must ultimately be failure.

There is no operation upon the farm more fully justified than draining, in view of its immediate and permanent benefits. A thoroughly drained field, though not independent of the weather, is provided with a regulating apparatus that will enable it to successfully withstand extremes which would destroy crops on undrained land. If the season be wet, there is a ready outlet for the surplus water; if drouth parches the surface, then the air, permeating the cooler soil, leaves a supply of moisture for the wants of the growing plants. The atmosphere also contains elements needed for the building up of vegetable structure, and when the water, has been drawn off, these find ready access to the roots. By the same means, deeper layers of earth are acted upon and prepared to furnish nutriment to the fibres, which will soon penetrate a soil thus fitted for their nourishment. Happily these views are no mere theories. They have been sustained by the most extended experiments in our own and in foreign countries. The English are so fully convinced of the benefits of draining, that it has been made a subject for legislation, and Government wisely aids those desirous of improving their estates, by loans on the most favorable terms. Most of our adult readers can remember when drain-tiles were first introduced into this country, as necessary to the best cultivation, and now there are thousands of acres made more productive by their use, and large manufactories, though working continually to supply the demand for tiles, are unable to keep up with the calls for them; and new parties are embarking in the business. We predict that in twenty years, or less, he will be generally considered an antiquated farmer who has not introduced this improvement. The time may seem short, but we are a fast people, and are universally considered to be bent on 'running things into the ground.' The present is a favorable time for commencing or continuing this work. We counsel, as we have previously done repeatedly in the columns of the *Agriculturist*, that the work be begun, at least on a small scale, and there is little fear but that the result will so commend the operation that it will soon be very greatly extended.

CHINESE SHEEP IN EUROPE.—Mr. Legable has presented to the Society of Acclimatization of Paris, three Chinese sheep, part of a flock he has had for several years, numbering at the present time more than three hundred. Their fecundity is remarkable. The ewes breed regularly twice a year, and produce from two to three lambs, and even up to five at each birth. The director of the school farm of the Vosges informs M. Legable that one ewe has produced ten lambs within the year. The wool is at least as good, he adds, as that of other sheep, but owing to the breeding habits of the females, the quantity is somewhat less. Although the ewes manifest no unwillingness to bring up the whole family, it has been found desirable to allow them to suckle only two lambs each, goats being kept as nurses. At a recent meeting of the above society of Great Britain, it was stated that flocks of Chinese sheep were in a thriving condition; all that were offered for sale were readily purchased, and there is a demand for more. Lord Powerscourt reported the birth of four males in one of his ewes. Five lambs were added to the society in September.—*English Post*.

THURLOW WEED AT BOSTON.—The Boston correspondent of the *Springfield Republican*, in his letter dated Oct. 6th, says: 'Thurlow Weed has been in town, and it was said was talking favorably of Banks as a candidate for the Presidency. He was very decided in his expressions against Lincoln, saying he could not be nominated, nor elected if nominated. What motive has Weed in talking thus? You see I am parodying Fouche's remark when he heard that Talleyrand was confined to his house, 'What motive has Talleyrand in being sick?' I see that George Wilkes charges that Seward and Weed are about to betray Lincoln. Of course they are, if betrayal will pay better than fidelity.'

AN EYE TO BUSINESS.—A friend sends the following:—'Several years ago I was practising law in one of the many beautiful towns in Wisconsin. One very warm day, while seated in my office at work, I was interrupted by the entrance of a boy, the son of one of my clients, who had walked into town, six miles in a blazing sun, for the purpose of procuring a Bible. He had been told, he said, there was a place there where they gave them away to people who had no money, and was very anxious to get one of the good books, and asked me to go with him to the place where they were kept. Anxious to encourage him in his early piety, I left the brief on which I was engaged and went over with him to the stand of an old Presbyterian deacon who had the much coveted book in charge. I introduced him to the deacon, telling him the circumstances. He praised the boy very highly; was delighted to see a young man so early seeking after the truth, &c., and presented him with the best Bible in the collection. Bubby put it in his pocket, and was starting off, when the deacon said— 'Now, my son, that you possess what you so much desired, I suppose you feel perfectly happy?' 'Well I do, old hoss, for between you and I, I know where I can trade it for a most plaguey good fiddle.'

THE GAME OF CHESS.

CHESS COLUMN.

EDITED BY A COMMITTEE OF THE ONTARIO CHESS CLUB, OF HAMILTON.

Communications to be addressed to the Editor of the Illustrated Canadian News.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Correct solutions to Problem No. 1 received from G. G. St. Catharines, W. S. Toronto, and "Teacher," Queeston.

