

Musical.

All correspondence intended for this column should be directed to the Musical Editor, CANADIAN SPECTATOR Office, 162 St. James Street, Montreal.

Notices of Concerts in Provincial towns, &c. are invited, so as to keep musical amateurs well informed concerning the progress of the art in Canada.

THE following is an extract from the Circular referred to in Mr. Arnold's letter, published a short time ago:—

"It is intended to give a Vocal and Instrumental Concert in the Crystal Palace on the Evening of Easter Monday, the 2nd April 1866, with the Pupils of the British and Canadian Schools, numbering between three and four hundred; assisted by the Choral Class of the same Institution, and many other ladies and gentlemen of the City, who have kindly volunteered their services on the occasion; making a total of over four hundred voices. This large number will be accompanied by the excellent String Band of the 25th K. O. B. and several professional gentlemen. The full Military Band of the same Regiment, whose services Colonel Fane and Officers of the Regiment have kindly granted, will also perform some choice selections. This is the largest number of performers (nearly five hundred) ever brought together at a Concert in this city; and although three-fourths of them are children, still, from the systematic training they have received for years, the public may rest assured that they will hear the choicest choruses sung in a manner that will astonish them.

"The object of the Concert is two-fold. First, to show that by regular and systematic training children may be taught to sing to Orchestral Accompaniments, the best of music, in correct time, and with a fair degree of expression. In these respects it is believed that the teacher of this School is going even beyond the Schools of Prussia, Germany, and many other countries of Europe in which singing is imperative, and forms one of the regular branches of Education.

"And, secondly, to refund a part of the money, amounting to more than a thousand dollars, which Mr. Arnold has expended out of his own private means, in providing the School with those necessary appliances, without which the internal arrangements would not have been complete.

Wm. Lum,

Chairman of the Board of Directors of the British and Canadian Schools."

The concert mentioned above was successfully given, and in 1866 Mr. Arnold issued another circular, an extract from which we append:—

When I was in England, two years ago, I had the pleasure of listening to the voices of five thousand children, all singing together, in the Crystal Palace. The programme was headed, "Great Choral Meeting of Metropolitan Schools,—Five Thousand Voices,—Conductor, Mr. G. W. Martin,—Organist, Mr. J. G. Boardman. Programme:—Luther's Hymn,—Shall Hymns of Grateful Love,—Sweetly the Sabbath Bell,—Jerusalem the Golden—The Vesper Hymn,—Thy Will be Done,—Jesus lover of my Soul,—Forest Traveller's Evening Hymn,—Home, Sweet Home,—The Last Rose of Summer,—The Blue Bells of Scotland,—Men of Harlech,—The Echo Chorus,—A Southerly Wind,—See the Conquering Hero Comes,—God Save the Queen."

The volume of musical sound coming from so large a number of voices, accompanied by the great organ, erected in the gallery, was something beyond description. The immense audience, numbering over forty thousand, seemed to be thoroughly carried away with delight, while the tremendous bursts of applause were almost deafening. Many eminent musicians in London pronounced it one of the most pleasing and interesting vocal entertainments they had ever witnessed, notwithstanding the fact of the pieces being comparatively simple and easily rendered. On making enquiry why these concerts, which appeared to be so highly successful, were not repeated oftener, I was informed that the great amount of labour and expense in getting them up, and bringing so many thousands of performers together, was the only reason. After witnessing this entertainment, I felt still more strongly the practicability of doing a similar thing, but of course on a smaller scale, with the Sunday Schools of this city; irrespective of the church or denomination with which they are connected; and I now throw out these suggestions, and make these remarks, principally that Clergymen, Superintendents and Teachers of Sunday Schools and all others who take an interest in seeing the singing in our Sunday Schools, and eventually in our Churches, improved and popularized.

My plan would be, to gather the various Sunday Schools together in St. Patrick's Hall, every Saturday afternoon, for the practice of plain and simple hymn tunes, such are sung in the different schools and churches of all Protestant denominations. The children to be taught to sing these tunes by note, in strict time and with the necessary musical expression. A committee to be appointed of the different Ministers and Sunday School Superintendents to consult with the music teachers engaged in this work, in their selection of tunes or tune books to prevent the possibility of those being introduced that might give offence, or be objectionable to any one.

