

APRIL SUN AND APRIL SHOWERS.

In April sun and April showers
Resembled one fair woman's powers;
A smile—the sunshine bright appears;
Like showers sudden fall the tears.

As April showers April rays
Banish swift in April days,
Woman's tears thus quickly fly
When sparkle smiles in woman's eye.

April sun with April showers
Bring the bloom to summer flowers;
Woman's tears, though sad the while,
Enhance the charm of woman's smile.

And like as April showers fall
Earth's latent verdure to recall,
And then the rays of April sun
Complete the work that they begun.

So when the tear-drops gather fast,
Then dimples, and away they've past;
As bright eyes sparkle, lit by smiles,
Like April weather woman's wiles.

THE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE OF
MAY 6.

A total eclipse of the sun occurs on the 6th of May, that presents features of special interest. It is greatly to be regretted that this sublime and awe-inspiring phenomenon marks its path over a portion of the globe where there are so few to witness it. The line of totality lies entirely in the South Pacific Ocean, and as ingeniously avoids habitable land as if its purpose were to confine the spectacle to the smallest possible number of spectators.

There are, however, with the narrow path of total obscuration, two eligible points where the eclipse may be seen to great advantage. These points are two small islands, named Caroline Island and Flint Island. Caroline Island, the larger of the two, is about ten miles in circumference, and was, when visited in 1874, inhabited by a few natives and an Englishman. It is situated in 73° 20' west longitude from Washington, and in 9° 40' south latitude. It does not belong to the group known as the Caroline Islands, situated further west. The duration of totality in Caroline Island will be five minutes twenty second.

Flint Island is five or six miles in circumference and is uninhabited. It is situated in 73° 40' west longitude from Washington, and in 11° 30' south latitude. The advantage it possesses lies in the fact that the totality here continues five minutes and thirty-three seconds, thirteen seconds longer than in Caroline Island.

The eclipse of May next is especially favorable to observation on account of the exceptionally long duration of the total phase. The longest time a solar eclipse can last is a little less than seven minutes. The average time is about two minutes. In the present case, the totality will continue between five and six minutes, which is a rare event.

Three expeditions are already on the way to these lone islands of the Pacific, for the purpose of observing the eclipse. The American expedition is sent by the United States Government, five thousand dollars having been appropriated for the purpose. The National Academy of Sciences, the Naval Observatory, and the Coast Survey all send representatives. The party consists of six members: Professor Holden, Director of the Washburn Observatory, at Madison, Wis.; Prof. Hastings, of the Johns Hopkins University, of Baltimore, and Mr. Rockwell, of Tarrytown, New York, nominated by the National Academy of Sciences; Mr. Preston and Mr. Upton, sent by the Coast Survey; and Ensign Brown, sent by the Naval Observatory. Prof. Holden has charge of the expedition.

The astronomers started from New York on the 1st of March, reached Panama on the 9th, and Callao on the 22nd. From Callao they will be conveyed by a Government steamer directly to Caroline Island, which they hope to reach by the 25th of April. They will spend the intervening time till May 6th in preparation for their work. After the eclipse, the Government steamer will take the voyagers to Honolulu, Sandwich Islands; thence they will return by steamer to San Francisco, and arrive in New York about the 1st of July. This is the programme of the American exploring party, and on account of the isolation of its members from the rest of the world it will be impossible to obtain tidings of the result of their work before the 1st of June.

British astronomers are but meagerly represented on the occasion. The Royal Astronomical Society has sent two representatives, who, joining the American observers at Panama, will go with them to Caroline Island. They will take charge of the photographic work.

The French expedition, under the charge of M. Janssen, is also on its way in pursuit of the same object. It will probably observe on Flint Island, or, divided into sections, may occupy both islands.

Thus, three of the most enlightened Governments of the world send men of science to this far-away spot to "take notes" on the day when the light of the sun is hidden for less than six minutes. What do these astronomers hope to accomplish that will reward them for the privations endured in traversing many thousand miles by land and sea, and for the possibility that intervening clouds may hide the phenomenon from view?