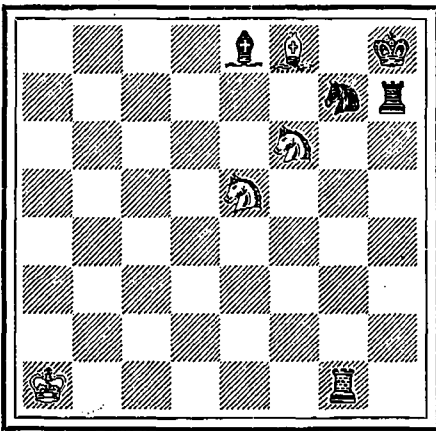
SOLUTION OF PRIZE PROBLEM.

- WHITE. 1. R to Q B sq. 2. Q to Q Kt 3. P Q or Kt mates. BLACK. 1. Kt to K 5, or A. 2. Anything. SOLUTIONS: 1. B to K 4. 2. B interposes or a. 2. Kt takes R. 3. Q to K Kt 2 mate

PROBLEM No. 2.

BY HERR ANDERSEN.

BLACK.



White to play and mate in three moves.

The following game was played in the Grand Tournament of the American Chess Congress between Messrs Morphy and Paulsen:

IRREGULAR OPENING.

- White, (Mr. P.) 1. P to K 4. 2. Kt to K B 3. 3. Kt to Q B 3, (a) 4. K B to Q Kt 5. 5. Castles. 6. K Kt takes P. 7. K Kt takes Kt 8. K B to Q B 4 9. K B to K 2 10. Kt takes Kt 11. B to K B 3 12. P to Q B 3 13. P to Q Kt 4 14. P to Q R 4 15. Q takes R P 16. R to Q R 2 17. Q to Q R 6 (c) 18. P takes Q 19. R to R sq 20. R to Q sq 21. K to Kt sq 22. K to K B sq 23. K to Kt sq 24. K to R sq 25. Q to K B sq (d) 26. R takes B 27. R to Q R sq 28. P to Q 4 Black, (Mr. M.) 1. P to K 4 2. Kt to Q B 3 3. Kt to K B 3 4. K B to K B 4 5. Castles 6. R to K sq (b) 7. P takes Kt 8. P to Q Kt 4 9. Kt takes K P 10. R takes Kt 11. R to K 3 12. Q to Q 6 13. B to Q Kt 3 14. P takes R P 15. B to Q 2 (c) 16. Q R to K sq (d) 17. Q takes B (f) 18. K to K Kt 3 (ch) 19. Q B to K R 6 20. B to K Kt 7 (ch) 21. Q B takes P (ch) 22. B to R 6 (ch) 23. K B takes K B P 24. B takes Q 25. R to K 7 26. R to K R 3 27. B to K 6

And White resigns.

- (a) This seems to be a favorite opening with Mr. Paulsen. The move, though a safe one, is not likely to lead to interesting positions. (b) Better than Kt takes Kt, in which case White would advance P to Q 4th, regaining the piece with a better position. (c) R to K Kt's 3rd promises more than it would yield. (d) Threatening mate in two moves by Q takes R (ch) followed by R to K's 8. (e) Q to Q's sq. was the proper reply to Black's last move, preventing the threatened mate and capture of the Bishop. (f) The winning move, for play as White may, Black must now score the game. (g) The only move. Game between Messrs. Hamo and Falkbeer.

QUEEN'S KNIGHT'S OPENING.

- White (Mr. H.) 1. P to K 4 2. Kt to Q B 3 3. B to Q B 4 4. B takes Kt P 5. B to Q B 4 6. P to Q 3 7. P takes P 8. K B to Q Kt 5, (ch) 9. B takes B (ch) 10. P to K R 3, (a) 11. O to K 2 12. Q Kt to Q sq 13. P to Q B 3 14. Q takes P 15. Q to Q B 2 16. K Kt to K 2 17. K to B sq 18. Q B to K 3 19. P takes B 20. R to K Kt 3 21. Kt takes Kt 22. P takes P 23. K to Kt 2 24. Q to Q 2 25. K R to K Kt sq 26. K to R 2 27. K R to Kt 2 28. Kt to K B 2 29. Kt to K R 4 30. Q B to K sq 31. P takes Kt Black (Mr. F.) 1. P to K 4 2. Kt to K B 3 3. P to Q Kt 4 4. B to Q B 3 5. B to Q B 4 6. P to Q 3 7. P takes P 8. B to Q 2 9. Q Kt takes B 10. Q to Q Kt 3 11. Castles K R 12. P to K 5, (b) 13. P takes Q P 14. Q Kt to K 4 15. Q to Q R 3 (c) 16. Q Kt to Q 6 (ch) 17. K Kt to K 5 18. B takes B 19. P to K B 4 20. K Kt takes P (ch) (d) 21. P to K B 5 22. R takes P (ch) 23. Q to K Kt 3 24. Q Kt to Q 6 sq 25. R K to K B 6 26. Q to K 2 27. K to K B 5 28. Kt takes K 29. Kt to K 6 30. Kt takes Kt (ch) 31. P to Q 3

And White surrenders.

