

Musical.

ARE THE GERMANS A MUSICAL PEOPLE?

We have always been accustomed to regard Germany as the foremost among the Musical Nations of Europe; many people having an idea that all Germans are taught music from their infancy, and that France, England and other countries were, as regards music at least, immeasurably inferior to the sister nation. With this idea Mr. Hullah was commissioned by the British Government to visit the principal German cities, and, were it not that his reputation, as a man and a musician, is undoubtedly high, we would be inclined to question either his veracity or his judgment. He positively declares that ENGLAND IS AHEAD OF GERMANY! with respect to musical training, and that comparatively few of the masses in the latter country know anything at all about music.

Entering Germany from Switzerland, Mr. Hullah halted at Stuttgart, and visited two Protestant schools, a Roman Catholic school, and an asylum for blind children. "In the first I heard seven classes, all newly formed. In all of these, the reading was most elementary, or, I might say, non-existent. They sang chorals, or very simple songs, mostly, I think 'by ear,' certainly always without books. One teacher I found exercising a class on a scale of F, which he had written on a board without the flat before the fourth sound. This however, the children themselves supplied in singing, unconsciously no doubt to themselves and possibly to him also." The second school was of a higher grade, and the work "less unreal, though still very unsatisfactory. What was done was done chiefly by ear. The theory was, of the meagrest possible description, and the teaching generally as little 'educational' as it was possible to make it." In the Roman Catholic establishment "the boys sang very coarsely, and evidently knew nothing of music. The girls knew something, and sang much better than the boys. With a good deal of help they got through a very short and simple passage I wrote for them." Beyond the schools mentioned, Mr. Hullah does not appear to have gone. Astonished and confounded, he shook the dust of Wurtemberg off his feet, and hied away to Bavaria in hope of better things. Better things were actually found in Munich, though the English visitor was startled by hearing that in the Bavarian schools singing from notes is taught to any child under the age of ten—"in my opinion four, possibly five years too late." But the instruction, once begun, is well imparted; and Mr. Hullah speaks in high terms of what he saw at the Training School of Freising, where they have "a veritable orchestra of stringed instruments," and where a real concert was prepared for the foreign guest. Mr. Hullah adds—and here his criticism of Bavaria begins and ends—"If the work subsequently done in the elementary school be not of corresponding thoroughness, which it is to be feared is too often the case, the shortcoming must be chiefly due to the long delay in introducing the school children to musical notation."

Vienna disappointed Mr. Hullah sorely. There, in the "city of the masters," he naturally, if not very logically, expected great things, and met with small ones. Of this a high official warned him at the outset, saying, "with a melancholy smile and shake of the head, 'You will find very little.'" Mr. Hullah tersely adds, "He was right." Music seems to be well taught in the training schools, but the children, even those connected with such institutions, are mostly left to do as best they can "by ear." Referring to the pupils of one establishment, the Report says: "Their power of reading was the smallest conceivable. I wrote a few bars on a board in C, with an F sharp and a B flat introduced, but they failed utterly in singing them, even after three or four trials." Mr. Hullah would willingly have pushed his investigations farther, but, he adds: "I was discouraged alike by what I had seen and heard, and by reports of what I had not. The singing was, I was assured, in all such (elementary) schools 'by ear.'" It is easy to imagine the English Commissioner's disgust and disappointment on finding this state of things in Vienna, of all places in the world. Leaving the Austrian capital, Mr. Hullah made his way to Prague, recovering his spirits en route, along with his optimistic mood. In Bohemia, without doubt, he would recognise the most musical country of Europe. Did not Dr. Burney visit a school at Czeslau and find "little children of both sexes, from six to ten or eleven years old, who were reading, writing, playing on violins, hautbois, bassoons, and other instruments?" Assuredly he tells us that he did, and it is no wonder Mr. Hullah took heart and went into Prague with a smiling face. But, alas for the vanity of human wishes! "Your lordships may judge of my dismay when I heard from Herr Pivoda that the state of things described by Burney and others, though till recently existent, was now a thing of the past; that not only were 'the violin, the hautbois, the bassoon, and other instruments' no longer to be found in Bohemian schools, but that even singing was little practised there, and singing from notes scarcely at all!" Mr. Hullah, now again cast down, and, one might imagine, unpleasantly suspicious of hunting a will o' the-wisp, proceeded to verify this astonishing information, and had no difficulty in doing so. In the Burgerschule of Prague he found music taught to only three out of eight classes. The girls sang "sweetly and in tune, though very much out of time, leaving out a rest here and a dot there, without the slightest apparent consciousness of the slaughter they were dealing out to the rhythm of what they sang. The boys of the corresponding class knew absolutely nothing." In one or two other schools the results proved a little better, but were not Mr. Hullah's word, like the virtue of Caesar's wife beyond suspicion, we might hesitate to believe him when he tells us that the young women at the Bohemian Training School showed "the smallest conceivable" power of reading music. "They could do next to nothing in it. After two or three failures I gave up testing them, even with the simplest passages, in despair."