They hope to learn something on three important points, two of which are connected with the surroundings of the sun, and are never revealed except on the rare occasions of a total

eclipse. In the first place, they will make a study of the corona, the silvery halo that surrounds the sun, and comes into view the moment his bright orb is covered by the moon. Especially will they pay attention to the immense appendages that branch out from the corona in all directions, and, taking on all manner of fantastic forms, spread in limitless dimensions into the regions of space. The problem of exceeding interest to solve is whether they are dependencies of the coronal atmosphere, or whether they are swarms of meteors circulating around the sun.

In the second place, observations will be made upon the zodiacal light, the glimmering glow of pale gold that, during portions of the year, appears in the west after sunset, and, assuming a comet-like form, rises high among the stars. The possible connection between this mysterious light and the coronal appendages affords material for observation of exceeding interest.

In the third place, careful search will be made for the small intra-Mercurial planets that probably circulate in the immediate neighborhood of the sun, and can only be seen when making a transit over his disk, or during a total solar eclipse.

Observations on various other points of interest connected with the sun and the corona will be made during the six precious minutes of veiled sunlight. The contacts will be carefully noted for the correction of the lunar tables; the corona and its spectrum will be accurately photographed; the chromosphere will be examined with the spectroscope both before and after totality; a new polariscope will be tried; and meteorological instruments will be used for studying radiation and other phenomena.

The tropical locality of the place of observation is favorable for clear weather on the momentous occasion. There is every reason to anticipate that discoveries will be made and observations confirmed that will increase our knowledge of the solar surroundings and reflect great honor on the astronomers who braved the dangers of the deep to wrest from the eclipsed sun a few of the secrets at all other times securely hidden beneath the dazzling brightness of his beams.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES IN
MEXICO.

Important archaeological discoveries have recently been made at Milta, a village in Mexico, which is situated between twenty and thirty miles from Oajaca, in the tableland of Mixtecan. Extensive remains of ancient palaces and tombs have been revealed, and it is stated that they are exceptionally remarkable from the columns supporting the roof, a style of architecture peculiar to the district of Mexico in which they have been found. These ruins have been explored and photographed by Herr Emil Herbruger, although he was not permitted to excavate the sites. In a description of the ruins, Herr Herbruger states that the great hall contains six columns, and is 37 meters long by seven broad. Each column is 3½ meters in height and is of solid stone. The hall, which is entered by three doorways, was used as an antechamber for the royal guards. The tombs are all of equal size and T-shaped. The walls are embellished with stone mosaics. The vault floor is one meter below the surface, and at the entrance stands a monolith column. The tombs extend in order from the column, each being five meters long by one and a half broad; there are also several columns, each two meters high and one and a half in diameter. For some time Herr Herbruger and his Indian attendants used the tombs as sleeping apartments, but subsequently the Indians refused to sleep in the tombs, on the ground that they were haunted. The explorer intends to publish a work descriptive of these discoveries, with photographic illustrations.

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

All communications intended for this Column should be addressed to the Chess Editor, CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, Montreal.

The large amount of £1,000 sterling for prizes in the Chess Tournament about to take place in London, Eng., must be very attractive to all those whose skill in the royal game will entitle them to anticipate success, should they determine to enter the contest. Already, Steinitz and Mackenzie have left this continent for the Old World, and soon we shall hear how far their anticipations have been realized.

In the Major Tournament, the first prize is to be £300; the second, £175; the third, £150; the fourth, £120; the fifth, £100; the sixth, £80; the seventh, £50; and the eighth, £25.

The prizes for the Minor, or Vizayanaganan Tournament, are: First prize £100; second £50; third £40; fourth £30; fifth £20.

Chessplayers eligible for the Major Tournament will not be allowed to enter the Minor Tourney.

The two following conditions will govern the Managing Committee in the selection of contestants for the higher Tourney:

- 1. Whether a player in any International Tournament since 1869 has made a score equal to half the score of the winner.
- 2. Whether a player has in a public match play achieved distinction equivalent to the preceding.

The telegraphic chess match between Quebec and Toronto has terminated in favor of the former city. We congratulate the chessplayers of old Stadacona on their victory. We have no room for the scores this week. They shall appear in our next Column.