(a) This was an error, seemingly irreparable, for White never afterwards appears to have had time to liberate his men. We believe he should have played K Kt to K R 3.

(b) Mr. Falkbeer has now a powerful attack, and he maintains it capitally.

(c) A fine move, admirably followed up.

(d) A very ingenious combination.

JOKER'S BUDGET.

AFFECTING INSTANCE OF REVERSE OF FORTUNE.—At a London police court, lately, a man was charged with stealing lead from an empty house. He admitted to the constable who apprehended him that he had taken the lead, and added, mournfully, 'It certainly is a very paltry act, for in my time I have broken into and robbed jewellers' shops. See what it is to be reduced.'

CURIOUS EVENT.—A diffident Hartford bachelor went to the sea shore, in August, to seek refuge from the loneliness of his celibacy, and one dark evening, enjoying the breeze on the piazza of his hotel, happened to take a seat that had just been vacated by the husband of a loving wife, with whom the happy man had been chatting. In a few moments the lady returned, and mistaking the stranger for her husband, lovingly encircled his neck and gave him an affectionate kiss, with the remark, 'Come, darling, is it not about time to retire?' He did not faint, but the shock was very severe.

ALWAYS WENT DOUBLE-CHARGED.—A good story is told of one George Snaffer who many years ago lived in Portsmouth. Once he had been to Newcastle, gunning, and was coming home with his game-bag empty, and weary, when he stopped at the toll-house for a moment's rest. Says he to the toll-keeper:

'There's a fine flock of ducks back here in the pond; what will you take and let me fire into them?'

'Can't do it,' replied the toll-man. 'I don't want to have my ducks killed.'

George put his gun in the toll-house and walked back to take another look at the ducks. When he was gone, the toll-man, who was a wag, drew the shot from the barrel, and then replaced the gun. George returned, and then renewed the question.

'Well,' said the toll-man, 'though you are a good shot, I don't believe you could hurt them much. Give me a dollar, and you may fire.'

The dollar was paid, and quite a party, who had gathered around, went back to witness George's discomfiture. He raised his gun, fired, and killed nine of them.

'The deuce!' cried the toll-man. 'I took the charge out of the gun.'

'Yes,' said George, 'I supposed you would. I always go double charged.'

'Oh, Jacob!' said a master to his apprentice boy, 'it is wonderful to see what a quantity you can eat.' 'Yes, master,' replied the boy. 'I have been practising ever since I was a child.'

Coleridge, the poet and philosopher, once arriving at an inn, called out, 'Waiter, do you dine here collectively or individually?' 'Sir,' replied the knight of the napkin, 'we dine here at six.'

'Any news from America, John?' 'Na, there's nae news from America, nor no likely to be, Davit.' 'What do you mean by that?' 'Weel, John, the only great news from America would be the truth, and that wad be news, but we're no the least likely to get it.'

CURIOUS INCIDENT.—A curious incident occurred at Potsdam, at the time of the visit of the members of the Statistical Congress. Among the persons who were walking in the gardens of the Palace of Sans-Souci, was a Prussian officer, who entered into conversation with an English savant. The latter, after a time, could not avoid expressing his surprise at finding a Prussian officer speak English so well. The officer replied that there was nothing astonishing in that fact, as his wife and his mother-in-law were both English. 'Might I venture to enquire the name of your mother-in-law?' said the English savant. 'Queen Victoria!' replied the officer, who was the Crown Prince of Prussia.

It is said that shoemakers are exempt from military service in the Confederate army, even under the present wholesale conscription in Secession. This agrees with the anecdote we have heard of the Duke of Wellington, who on being asked what was the first requisite of a soldier, in actual service, said, 'A good pair of boots or shoes.' 'What is the second,' he was next asked. 'Another good pair of boots,' was the answer. 'And the third,' said the interrogator. 'A pair of soles in his knapsack,' said the Duke. It is doubtless an appreciation of the same fact which the Duke so strongly insisted upon, that causes the exemption of shoemakers from military service in the Confederacy.