

WHAT IS LIFE?

A little crib beside the bed,
A little face above the spread,
A little frock behind the door,
A little shoe upon the floor.

A little lad with dark brown hair,
A little blue-eyed face and fair,
A little lane that leads to school
A little pencil, slate, and rule.

A little blithesome, winsome maid,
A little hand within is laid;
A little cottage, acres four,
A little old-time household store.

A little family gathered round;
A little turf-heaped, tear-dewed mound;
A little added to his soil
A little rest from hardest toil.

A little silver in his hair,
A little stool and easy chair,
A little night of earth-lit gloom;
A little cortege to the tomb.

(For the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.)

ACADEMY TEACHERS.

HOW TO BETTER THEIR POSITION.

The papers read by Mr. Butler and Mr. Walton at the recent Teachers' Convention paint the position of a teacher of a Country Academy as disagreeable indeed. In the cases mentioned by them the distress had reached its most distressing point, that at which it becomes absolutely ridiculous.

But the general unsatisfactoriness of the teacher and of his place is best shown by the short time during which he stays in it. Now, as to change his teacher is mostly to put back the scholar some two months, it is plain this state of things must be altered. One Academy, so called, has had 5 teachers in 2 years. Another has had 4 teachers in 3 years, and the average length of an Academy teacher's stay in one place is little over the year. His usual position, then, is as a friendless stranger in a strange place, among parents who discuss his imperfections openly before their children, lay their children's shortcomings to his fault, and often make the child plaintiff, witness and judge and jury over the teacher who has to keep him in subjection and awe. Any claims the teacher makes for regularity of attendance, or uniformity of text books are often looked upon as impertinences. He needs to be backed up by rules to secure these common advantages:—rules which it is no longer optional, but obligatory on him to enforce, to the ultimate profit and benefit of all.

THE EXCELLENCE OF THE TEACHERS POSITION,

like the excellence of teachers themselves, is in the long run exactly regulated by their salary. As it is, they suffer from underpay, overwork and from being at the mercy of ignorant parents. The average salary of an Academy teacher is only \$475 a year; one gets only \$80 and board, another as little as \$170 in one year.

THEIR PAY

may be increased by diminishing the number of Academies and raising the grants. And there is enough zeal for education and rivalry between different places to make municipalities eager to secure the large grant by promising to raise corresponding sums themselves.

If there were an established set of text books, the teacher might make from \$20 to \$50 a year, and save himself and others an infinity of trouble, by supplying the scholars with books and stationery at fixed prices, claiming of course the usual retail profit. This is done with great success in the excellent Montreal schools and elsewhere. But a country teacher would, mostly, raise an angry local jealousy against him, unless there is a distinct rule that he should do this.

If forbidden to take scholars till their fees for the half term were pre-paid, he would save 10 per cent of loss at least. The very children of those irregular parents who do not pay give the most trouble in school. People value most what they pay a fair price for, and a uniform rate (say \$3 a term) of fees for High Schools, should be fixed and prepayment insisted on. A few scholars might be taught free; firstly as a reward for excellence, and secondly for services rendered, to the advantage of poverty, merit, teacher and taught.

Things work best where the School Commissioners have undertaken the Trusteeship of the Academy. This helps also towards the consummation so devoutly wished of Graded Schools.

IN GRADED SCHOOLS

the teacher's work is less, and the scholar's progress greater. Moreover, inferior teachers in the lower departments will do better work under a good Principal, to be referred to in difficulties, to teach improved methods, to encourage and advise.

An ingenious arrangement is in vogue in some places. The girls are in the 2nd class room under a separate teacher, the elder ones leaving it for their more advanced studies. For this, the plan of school house in Sherbrooke, the best we have seen, is most convenient.