"THE QUEEN'S SHILLING."

A Full Rehearsal of the above Operetta was held in the Academy of Music on Wednesday evening, which was decidedly successful. The first public performance will be on Tuesday the 1st June, the Monday evening previous being reserved for a Full Dress Rehearsal in which the principal artists will participate. Miss Laura Schimer, of Boston, has been engaged as principal Soprano, and Mr. Ch. Fritsch, of New York, as leading Tenor, the remaining roles being sustained by local performers. The chorus numbers about sixty voices, and the orchestra comprises some twenty pieces; making, together with the soloists and military band, over a hundred performers. A feature in the opera will be the Maypole Dance in which a dozen ladies and gentlemen will take part.

PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

The last concert for this season has been postponed till the 27th inst. It is to be held in the Skating Rink, and special pains are being taken to make it a thorough success.

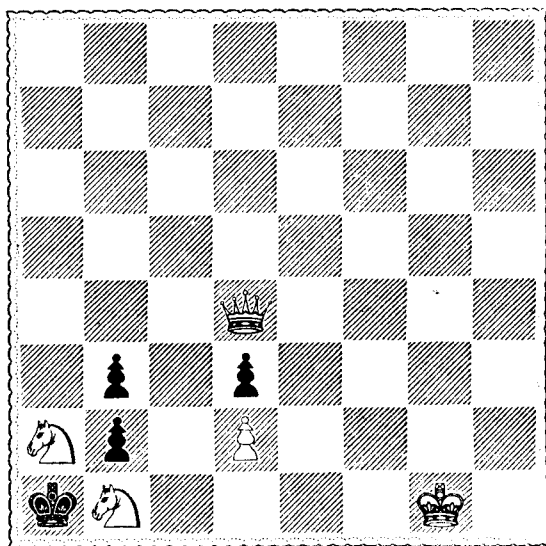
Chess.

All Correspondence intended for this Column, and Exchanges, should be directed to the CHESS EDITOR, CANADIAN SPECTATOR Office, 162 St. James Street, Montreal.

Montreal, May 8th, 1880.

PROBLEM NO. LXX.

By Mr. A. W. Shinkman. From the *Holveke Transcript*.
BLACK.



White to play and mate in three moves.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM NO. LXXVII. By Lisette Crunden.

<i>White.</i>	<i>Black.</i>	<i>White.</i>	<i>Black.</i>	<i>White.</i>
1 B to Q B 6	P to K 4 or B to R 7	2 K to R 3	Any	3 Kt or B mates.
	If K to Kt 5	2 Kt to R 4	Any	3 B mates.

Correct solution received from C.H.W.; A.M.

GAME NO. LXV.

MR. SHAW'S CORRESPONDENCE TOURNEY.

