

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

QUERY.—The letter in the earl's name is pronounced as "a" and in the town as "e."

ALICE B.—The wife of a baronet or knight is generally designed by Lady prefixed to her husband's surname, the proper legal design, however, is Dame, followed by her christian name and surname.

EMMA, JAMES M., and J. H.—We are unable to reply to your questions.

JUANITA.—The initials at the end of a letter, R. S. V. P., mean *respondere si vobis placit*, "answer if you please." A lemon sliced in sugar or honey, or a new egg, will clear the voice previous to singing.

WILLIAM W.—The seven days which precede and the seven which follow the shortest day were called by the ancients halcyon days, on account of a fable that during this time, while the halcyon bird or kingfisher was breeding, there always prevailed calms at sea. From this the phrase "halcyon days" has come to signify times of peace and tranquility.

C. L. C.—The verses are respectfully declined.

B. B.—We believe there are such laws in the statute book: but you would find it difficult and costly to apply them if resisted.

FRANK.—The back numbers of the READER (with one or two exceptions) are all in print. Send a list of the numbers you require to complete your sets.

JESSIE L.—We read in the Pentateuch of mirrors of brass being used by the Hebrews, and bronze mirrors were in very common use amongst the ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans. Mirrors of glass were first made at Venice in 1300, but they were very rude contrivances compared with modern ones. The making of mirrors was introduced into England in 1673, and soon became an important manufacture. Mirrors can be produced of any size to which plate glass can be cut, from eighteen days to a month are required to complete the process of manufacture.

Mr. Dickens has related in *All the Year Round* the story of a strange coincidence, having almost a supernatural character, which recently occurred to himself. It is contained in a note which he appends to an article by a contributor, who advances some new theories with regard to spectral appearances, and tells the famous stories of Lord Lyttelton (with some additions not hitherto published) and of Lord Tyrone and Lady Beresford. Remarking on the latter, Mr. Dickens thinks that natural explanations are sufficient, and, in illustration of "the broad margin of allowance that must always be left for coincidence in these cases," relates the following singular anecdote:—"We dreamed that we were in a large assembly, and saw a lady in a bright red wrapper, whom we thought we knew. Her back being towards us, we touched her. On her looking round, she disclosed a face that was unknown to us, and, on our apologizing, said pleasantly: 'I am Miss N——,' mentioning a name, not the name of any friend or acquaintance we had, although a well-known name. The dream was unusually vivid, and we awoke. On the very next evening, we recognized (with a strange feeling), coming in at the open door of our room, the lady of the dream, in the bright red wrapper. More extraordinary still, the lady was presented by the friend who accompanied her, as Miss N——, the name in the dream. No circumstance, near or remote, that we could ever trace, in the least accounted for this. The lady came on the real commonplace visit in pursuance of an appointment quite unexpectedly made with the lady who introduced her, only on the night of the dream. From the latter, we had no previous knowledge of her name, nor of her existence."

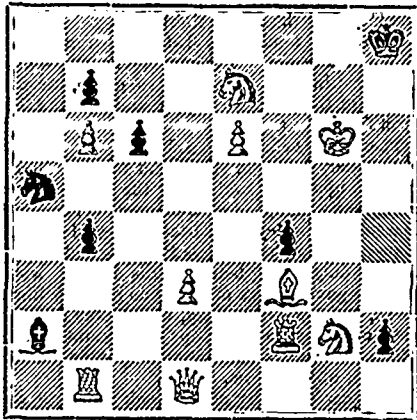
A MAN who had been married twice to Indies both named Catherine, advised his friends against taking dupli-Kates.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. C. B. CONAJCHARIE, N. Y.—Although long past due, none the less welcome. The position, from a cursory examination, appears to be quite sound. G. G. ST. CATHARINES.—Thanks for your prompt compliance with our request. The Problem by E. H. C. is certainly a hard nut, we have so far failed to crack it.

PROBLEM, No. 77. BY W. S. PAVITT. (From the "Chess World.") BLACK.



White to play and Mate in two moves.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM, No. 76. WHITE: 1 R to K 4. 2 Kt Mates. (a) 1 R takes P Mate. 2 R takes P Mate. BLACK: P to Q 3 or (a.) P to K 4.

THE MACKENZIE AND REICHELHM MATCH. THIRD GAME. FRENCH DEFENCE.

WHITE. (Mr. Mackenzie.) 1 P to K 4. 2 P to Q 4. 3 Q Kt to B 3. 4 Kt takes P. 5 Kt takes Kt. 6 Kt to B 3. 7 B to Q 3. 8 Castles. 9 Q to K 2. 10 P to B 3. 11 P to Q Kt 4. 12 Kt to K 5. 13 B to Q 2. 14 B takes Kt. 15 P to Kt 3. 16 P to Q Kt 4. 17 P takes Kt. 18 P to R 6. 19 P to K 6. 20 P takes P (ch.) 21 P to Kt 6. 22 B to K 4 (ch.) 23 R takes P. 24 R to R sq (ch.) 25 R to K 6 (ch.) 26 Q to K 3 (ch.) 27 Q to K 2 (ch.) 28 Q to Kt 2. 29 K to Kt 2, and Mr. Reichhelm resigns. BLACK. (Mr. Reichhelm.) 1 P to K 3. 2 P to Q 4. 3 P takes P. 4 Kt to K B 3. 5 Q takes Kt. 6 P to K R 3. 7 B to Q 3. 8 B to Q 2. 9 Kt to B 3. 10 Castles (Q R) 11 Kt to K 2. 12 Kt to Q 4. 13 Kt to B 5. 14 Q takes B. 15 Q to B 3. 16 B takes Kt. 17 Q to K 2. 18 B to K B 3. 19 B to B 3. 20 K takes P. 21 K to K sq. 22 K to K sq. 23 K takes Kt. 24 K to K 3. 25 K to B 3. 26 K to B 5. 27 K to B 4. 28 R to Q 8 (ch.)