TO EASE THE TEACHER'S WORK

is identically the same as to increase his pay. The last hour, between three and four, causes more exhaustion and annoyance to the teacher, than the other five hours put together. And, satisfactorily enough, it is proved that a child learns more when taught five hours a day than when taught six, just as it loses health by being fed too

much. Where "school is out" at four, the teacher often keeps the idle, the truant, or some special pupil in till five, and loses his only hours of day-light exercise—so indispensable to his profession. And in schools where pupils are kept in till 5 p.m., the mental health of more scholars than one has been seriously injured—an evil too dreadful to be tolerated for a moment. Set the scholars an ordinary hour's work at 3 p.m., let them go when it is done, and it will be found that most of them are out at half-past three. By getting out earlier, pupils have energy to work of an evening,—and work done alone is invaluable for mental and moral training. The teacher also can thus eke out his pittance by some kind of work after hours, and gain in health by change of employment.

Now parents everywhere think the more highly of a teacher, the more time he gives for his pay, and trustees will never be able to insist on shortened hours, or indeed on uniform text books or prepayment of fees, till they are made the express conditions on which they receive their grant.

The teacher being, as remarked above, so often a stranger in a strange place, it would be well if attention were called to the social duties of the neighbourhood towards him by articles in the Journal of Education and the daily press.

ATTENDANCE.

The attendance of scholars in country schools is very irregular. Where parents are made to send a written excuse they are found too disinclined for this exertion to keep their children at home. An excellent teacher here once made this rule and punished an absentee two days running for not bringing such an excuse. The next day she brought an untidy scrap of paper on which her parents had written:

"You are not fit to teach. Go back and handle the shovel and the hoe."

The teacher thanked her, bade her take her seat, and she never came late again.

INSPECTOR'S PRIZES.

If the prizes now generally given by Inspectors to the most advanced (not the most deserving) scholar in the school, after a hasty examination, were given to the scholars who had attended the most regularly with "perfect lessons," a great farther improvement might be effected.

A strong spirit of emulation seems very easily kindled in Canadian children with great effect. "Taking places," thought absolutely indispensable in England, is often difficult here. To give a mark for every "perfect lesson" where no question is missed, as at Valleyfield, seems to work next best.

MONITORS.

The appointment of monitors universally works well. With them every school becomes a sort of Normal School. It were well if it were made a condition of receiving a grant that every academy scholar should be bound to teach three hours a week (and not more unless mutually desired) if required by the teacher. A penalty of \$1 a term to free a scholar from this obligation would obviate any conceivable case of hardship. Reading, which cannot be taught to many at once without loss of time, might very well be heard by monitors.

CO-OPERATIVE HOMES.

Speaking of co-operative homes a writer says: It is not impossible to find living happily, now at their chateau in Normandy, now at their house in Paris, M. le Marquis de Grandchose and Mme. his wife, M. le Comte de Grandchose and Mme. his wife, and M. le Vicomte and Mme. his wife. It is quite common to see two sons and their respective wives and children living in peace under the same roof. In France family life in its larger sense seems to thrive, but in England such households as one often meets with there would be quite out of the question. The author of the "Heir of Redclyffe" is at present publishing a story in which she brings together in the same home such a family as one constantly meets abroad, but she does not attempt to make the "Three Brides" agree with their mother-in-law or with each other. She knows too well how unnatural it would be. The result of this distaste which we all have to living in patriarchal families is that in England there is a great deal of waste of house room amongst the middle classes, who are always complaining of the high rents they have to pay. There is also waste of a certain sort of power which might be advantageously used in its proper place. An unmarried aunt often goes out as a governess when she might as well teach her own nieces. The grandmother lives all alone and visits orphan asylums and convalescent children's homes, when she might as well help to nurse the little grandson in the measles, and have the pleasure of seeing the baby's first attempt to crawl across the floor. There is, however, no use in discussing the matter. We all hate our relations except at a distance, and our habits and manners would have to be radically changed before we could imitate our Continental neighbors. Every one quarrels with his mother-in-law, and money transactions between relatives are proverbially unfortunate. We too often reserve any little politeness we can boast for strangers and do not air it in the home circle. Then, too, our climate is fatal to large communities; we have to live so much indoors, and see so much more of each other than we should if the weather were suitable to being a great deal in the open air. Altogether it does not appear that we are yet ready for co-operative homes.