Mr. Steinitz sent us a note written on the *Abessinian*, at sea, brought back by the pilot, in which he states that just as he was embarking he received news that Messrs. Mackenzie, Martinez and Reichhelm, the referees to whose decision was left the disputed

point which arose in one of the games with Judge Golmayo in Havana, have unanimously decided that Mr. Steinitz's claim was correct. The question arose on the following position: White (Golmayo), King at K Kt 4; Queen at Q B 7; Black (Steinitz), King at K 3; Rook at K 4; Pawn at Q 3.

Black claimed the right to invoke the operation of the 50-move rule, and the decision is that he was entitled to it. Mr. Steinitz in this brief letter repeats his farewells to all his many new-made friends in the United States and Cuba.—*Turf, Field and Farm*.

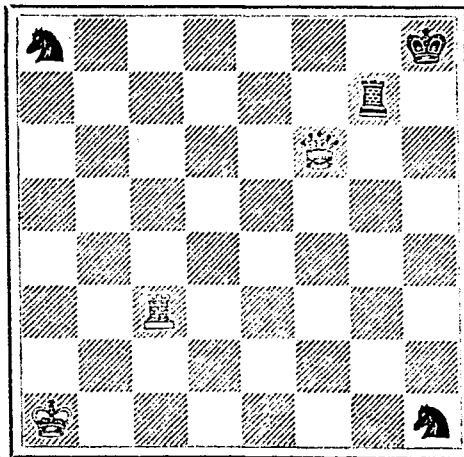
Charles H. Stanley, the veteran chessplayer, had the misfortune some time ago to break his arm, and since then he has been under treatment at the Homeopathic Hospital at War's Island, New York. He is much improved, but seldom goes to the city, and seems lately to take little interest in chess. He has frequently been urged to undertake a chess department in two or three of the New York journals, but he has invariably declined, though at different times he has done special reporting of some of the tourneys for the *New York World*. Mr. Stanley has a small annuity sufficient to live upon, and he has attached friends who frequently visit him at the hospital.—*Hartford Times*.

The Vienna Chess Club is now engaged in a tourney, the first prize being an entrance to the London Tournament and expenses paid, offered by Baron Kolisch. The list at London will probably include the names of Mackenzie, Mason, Blackburne, Bird, Zukertort, Hruby, Winawer and Paulsen.—*Cincinnati Commercial*.

PROBLEM No. 429.

By W. A. Shinkman.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

White.

- 1 B to K B 4
- 2 Mates acc.

Black.

- 1 Any

GAME 555TH.

CHESS IN BRIGHTON.

The following is the eleventh game in the match between Miss F. Marguardt and Mr. Walter Mead. Final score, 5½ each. We are indebted to Mr. Mead for the above information and for the score of the game, and to Mr. J. H. Blake, of Southampton, for the notes. There must be few, if any, better lady players than Miss Marguardt in Great Britain, judging from the score of the present game and the fact that she has won equal games with Mr. Mead.

(Potroff's Defence.)

WHITE.

(Miss F. Marguardt.)

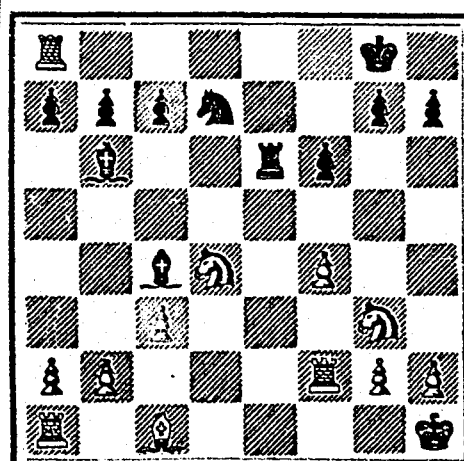
- 1 P to K 4
- 2 Kt to K B 3
- 3 P to Q 4
- 4 P takes P
- 5 B to Q 3
- 6 B takes Kt
- 7 Q takes Q
- 8 Kt to Kt 5
- 9 Kt takes P
- 10 P to K B 4
- 11 P to Q B 3 (b)
- 12 Kt to Kt 3
- 13 Kt to Q 2
- 14 Kt to B 3
- 15 Kt to Q 4
- 16 Castles (e)
- 17 K to R sq (e)
- 18 R to B 2
- 19 P to K 6

BLACK.