FOURTH GAME. EVANS GAMBIT.

WHITE. (Mr. Reichhelm.) 1 P to K 4. 2 K Kt to B 3. 3 B to B 4. 4 P to Q Kt 4. 5 P to B 3. 6 Castles. 7 P to Q 4. 8 P takes P. 9 Kt to B 3. 10 B to Q 3. 11 Kt to K Kt 5. 12 Q to K 5. 13 P to K 5. 14 B takes B. 15 K Kt to K 4. 16 Q to B 3. 17 Kt to B 6 (ch.) 18 P to K Kt 4. 19 K Kt to Q 5. 20 Q to K 3. 21 P to B 4. 22 Kt takes P. 23 Kt to R 5 (ch.) 24 Q to R 3. 25 Q takes Kt. 26 Kt to B 6. 27 Kt to R 5 (ch.) 28 Kt to B 6 (ch.) 29 Kt to R 5 (ch.) BLACK. (Mr. Mackenzie.) 1 P to K 4. 2 Q Kt to B 3. 3 B to B 4. 4 B takes Kt P. 5 B to B 4. 6 P to Q 3. 7 P takes P. 8 B to Kt 3. 9 Kt to R 4. 10 Kt to K 2. 11 P to K Kt 3. 12 Castles. 13 B to K B 4. 14 Kt takes B. 15 P to K Kt 3. 16 B takes Q P. 17 K to Kt 2. 18 B takes P (best) 19 Kt to R 5. 20 P to K Kt 4. 21 P takes P. 22 Q to K Kt 4. 23 K to R sq. 24 Q to K 3. 25 B takes Kt. 26 K to Kt 2. 27 K to R 2. 28 K to Kt 2. 29 K to R 2.

And the game was abandoned as drawn.

WITTY AND WHIMSICAL.

A CHARACTER, like a kettle, once mended, always wants mending.

WHAT is taken from you before you get it?—Your portrait.

MOCK no man for his snub-nose, for you never can tell what may turn up.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to ask how much the waist of time measures round.

"Too much of a good thing," as the kitten said when she fell into a milk-pail.

DEPRAVED TASTE.—The small gentleman who indulged so freely in biting sarcasm has taken to swallowing affronts.

AN Irishman once observed that mile-stones were kind enough to answer your questions without giving you the trouble to ask them.

THE best "Ladie's Companion"—Her Husband—Judy.

A clergyman who had been told that his sermons were too long, excused himself on the ground that the church was a large one.

"Sirrah," said a justice to one brought before him, "you are an arrant knave."—"Just as your worship spoke," said the prisoner, "the clock struck two."

During the Louisiana campaign a party of soldiers, marching through a swamp, were ordered to form two deep, when a corporal exclaimed, "I'm too deep already—I'm up to my middle!"

OCULAR DEMONSTRATION.—Winking.

SHAKSPEARIAN THOUGHT.—"When the brains are out, the Woman will dye."

"MORE or LESS."—The usual place of resort for Dublin duellists was called Fifteen Acres. An attorney of that city, in penning a challenge, probably thought he was drawing a lease, and invited his antagonist to meet him at "the place called Fifteen Acres—be the same more or less."

THE FIRST WIG.—St. Louis lost his hair in Palestine, and when Queen Bianca saw him thus denuded she was sorely vexed. However, she bethought herself of a remedy, which was to cut off a lock from the head of every courtier; these she sewed carefully together, and thus made the first wig!

ECONOMICAL BIRDS.—A gentleman writing from Africa, and describing a lot of ostriches which he has on hand, says:—They are cheap birds to keep. They live on gun-flints and rusty nails. A fresh spike is a delicious morsel, while an old hinge, with a little oil on it, is fought for with as much eagerness as a pair of aldermen would exhibit over a bowl of green turtle."

A SCOTCH lady from a country town in the Highlands being taken to Edinburgh, and hearing modern singing in a church for the first time, was asked by the lady who took her there what she thought of the music. "It's verra bonny, verra bonny, but oh, my leddy, it's an awfu' way of spending the Sabbath."

AN irritable tragedian was playing *Macbeth*, and had rushed off to kill *Duncan*, when there was no blood for the Thane to steep his hands in. The actor, however, not to disappoint the audience, clenched his fist, and striking the property man a violent blow on his nose, coolly daubed his hands with what flowed from it, and re-entered with the usual words, "I've done the deed—did'st thou not hear a noise?"

PUNISHMENT OF IMPUDENCE.—A lawyer driving through the town of Worcester stopped at a cottage to inquire his way. The woman of the house told him he must keep on straight for some time, then turn to the right; but said that she herself was going to pass the road he must take, and that if he would wait a few moments till she could get her horse ready, she would show him the way. "Well," said he, "bad company is better than none—make haste." After joggling on five or six miles, the gentleman asked if they had not come to the road he must take? "Oh yes," said she, "we have passed it two or three miles back, but I thought had company was better than none, so I kept you along with me."