

CITY CHIMES.

The season of penitence is almost over and the social calm of the past seven weeks will soon be broken, as is usual in Easter week, by a gale of gaieties. This being Holy Week all good people have kept themselves strictly out of the social swirl and have devoted themselves to church services and meditation. As this paragraph makes its appearance on Good Friday, it would be timely for us to give a little sermonette on the manner in which the day should be passed, but we refrain, leaving such a matter to the good sense of our readers. The holiday is to many a holiday—nothing more, but to others it is what the word originally was intended to mean—a Holy day. To the latter, advice would be superfluous, and on the others, who go a-fishing, a-shooting or a merry-making, it would be thrown away. In fact, we do not think that the taking of an outing, even on Good Friday, is a sin of special heinousness in busy or hard-worked men and women, and so long as these relaxations from business are conducted in sobriety and quietness we think little harm is likely to be done by them. Holidays in Halifax are usually very tame affairs. It fine weather a walk in the park or a drive is usually indulged in by pater familias and his offspring, or if the latter do not exert such devotion from the author of their existence he may munge—in the season—to go off with his chums for a fishing or shooting expedition. It is too early for fishing to day, so some other way of getting sport will doubtless prevail. Walking is not very pleasant—or driving either for that matter—on account of mud, but if the atmosphere is clear it is worth while to brave the mud, and putting on stout boots sally forth to enjoy the rigors of spring, which are visible to close observers. Easter falls early this year. The *Pull Mall Gazette* has a friend of fact's and figures who has given us the following curious statistics: In 1883 Easter fell on March 25th, and it will only once again this century, namely, in 1894, fall on so early a date. In the three following centuries it will occur only eight times on the same date, namely, in 1951, 2035, 2046, 2057, 2103, 2114, 2125 and 2198. The earliest date on which Easter can fall is on March 22nd, and this only in case the moon is full on March 21st, when this date happens to fall on Saturday. This combination of circumstances is extremely rare. It occurred in 1390, 1761 and 1817, and will happen again in 1990, 2076 and 2144, while during the three following centuries it is not once "on the books" at this early date. On the other hand Easter never falls later than April 25th; this was the case in 1666, 1734 and 1886, and will only happen once in the next century, namely, 1943. The greater number of these dates have but a small interest for people now living.

It is in order for masculine members of society to protest against the prevalence of the afternoon "At Home" or tea fight, supposed to be organized for social enjoyment, but which gives very little of "one bring's end and aim" to the unlucky man who gets jammed into a crush of people in a friend's house. Hostesses are given to complaining that they cannot induce the Inferior Sex—we allude to man—to grace their drawing rooms on such occasions. Now in the main man, although of course inferior, is a sensible animal so far as his own comfort is concerned and he usually stays away out of consideration for himself, which is a truly laudable reason. Why should he have his nerves rasped up by a babble of small talk called conversation, and in an over crowded room on a hot day, drink hot tea that he does not want and lose his appetite for dinner, get his hat brushed the wrong way and have the placid serenity of his temper disturbed just for the sake of a bow to his hostess, or perhaps if the crowd permits, shaking hands with her? These at homes are ugly excrescences on the face of society, and their uselessness is forcing itself on the attention of everyone. A change is necessary. Not to say that small teas must go, or any other arrangement that is really enjoyed by cultivated and refined people, but the *crush* ought to be discarded by all who wish to perform their social duties with acceptance to their friends. Why should not originality in entertaining be aimed at by our society friends? The only virtue ever claimed for the "muffin worry" "tea fight" or whatever euphonious name may be bestowed upon it, is cheapness, but is it so cheap after all? True, you can invite all the people you know and feed them to a certain extent for less money than would be expended upon a dainty little dinner for eight or ten of your chosen friends, but what follows? You are expected to go to all the teas that all your friends give, and get just the same entertainment you yourself gave, and of which, if the truth be told, you desire very little. Afternoon entertainments are not for busy men. Our temporary fellow citizens, the officers of the garrison, are the only men at the disposal of the ladies so early in the day. We scarcely like to say anything about the garrison, for our weekly contemporaries have said about as much as is necessary, and some years ago *THE CRITIC* had its say also. But as to entertainments, we would recommend the evening reception always, when men are expected to be present, and this would perhaps have the effect of giving our city young men a chance to gain ground with the girls, instead of letting the officers have everything their own way from the rink and toboggan slide to the afternoon tea party. Our hostesses would do well to try and bring out the retiring young Halifaxian, who is really not a bad sort when he is properly treated.