(Mr. W. Mead.)

- 1 P to K 4
- 2 Kt to K B 3
- 3 Kt takes P
- 4 P to Q 4
- 5 H to Q B 4 (a)
- 6 P takes B
- 7 K takes Q
- 8 K to K 2
- 9 B to Q 5
- 10 B to K B 4
- 11 B to Q Kt 3
- 12 B to K 3
- 13 R to K sq
- 14 K to B sq
- 15 P to K B 3
- 16 Kt to Q 2 (d)
- 17 B to B 5
- 18 K to Kt sq
- 19 R takes P (f)

WHITE.



BLACK.

- 20 B to Q 2
- 21 P to Kt 3
- 22 Kt to B sq
- 23 R to K 2
- 24 Q R to K sq
- 25 R takes R
- 26 Kt takes R
- 27 Kt to Kt 3(A)
- 28 Kt to B 5
- 29 Kt to R 6 ch
- 30 Kt to Kt 4
- 31 Kt to K 3
- 32 Kt to B 2

- 20 R to K 2
- 21 B to Q 4 (g)
- 22 R to B sq
- 23 Q R to K sq
- 24 R takes R
- 25 R takes R
- 26 K to B 2
- 27 B to B 7
- 28 P to K Kt 3
- 29 K to K 3
- 30 B to B 4
- 31 P to Q Kt 4
- 32 P to R 3

- 33 Kt (B 2, to Q 4 ch
- 34 P to B 5 (5)
- 35 B checks
- 36 P takes P
- 37 Kt to K B 3
- 38 P to K R 4
- 39 K to R 2
- 40 P takes B
- 41 B takes Kt (j)
- 42 K to Kt 3
- 43 K to Kt 4
- 44 P takes P
- 45 P to K B 4
- 46 Kt takes P ch
- 47 K takes B
- 48 P takes P

And White resigned.

NOTES.

- (a) A slip which costs a Pawn.
- 5 Kt to Q B 3
- is the usual move.
- (b) Giving Black an opportunity of recovering the Pawn by
- 11 B takes K P
- of which he should certainly have availed himself.
- (c) White would probably do better to play
- 16 P takes B P.
- followed by K to B 2, in case Black discovered check.
- (d) Here Black should play
- 16 — Kt to B 3
- 17 B to K 3 B to K B 2
- or
- 17 K Kt to K 2 B to K B 2
- rendering the recovery of the Pawn certain (which the text move does not.)
- (e) 17 P to B 5
- looks tempting, but is not really good: e.g.,
- 17 P to B 5 P takes P
- the only reply to prevent White gaining an immediate advantage.
- 18 P takes B ch Kt to B 3
- 19 B to Kt 5 P takes Kt
- or
- 19 Kt to K 4 or R 5 R takes P.
- and in both cases Black recovers his piece and Pawn with a superior position. The move adopted is also inferior: in fact,
- 17 P takes P
- is the only way to maintain advantage in material.
- (f) Well played! If now—
- 20 Kt takes R B takes R
- 21 Kt to Q 4 (best) R to K sq
- 22 B to Q 2 B takes Kt (at Kt 6)
- 23 P takes B P to Q B 4
- 24 Kt moves R to K 7
- with a palpable superiority.
- (g) B to Q 5 is rather better.
- (h) This Knight seems troubled with infirmity of purpose. Here he should go to King 3, and if taken, the game would be drawn, which is the utmost White can reasonably expect.
- (i) Inviting a formidable assault on this now weak Pawn by—
- 34 — P to Kt 4
- 35 K to Kt sq (best) P to K R 4
- threatening K to K 4, B to Q Kt 3, and P to Q B 4.
- (j) After this exchange nothing can save White.

—Glasgow Herald.

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