

"There is only one thing more. My time here is very short. Will you please reply to this letter (to say yes or no) by telegram?"

"The name by which you know me is not the name by which I have been known here. I must beg you to address the telegram to 'The Reverend Julian Gray, Mablethorpe House, Kensington.' He is here, and he will show it to me. No words of mine can describe what I owe to him. He has never despaired of me—he has saved me from myself. God bless and reward the kindest, truest, best man I have ever known!

"I have no more to say, except to ask you to excuse this long letter, and to believe me your grateful servant,

She signed and enclosed the letter, and wrote the address. Then, for the first time, an obstacle which she ought to have seen before showed itself, standing straight in her way.

There was no time to forward her letter in the ordinary manner by post. It must be taken to its destination by a private messenger. Lady Janet's servants had, hitherto, been, one and all, at her disposal. Could she presume to employ them on her own affairs, when she might be dismissed from the house, a disgraced woman, in half an hour's time? Of the two alternatives, it seemed better to take her chance, and present herself at the Refuge, without asking leave first.

While she was still considering the question, she was startled by a knock at her door. On opening it, she admitted Lady Janet's maid with a morsel of folded note paper in her hand.

"From my lady, miss," said the woman, giving her the note. "There is no answer."

Mercy stopped her, as she was about to leave the room. The appearance of the maid suggested an inquiry to her. She asked if any of the servants were likely to be going into town that afternoon?

"Yes, miss. One of the grooms is going on horseback, with a message to her ladyship's coachmaker."

The Refuge was close by the coachmaker's place of business. Under the circumstances, Mercy was emboldened to make use of the man. It was a pardonable liberty to employ his services now.

"Will you kindly give the groom that letter for me?" she said. "It will not take him out of his way. He has only to deliver it—nothing more."

The woman willingly complied with the request. Left once more by herself, Mercy looked at the little note which had been placed in her hands.

It was the first time that her benefactress had employed this formal method of communicating with her when they were both in the house. What did such a departure from established habits mean? Had she received her notice of dismissal? Had Lady Janet's quick intelligence found its way already to a suspicion of the truth? Mercy's nerves were unstrung. She trembled pitiably as she opened the folded note.

It began without a form of address, and it ended without a signature. Thus it ran:

"I must request you to delay for a little while the explanation which you have promised me. At my age, painful surprises are very trying things. I must have time to compose myself, before I can hear what you have to say. You shall not be kept waiting longer than I can help. In the meanwhile, everything will go on as usual. My nephew Julian, and Horace Holmeroff, and the lady whom I found in the dining-room, will, by my desire, remain in the house until I am able to meet them, and to meet you, again."

There the note ended. To what conclusion did it point?

Had Lady Janet really guessed the truth? or had she only surmised that her adopted daughter was connected in some discreditable manner with the mystery of "Mercy Merrick"? The line in which she referred to the intruder in the dining-room as "the lady," showed very remarkably that her opinions had undergone a change in that quarter. But was the phrase enough of itself to justify the inference that she had actually anticipated the nature of Mercy's confession? It was not easy to decide that doubt at the moment—and it proved to be equally difficult to throw any light on it at an after-time. To the end of her life, Lady Janet resolutely refused to communicate to any one the conclusions which she might have privately formed, the griefs which she might have secretly stifled, on that memorable day.

Amid much, however, which was beset with uncertainty, one thing at least was clear. The time at Mercy's disposal in her own room had been indefinitely prolonged by Mercy's benefactress. Hours might pass before the disclosure to which she stood committed would be expected from her. In those hours she might surely compose her mind sufficiently to be able to write her letter of confession to Julian Gray.

Once more she placed the sheet of paper before her. Resting her head on her hand as she sat at the table, she tried to trace her way through the labyrinth of the past, beginning with the day when she had met Grace Roseberry in the French cottage, and ending with the day which had brought them face to face,

for the second time, in the dining-room at Mablethorpe House.

The chain of events began to unroll itself in her mind clearly, link by link.