At a random calculation, I will say there are eight thousand children attending the schools of the different Protestant churches, including those collected in the Branch and Independent Sunday Schools of the city. Now, if one out of every four, or say, two thousand, found it convenient, and if it were agreeable to their ministers' and parents' wishes to attend these practices regularly, what a vast improvement would, in all probability, be perceptible in a few months, and should it become an Institution, which is my earnest wish, what a revolution in the music of our Sunday Schools and places of worship, would be brought about in a very few years.

DR. SATTER'S PERFORMANCE EXTRAORDINARY.

This gentleman, feeling that he was under-estimated by the profession and the public, issued a challenge to all and everyone to bring him any piece of music to the warehouses of "The New York Piano Co." when he would undertake to perform it at sight. Of course his proceeding was altogether unnecessary. As Dr. Satter has long since proved himself a pianist of no mean ability; but, being requested to attend, we were present at the performance, and were fairly surprised at the ease with which Dr. Satter played music which he had never seen or heard before. Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Bach, Chopin, Raff, Smith, Jones, Brown, anybody or nobody at all, it was all the same to him, as he sat with his eyes fixed steadily on the page, executing the most difficult passages with ease, and with a fair amount of expression into the bargain. We think the exhibition was unequalled for, especially as many excellent pianists and musicians do not read well at sight; but we must admit that Dr. Satter (whether he be the first or the thirty-first living pianist) is the best sight-reader we have ever come across.

MENDELSSOHN CHOIR.

The concert of the Mendelssohn Choir, given in the Mechanics' Hall on Thursday evening, was largely attended, and was in every respect a praiseworthy performance. The programme was relieved by a Violin Concerto (Max Bruch's), which was performed by Mr. Prume in a masterly manner. The only drawback to our complete enjoyment was the want of balance among the voice parts; the basses being out of all proportion to the rest of the choir, while the tenors (though remarkably good) were numerically weak.

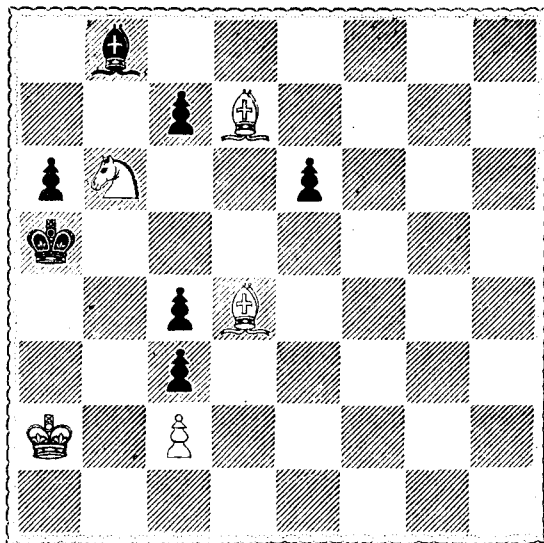
Chess.

Montreal, April 11th, 1880.

PROBLEM NO. LXVII.

By Lisette Crunden. From the *Brighton Herald*.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM NO. LXIV. Lowenthal Problem Tourney, No. 2.
Motto: "Wintonians." B to Q B 2.

Correct solution received from C.P.; J.W.S., "A good problem, ingenious in idea and elaborate in construction."

THE COMPROMISED DEFENCE IN THE EVANS GAMBIT.

We take the following article from one of our Exchanges, feeling sure that it will be acceptable to many of our readers, as it places, in a succinct and well arranged manner, the leading moves in this most interesting variation of this most remarkable opening:—

THIS DEFENCE has now become common, and it was at one time supposed that it would prevent this celebrated opening from being adopted in future. However the Evans Gambit is likely to secure it in any event, since by playing 6 Castles, instead of 6 P to Q 4, White evades this Defence altogether and obtains a very fair game notwithstanding. But it has yet to be proved that the Compromised Defence is sound, notwithstanding Dr. Zukertort's extremely elaborate analysis. The principal variations have not made their way into published treatises on chess up to the present.