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

Solutions to Problems sent in by Correspondents will be duly acknowledged

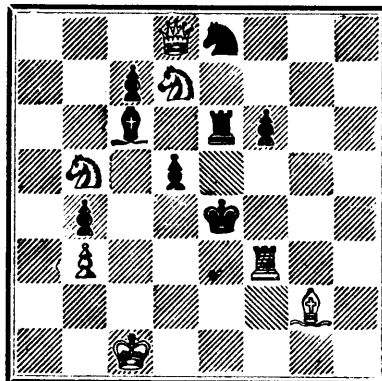
TO CORRESPONDENTS

M. J. Murphy. Problem received. It shall appear next week.
H. A. C. F. Letter and problems received. They shall have due attention.

PROBLEM No. 46.

By R. BRAUNE.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

GAME 51st.

Played recently between two members of the Quebec Chess Club.

WHITE.—(Mr. Sanderson.) BLACK.—(Mr. Andrews.)

King's Gambit.

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. P to K 4th | P to K 4th |
| 2. P to K B 4th | P takes P |
| 3. K Kt to K B 3rd | P to K Kt 4th |
| 4. K B to Q B 4th | K B to K Kt 2nd |
| 5. P to Q 4th | P to Q 3rd |
| 6. P to Q B 3rd | Kt to K R 3rd |
| 7. Castles | Castles |
| 8. K Kt takes K Kt P | Q takes Kt |
| 9. Q B takes P | Q to K Kt 5th |
| 10. Q to Q 2nd | Q to K R 4th |
| 11. Q Kt to Q R 3rd | K to K R sq |
| 12. K R to K B 3rd | Q B to K Kt 5th |
| 13. R to K Kt 3rd | P to K B 4th |
| 14. P to K R 3rd | Q Kt to Q B 3rd |
| 15. P takes Q B | P takes P |
| 16. Q Kt to Q Kt 5th | Q to Q R 3rd |
| 17. Kt takes Q B P | K R takes Q B |
| 18. Q takes K R | R to K B sq |
| 19. Q to K's 3rd | Kt to K 4th |
| 20. P takes Kt | B takes P |
| 21. Kt to K 6th | R to K B 3rd |
| 22. Q to K sq | Q to K R 5th |
| 23. R to K R 3rd | Q takes Q (ch) |
| 24. R takes Q | P takes R |
| 25. R to B sq | R takes R (ch) |
| 26. B takes R | P to R 7th (ch) |
| 27. K to R sq | Kt to Kt 5th |
| 28. P to K Kt 3rd | B takes P |
| 29. K to Kt 2nd | Kt to K B 7th |
| 30. K takes B | P Queens |
| 31. K takes Kt | Q takes K P and wins. |

GAME 52ND.

A lively skirmish played some time ago between Messrs. Rosenthal and Kolisch.

King's Bishop's Gambit.

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| WHITE.—(Mr. R.) | BLACK.—(Mr. K.) |
| 1. P to K 4th | P to K 4th |
| 2. P to K B 4th | P takes P |
| 3. B to Q B 4th | Kt to K 2nd (a) |
| 4. Kt to Q B 3rd | P to Q 3rd |
| 5. P to Q 4th | P to K Kt 4th (b) |
| 6. P to K R 4th | Kt to Kt 3rd |
| 7. P to R 5th | Kt to K 2nd |
| 8. P to K Kt 3rd (c) | P takes P |
| 9. Q B takes P | R to K Kt sq |
| 10. Kt to Q 5th and wins (d) | |
- (a) A novel, but by no means a commendable defence to the Bishop's Gambit.
(b) We should have preferred Kt to Kt 3rd at once.
(c) The best move.
(d) Elegant and conclusive.

SOLUTIONS.

Solution of Problem No. 44.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| BLACK. | WHITE. |
| 1. Q takes Kt | 1. K B P takes Q |
| 2. R takes Q | 2. P to K Kt 4th |
| 3. K R P takes P | 3. P to Q 6th |
| 4. Q R P takes P or (A) | 4. P to Q R 6th and must Queen |
| | (A) 4. P to Q Kt 7th and must Queen. |

Solution of Problem for Young Players.