She remarked, as she pursued the retrospect, how strangely Chance or Fate had paved the way for the act of personation, in the first place.

(To be continued.)

Varieties.

A cheerful giver put the following note in a pair of pantaloons sent to the Michigan sufferers: "There, take 'em. Last pair I've got. Don't get burned out again."

William Webb, at St. Austell, England, lately dried 12 dynamite cartridges in his stove. His wife, two children and his father were with him when he began, but they all separated immediately after.

A noble Chicagoan's first thought, when his house took fire recently, was for his mother-in-law, whom he saved from the peril of a burning staircase by promptly throwing her out of the third-story window.

A Bengal paper supplies a neat instance of confusion of metaphor. Criticising the Income-tax, it hopes "the Government will not repeat the blunder of killing the calf which daily produces the golden egg."

Mr. Hyde having married a Miss Toller, and the "fatted calf" having been killed in their honor, it gave an editor a chance to say that "it was not the first time that cattle had been killed for the Hyde and Toller."

A new dish is grape-leaves fried in egg-batter; it is called a French dish. A contemporary remarks, "We can't think of anything that would be more delicious than fried grape-leaves, unless it is a theatrical poster on toast."

A man who has a red-headed sweetheart addressed her as "Sweet Auburn, loveliest of the plain." "Sweet Auburn got mad about it. She objected to being classed among the "plain," even though called the loveliest of them.

A Bridgeport, Ct., boy loaned his sled to a policeman to enable him to overtake and arrest another boy for coasting, and when boy No. 2 was hauled up in court, benighted the whole affair by threatening the outwitted policeman with a similar prosecution.

A clergyman says it is curious to note how many people attend a circus only because they want to please their children; but still more curious to observe that in many instances it takes two or three able-bodied men, with as many women, to look after one little boy or girl."

The answer of Damas to the Berlin theatrical manager who desired to bring out his new comedy, in which he said his terms were Alsace, will be remembered. A Berliner has written a rejoinder to the witty Frenchman, in which he says, "I freely admit that your merits are far above those of that Roman flute-player to whom one of the Caesars gave a province as a reward. But the days of territorial liberality are passed for the fine arts. If you want Alsace there is only one way to get it—come and take it."

Dr. Terry, of Columbus, Georgia, is a thoughtful man, who sets a certain value upon his personal liberty. Recently, in what is technically called a court of justice in that State, he testified thus: "Saw deceased after he was shot; he was lying on the floor, in a pool of blood, in a dying condition. Don't know how long he lived afterward; did not make any minute examination, for the reason that I did not want you lawyers to prove I killed him with a probe."

A poverty-stricken clerk applied for a situation to a large employer of labour in the western district of England. There was no vacancy, and he was curtly informed of the fact. Being of a religious turn of mind, as he was leaving the office he comforted himself with the passage of Scripture the concluding words of which are, "Hath not where to lay his head." "Don't stand there quoting Shakespeare," said the employer; "I can't give you what I haven't got."

A chemical contemporary contains the story of a sea captain to whom a sailor applied for relief for "something on his stomach." The captain consulted his book of directions, and prescribed "No. 15." Unfortunately, however, there had been a run on No. 15, and the bottle was empty. But the skipper, remembering old games of cribbage, made up a dose by combining Nos. 8 and 7, saying, "8 and 7 make 15," and the sailor, to whom the calculation seemed quite natural, took the mixture with startling effect.

A writer in the Figaro, perfectly familiar with the English language, and anxious to make the fact known, has just given us one of those fearfully and wonderfully made paragraphs which so astonish the English and American residents of Paris. As this item is not translatable, and as it is a literary curiosity of the first water, we feel bound to give it in the original:—"Avez-vous remarqué la dépêche Américaine qui annonce que M. Stock a été reconnu coupable de meurtre de M. Fisk? C'est peut-être vrai. Mais quelle drôle de rencontre!—Stock-fish est un mot anglais qui signifie mort. Que voulez-vous qu'il fish contre trois? Qu'il morit." Such is fame. Mr. Stokes would be content to die if he knew that he had assassinated Fisk, only to be handed down in history in this manner. The XIX. Siècle also has a writer very strong in English. "Ce gars drinkers Edgar Poe" is one of his quotations, he meaning to say, probably, "the gin drinker Edgar Poe;" but Poe was not a gin drinker; he never took anything stronger than whiskey.