The moves which constitute this Defence are: 1 P to K 4—P to K 4; 2 K Kt to B 3—Q Kt to B 3; 3 B to Q B 4—B to Q B 4; 4 P to Q Kt 4—B takes P; 5 P to Q B 3—B to Q R 4; 6 P to Q 4—P takes P; 7 Castles—P takes P. The usual continuation is 8 Q to Q Kt 3—Q to K B 3; 9 P to K 5—Q to K Kt 3, 10 Kt takes Q B P—K Kt to K 2, at which point White has several ways of continuing. Black may also play 10 B takes Kt, and obtain as far as I can see a very fair game; and Mr. Delmar (White) lately played 9 B to K Kt 5 against Mr. Barnes with advantage. The authorities, however, prefer Black 10 K Kt to K 2; White's best reply to which is generally believed to be 11 B to Q R 3. It certainly gives rise to positions of great interest.

Dr. Zukertort originally proposed to continue as follows: 11 (Bl) P to Q Kt 4; 12 Kt takes P—R to Q Kt sq; 13 Q to Q R 4—P to Q R 3, overlooking, apparently, the consequences of White sacrificing his Kt at the 14th move. (I may here observe that I believe 12 B takes P is likewise safe enough for White, the best continuation being Bl 12 R to Q Kt sq; 13 Kt to Q 5—B to Q R 3; 14 Kt takes Kt—Kt takes Kt; 15 Kt to Q 4, the attack afforded by 15 B takes Q P ch being hardly worth the sacrifice. White has likewise other 13th moves than Q to Q R 4, but this seems to be the best.) This sacrifice affords some of the most interesting continuations which even the Evans Gambit is capable of supplying. The following was played some years ago by Mr. Blackburne: 14 Kt to Q 6 ch—P takes Kt; 15 P takes P—Kt to K B 4; 16 K R to K sq ch—B takes R; 17 Q R takes B ch—K to K B sq; 18 Q takes Kt, and if Black replies 18 P takes Q, he is checkmated in two moves. Had Black played 17 K to Q sq, White would equally have obtained a decided advantage by 18 Kt to K 5, following with 19 Q to Q R 5 ch, if the Kt is taken. The continuation 17 Q R takes B ch—K to K B sq; 18 Q takes Kt might not improbably lead to the following pretty conclusion: Bl 18 B to Q Kt 2; 19 Q takes Q P—B takes Kt; 20 Q to K 8 ch—R takes Q; 21 P to Q 7 dis ch and wins. Mr. Court recently played the following defence against Mr. Blackburne: Bl 17 K Kt to K 2; 18 P takes Kt—R to Q Kt 8, when White played 19 B to Q B sq, the reply being 19 R to Q Kt 5 winning. White, however, should have played 19 B takes K B P ch—K takes B; 20 Q to K B 4 ch—Q to K B 3, followed by 21 Q takes Q ch and 22 R takes R, when the game is rather in favour of White.

(To be continued.)

CHESS INTELLIGENCE.

The Holyoke *Transcript* asks us to give proofs of the charge of corruption in the last Manhattan Club Tourney, referred to in our issue of March 20th. We wish we could give the proofs, as it would undoubtedly tend to purify the chess atmosphere of New York, which recent developments indicate to be very much in need of purification. Our information was derived from the Brooklyn *Eagle* of March 8th, a paper written almost on the spot and which may be considered a reliable organ. After referring to the Ware-Grundy matter and the corruption at the Centennial Tourney and *The Clipper* Tourney of the same year, it continues: "There was also a bargaining of the same kind done in the late Manhattan Club Tourney. In fact, what is termed 'crookedness' in other sports has been indulged in in metropolitan chess for some time." Besides Ware and Grundy, "other old offenders are well known, and their future proceedings will be watched with an *Eagle* eye, and if more of this work is done it will be as fully exposed as the Grundy and Ware tricks have been." We do not know the writer of this article, but are pleased to read such fearless exposure of corruption in chess circles.

MR. WARE is apparently astonished that the chess world does not indorse his commercial views in playing for prizes, and has tardily sent in his resignation to the American Chess Association. We hope the Association will now deal with him in conformity with the views of its own Committee of Investigation. The *Globe-Democrat* of St. Louis says: "The chess world will not be satisfied until the Association reconsiders its action in regard to Ware and expels him," and this is our opinion.

MR. H. C. ALLEN, lately the literary editor of Mackenzie's chess column in *Turf, Field and Farm*, has severed his connection with that paper, and will edit an extensive chess department of his own in Brentano's Monthly Magazine. We believe that the *Turf's* loss is the chess world's gain, and only regret that Mr. Allen has not taken up the editing of a monthly magazine entirely devoted to chess. We know no gentleman better qualified to fill this great desideratum in American chess literature.