The Catholic Mission at St. Mary's Cathedral came to a close on Sunday, when two hundred and fifty men and women were confirmed.

Rev. Dr. Burns, who has been ill for some time, is better, and preached in Fort Massey Church on Sunday morning, to the delight of his people.

The benefit concert to be tendered to Professor S. Porter by the Orpheus Club will be given in Orpheus Hall early in April.

Messrs. Gordon & Keith are bidding their friends to a reception at their

warerooms, 45 Barrington street, on Tuesday evening next. A large number of invitations are out, and dancing is the entertainment offered. Mrs. James Gordon and Mrs. Alexander Keith have undertaken the duties of chaperons.

On reading our daily papers one is almost tempted to wish that the Ohio lady, who was so frightened by a snake that her glossy black hair turned as white as snow, could avail herself of the services of Madame Ramsdell, who has again deferred her departure from Halifax for a short time.

The Grau Opera Company open at the Academy of Music on Monday next with the *Gonoliers*. Full houses will probably favor them during their stay in the city. It is a long time since we have had an opera troupe in Halifax.

CONSUMPTION CURED.—An old physician, retired from practice, having had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma and all throat and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all nervous complaints, after having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, has felt it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellows. Actuated by this motive and a desire to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge, to all who desire it, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail by addressing with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. Noyes, 820 Powers Block, Rochester, N. Y.

CHESS.

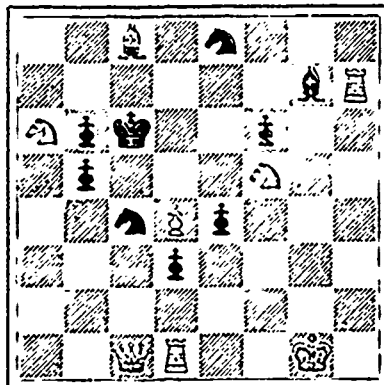
PROBLEM No. 69

First prize two-mover in *Bahn Frei* tourney.

By L. N. de Yong, Utrecht.

From *Montreal Gazette*.

BLACK 9 pieces.



WHITE 8 pieces.

White to play and mate in two moves.

GAME No. 61.

Game in the Canadian Chess Association Tournament played at Montreal January 6th, 1891.

RUY LOPEZ.

WHITE.

J. P. Taylor.

1 P to K4

2 Kt to KB3

3 B to QKt5

4 P to Q3

5 P to QB3

6 B to QR4

7 QKt to Q2

8 QKt to KB

9 P takes P

10 B takes Kt

11 Kt takes P

12 K takes B

13 Kt to KKt3

14 Kt to K2

15 Castles

16 P to KB4 b

17 P to KKt3

18 P to KB5 c

19 Kt to KB4

20 R takes Kt

21 B to Q2

22 R to B2

23 K takes R

24 K to B1

25 K to K1

26 K to B1

27 K to K1

28 K to B1

29 K to K1

30 K to B1

BLACK.

Wm. B. Jullbee.

P to K4

Kt to QB3

Kt to KB3

P to Q3

B to Q2

B to K2

P to QR3

P to Q1 a

Kt takes P

B takes B

Castles

P takes Kt

B to Q3

R to K1

Q to KR5

R to K3

Q to R6

R to K4

Kt takes Kt

QR to K1

R to K7

R takes R

Q takes RP ch

Q to R6 ch

B to R7 ch

B to K6 ch

R to R7 ch

Q to B7 mate

NOTES

a Not good.

b The beginning of White's troubles.

c Bad.—*The Week*.

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