

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. W. S., Montreal.—Papers to hand. Thanks.

Now that the chess players in Canada have begun the season of their hostilities over the board, and that the usual interest is exhibited in chess circles, inquiries are made as to what is being done by those upon whom are devolved the management of the affairs of the Canadian Chess Association.

On reference to the report of the last meeting at Ottawa, we find that it was decided to hold the next gathering of members at the city of Quebec at a date to be fixed by the President.

As regards other matters connected with the Congress, we shall be glad to hear that the Secretary has received instructions from the Committee of Management, and that a programme is in course of preparation.

We hear that the members of the Detroit Chess Club have challenged the players of the Toronto Club to a match by telegraph, to take place about the middle of this month. We have no doubt the challenge will be accepted and we will do our best to publish the result in our Column.

The following very interesting sketch of the chess champions during the last forty years is by Mars, the chess correspondent of the Dramatic News.

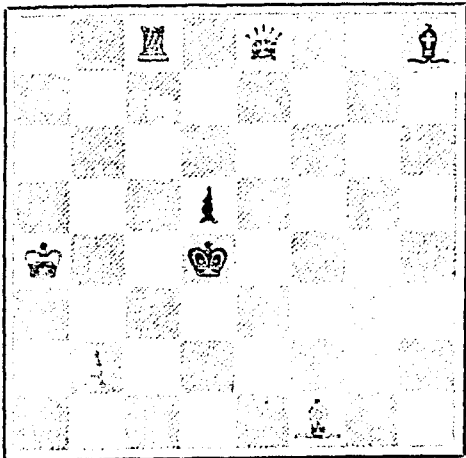
From 1843 to 1851 Staunton was the acknowledged champion of the world. From 1851 to 1858 Anderssen, a Prussian, held that rank, but during that period, Buckle was considered quite of equal strength, and would, no doubt, have tried conclusions with him had not his literary labours prevented him from giving the requisite time and attention to such a contest.

The College Chess Club has been dissolved, and thereby is confessed the failure of an experiment which, besides being well meant, seemed at one time to promise success. In these days of the higher education of women, chess, as a mental recreation, is sure to attract some of them, but how such aspirations are to be satisfied remains to be seen.—Lard and Water.

PROBLEM No. 354.

By F. Healey.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

GAME 42ND.

(From the Chessplayer's Chronicle.)

Played at Mephisto's Rooms, 15th October, 1881.

(Scottish Gambit.)

- White.—(Mr. Marriott.) 1. P to K 4, 2. Kt to K B 3, 3. P to Q 4, 4. Kt takes P, 5. B to K 3, 6. P to Q B 3, 7. B to Q Kt 5, 8. Castles, 9. P to B 4, 10. Q to K 2, 11. Q Kt to Q 2, 12. P takes B, 13. P to B 5, 14. Kt takes P, 15. P to B 6 (c), 16. P takes P, 17. B to B 4 (ch) (d), 18. Q R to Q sq, 19. K R to K B 3 (e), 20. B takes Kt, 21. R takes R (ch), 22. Q to Q 3, 23. K to R sq, 24. Q to Q B 3, 25. Q takes Kt, 26. Kt to K Kt 3, 27. R to K Kt sq, 28. P to K R 3, 29. Kt to K B sq, 30. Q to B 3 (ch), 31. Q to B 4 (ch) (f), 32. Q to Q 3, 33. R takes B.

White resigns.

NOTES.

(a) The move of Kt to Q sq, introduced by Mr. Gunberg in his match with Mr. Blackburne does not seem to find favour in Mephisto's views.

(b) This is a dangerous move, which might lose the game.

(c) Rather premature; P to K Kt 4 here would be admissible for White.

(d) This is waste of time; B takes Kt might have been better. (e) P to Q 5 was the very obvious move for White. (f) Black's last few moves brought matters to a forcible conclusion. If White played merely to prolong the game for a possible, but not very probable, chance of drawing, then Q to Kt 3 (ch) would have been his proper move.

SOLUTIONS.

Solution of Problem No. 353.

- White. 1. R to K B 2, 2. R to K B 8 (ch), 3. Kt mates. Black. 1. B takes B (best), 2. B takes R.

Solution of Problem for Young Players No. 351.

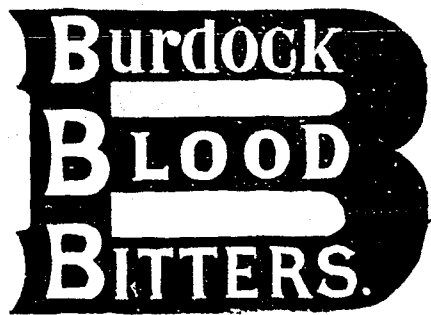
- White. 1. Q to K 3, 2. Mates acc. Black. 1. Any.

PROBLEMS FOR YOUNG PLAYERS No. 352.

- White. K at Q Kt 5, Q at K Kt 5, Kt at K B 4, Pawn at Q B 6. Black. K at Q 3, B at K B 2, Pawns at K 2, K Kt 3, Q B 5 and Q Kt 3.

White to play and mate in two moves.

A SCENE IN THE OHIO LEGISLATURE, EIGHTY YEARS AGO.—Michael Baldwin, the irrepressible and incorrigible, was no more dignified, abstemious, or moral in his position as Speaker of the first Ohio House of representatives than he had been in former years, or lesser stations. He presided over the Chamber in 1803, 1804, and 1805. It is a matter of tradition that for his own pecuniary benefit, and for the entertainment of those among the legislators who had a penchant for gaming, he established in his rooms the game of "vingt-et-un," himself acting as banker and dealer, and as a matter of course winning more frequently than any of the others players. On one occasion, after much drinking, and a late sitting at the gambling table, Baldwin found himself in possession not only of all the money of his companions, but of many of their watches. In the morning the House of Representatives was found to be without a quorum; but Baldwin, accustomed to heavy drinking and late hours, was in his place back of the Speaker's desk. Rapping savagely with his gavel, he demanded the roll-call of the House, and then sent the Sergeant-at-arms out with orders to bring in the delinquent members. After an hour or so that functionary returned, followed by about a dozen members of the Ohio Legislature, whose blood-shot eyes, suffused faces, unsteady, shambling steps, and general air of shamefacedness indicated the late hours they had kept, and their heavy indulgences. With much austerity of manner, Baldwin reprimanded the tardy members, reminded them of the cost to which the infant State was subjected by payment of their per diems, and was proceeding to farther elaborate his censure on their late arrival and the consequent delay of legislation, when one of the delinquents, exasperated beyond control, cried out, "Hold on there, Mr. Speaker, hold on! How could we tell what time it was, when the Speaker of the House had all of our watches?"—ALFRED MATHEWS, in Harper's.



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