Played between Mr. M. J. Murphy, of Quebec, and Mr. A. Saunders, of Montreal.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
Mr. Murphy.	Mr. Saunders.	12 P takes Kt	B to Q 3	24 B to Q 2	P to B 6
1 P to Q 4	P to Q 4	13 Kt to Kt 5	P to B 3	25 B to Q B sq	P to B 7 (ch)
2 P to Q B 4	P to K 3	14 Q to B 3	B to Q 2	26 K to K 2	B to Q B 6
3 P to K 3	P to Q B 4	15 Kt to K 4	Q to K 2	27 R to R 2	B takes P
4 Kt to Q B 3	Kt to K B 3	16 P to Q R 4	R to Q B sq	28 K to Q 2	B takes P
5 P to Q R 3	P to Q R 3	17 P takes P	P takes P	29 B to Q R 6	R to Q R sq
6 Kt to K B 3	Kt to Q B 3	18 Q to R 5 (ch) (b)	P to Kt 3	30 B to Kt 2	K to B 2
7 K to K 2 (a)	Q P takes Q B P	19 Q tks Q Kt P	Kt takes Q P	31 K takes P	B to Q Kt 4
8 Q to R 4	P to Q Kt 4	20 Q to Kt 6	B to B 4	32 K R to Q R sq	B takes B
9 Q to Q sq	P takes Q P	21 Kt to Q 6 (ch)	Q takes Kt	33 R takes B	R takes R
10 P takes P	Kt to Q 4	22 Q takes Q	B takes Q	34 R takes R	R to Q sq
11 K to K sq	Kt takes Kt	23 P takes Kt (c)	B to Kt 5 (ch)	35 Resigns. (d)	

NOTES.—(a) This move was inflicted as a penalty.
(b) White has conducted his game with great care and circumspection since his seventh move.
(c) This seems all correct, but Black's Q B P will prove very formidable.
(d) There is no doubt but the issue would eventuate in White's losing the game. Since his seventh move the game has been devoid of interest.

GAME NO. LXVI.

A little skirmish lately played in the Montreal Chess Club.

(Remove White's Q Kt.)

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
Mr. J. G. Ascher.	Mr. A.	5 B to K 2	Q B to Kt 5 (a)	10 P takes B	P takes B
1 P to K 4	P to K 4	6 Castles	K B to B 4	11 R to K sq (ch)	K to B sq
2 P to K 4	K Kt to B 3	7 P to Q B 4	Q to B 3	12 Q to Q 8 (ch)	Kt to K sq
3 K Kt to B 3	P to Q 4	8 P to Q 4	B takes Kt	13 B to Kt 5	Q to Q 2 (b)
4 P takes P	Q takes P	9 B takes B	P to K 5	14 Mates in 3 moves.	

NOTES.—(a) Not good. K B to B 4 or Q Kt to B 3 were better.
(b) Black lays himself open to a pretty mate in three.

CHESS INTELLIGENCE.

A FEATURE recently inaugurated in the Elizabeth, N.J., Chess Club is a weekly lect ure on one of the Openings, given by Mr. Louis Quien, the Secretary. This is an excellent method of improving the play of the Club, and might be imitated by others as far as practicable. Our observation of the play at very many clubs is that it amounts to little more than skittles, is never systemised, and that the Openings are very rarely understood. Where is the club in which one may not be pestered for hour upon hour, day after day, by some Meadow Hay or hybrid Fianchetto, difficult, perhaps, to be overset by an amateur when it has been practised for a quarter of a century, but essentially rotten when analyzed! We have known, we think we are correct in the figures, three dozen games finished between two Montreal players between the hours of four and nine p.m. Let us ask whether these games can deserve the name of Chess? The mate is the due reward of him whose tactics have proved the best throughout the game, and he should not be deprived of it by the resignation of his adversary through the sudden loss of a pawn or piece, except in certain cases. How many players, who would scorn the insinuation of not being considered good, can skillfully and by the shortest method, secure the mate, with an open board? No! rather than puzzle their brains to find the proper mate, they will plant the rook on the Kt's square, confining the adverse K to the R's file, and coolly proceed to queen a pawn. This style of ending is the necessary offspring of those slap-dash games which last no longer than you can say Jack Robinson and contain no more chess than that individual himself was acquainted with. The Secretary, by conference with the Managing Committee might draw up a list of the various openings in an order to be agreed upon, and each opening might form the subject for a day's or week's play. During that time the player who departed from the opening within the limited number of moves should pay a penalty to the Club. In this way would a knowledge of the Openings be obtained and individual play attain a higher standard.

THE match between the Montreal and Quebec Clubs, by Telegraph, was played in Montreal, at the offices of the Montreal Telegraph Company, last Thursday evening. Mr. Sterling was selected by Quebec as their umpire, and Mr. Fletcher was chosen to attend to the interests of Montreal in the ancient city. A full report of the match will appear in our next issue.

MARRIED.

On 26th April, at Zion Church, by Rev. Alfred J. Bray, Gilbert Francis Wanless to Anne Jane Shaw.