No. 43.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| WHITE. | BLACK. |
| 1. Q to K Kt 4th (ch) | 1. B takes Q |
| 2. R takes R P (ch) | 2. P takes R |
| 3. B to K 7th, mate | |

PROBLEMS FOR YOUNG PLAYERS.

No. 44.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| WHITE. | BLACK. |
| K at Q Kt sq | K at K Kt sq |
| R at K sq | Q at Q Kt 6th |
| R at K 2nd | R at Q B 2nd |
| Kt at K 5th | P at Q B 6th and K |
| P at Q Kt 2nd and K | B 2nd |
| K B 6th | |
- White to play and mate in four moves.

BLEEDING FROM LUNGS, CATARRH, BRONCHITIS, CONSUMPTION.—A WONDERFUL CURE.

ROCHESTER, N.Y., Jan. 13th, 1874.

R. V. PIERCE, M.D., Buffalo, N.Y.:

Dear Sir.—I had suffered from Catarrh in an aggravated form for about twelve years and for several years from Bronchial trouble. Tried many doctors and things with no lasting benefit. In May '72, becoming nearly worn out with excessive Editorial labors on a paper in New York City, I was attacked with Bronchitis in a severe form, suffering almost a total loss of voice. I returned home here, but had been home only two weeks when I was completely prostrated with Hemorrhage from the Lungs, having four severe bleeding spells within two weeks, and first three

inside of nine days. In the September following I improved sufficiently to be able to be about, though in a very feeble state. My Bronchial trouble remained and the Catarrh was tenfold worse than before. Every effort for relief seemed fruitless. I seemed to be losing ground daily. I continued in this feeble state, raising blood almost daily until about the first of March '73, when I became so bad as to be entirely confined to the house. A friend suggested your remedies but I was extremely skeptical that they would do me good, as I had lost all heart in remedies, and began to look upon medicine and doctors with disgust. However, I obtained one of your circulars, and read it carefully, from which I came to the conclusion that you understood your business, at least. I finally obtained a quantity of Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy, your Golden Medical Discovery and Pellets, and commenced their vigorous use according to directions. To my surprise, I soon began to improve. The Discovery and Pellets, in a short time, brought out a severe eruption, which continued for several weeks. I felt much better, my appetite improved, and I gained in strength and flesh. In three months every vestige of the Catarrh was gone, the Bronchitis had nearly disappeared, had no Cough whatever and I had entirely ceased to raise blood; and, contrary to the expectation of some of my friends, the cure has remained permanent. I have had no more Hemorrhages from the lungs, and am entirely free from Catarrh, from which I had suffered so much and so long. The debt of gratitude I owe for the blessing I have received at your hands, knows no bounds. I am thoroughly satisfied, from my experience, that your medicines will master the worst forms of that odious disease—Catarrh, as well as Throat and Lung Diseases. I have recommended them to very many and shall ever speak in their praise.

Gratefully yours,

WM. H. SPENCER.

P. O. Box 507, Rochester, N.Y.

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NOTICE is hereby given that the BURLAND-DESBARATS LITHOGRAPHIC COMPANY will apply to the Corporation of Montreal, for leave to erect and use for the purposes of their business, a Steam Engine and Boiler, in their premises, in Bleury Street (near Craig).

G. B. BURLAND,

PRESIDENT AND MANAGER.

MONTREAL, Nov. 15th, 1875.

12-21-4-247.

NOTICE.

APPLICATION will be made to the PARLIAMENT of CANADA, at its next Session, to amend the Charter of

"The Bank of the United Provinces"

by changing the name thereof, and changing the Chief Seat or Place of Business thereof, and for other purposes.

ROBERT ARMOUR,

SOLICITOR FOR APPLICANTS.

BOWMANVILLE, Nov. 13th, 1875.

12-21-4-246.

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