Chess.

Solutions to problems sent in by Correspondents will be duly acknowledged.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. H. G., St. John, N. B.—Quite correct about Prob. 71. See answer to J. H. in our last.

LONDON CHESS ROOMS.

FAVOURITE RESORTS OF THE GREAT PLAYERS—LADY AMATEURS, &c.

The Liverpool Albion published recently a series of sketches of club and public chess rooms of the English metropolis, from which we culled the following extracts:—

The City of London Chess Club was founded in 1852 by a few amateurs. It remained for many years in obscurity, and gave but little indication that it would ever arrive at the important position which it at present occupies. It is now admittedly the strongest of the metropolitan chess clubs, and may be said to have an European reputation. The emergence from mediocrity is due to the zealous labours of two gentlemen in particular, viz: Mr. Wm. Tollemache Chapman, late honorary secretary, and Mr. J. H. Blackburne, the celebrated blindfold player. To their harmonious co-operation is primarily due the successful career which the City Club has since run. Having vanquished all its rivals except the St. George's Club, which it challenged in 1871, but which, with inglorious wisdom, avoided do eat by a gentlemanly negative, the City of London Club remains undisputed master of the metropolitan chess field. Its internal operations have been conducted in a spirited manner. Its annual handicap always numbers 48 entries; and last year another handicap for weaker players was formed, also of 48 entries, making two great handicaps or tournaments, in one season, and the present winter will, it appears, witness a repetition of this feat. The match with the Vienna Chess Club now progressing is naturally the hardest battle that the City Club has ever had to fight. It would not be proper to express any opinion upon the position at present arrived at; but the moves have been regularly recorded in this column, and therefore our readers are in a position to form their own speculations. The following players of the first-class are members of the club, viz: Steinitz, Zukertort, Horwitz, Lowenthal, Wisker, Blackburne Bird, Boden, DeVore, Pottar, and Hoffer. The second, or pawn and move class, and which includes several above that strength, numbers from twenty to twenty-five, the other degrees of force being in like proportion; and the total number of members, after an honest excision of backrank names which has just been effected, amounts to 210.

The St. George's Chess Club is second in strength in the metropolis, and its meetings are held at Nos. 29 and 21 King street, St. James, S. W. During the parliamentary season the rooms are exceedingly well attended, and also at other times a fair amount of play is generally going on. The club shows a praiseworthy spirit in matters relating to chess, and it has been on various occasions characterized by its liberality on that behalf. We may instance the two matches of Wisker against Rosenthal, and Steinitz against Zukertort, as examples, we believe, provided the prizes for the winners thereon. Those who reside in Devereux will be glad to know that various peers and baronets are among the frequenters of the club; but the genuine lover of chess will feel more interest in the information that Cochrane is a member, and plays there continually. This distinguished veteran, whose name is historical, and who links the present generation with that of Labourdonnais and McDonnell, has now gone some distance past that limit of fourscore years which by reason of strength some men attain to; yet his chess power has, comparatively speaking, very little diminished, and in bouts with some of the strongest English amateurs he has shown himself well able to hold his own. With reference to the chess talent of the club, Messrs. Wisker, Lowenthal, and Owen are members; but otherwise it cannot, we fancy, claim to receive much light from the stars of chess. The Westminster Club once had a high position, but is now hardly more than a name, from a chess point of view. We have alluded previously to the causes of the regrettable decline which has taken place, and have nothing further to add on that score. The Bermondsey Chess Club is held at No. 99 Bermondsey street, S. E. It contains some fair players, and has been very successful in matches with other suburban clubs. Among the remaining chess clubs of the metropolis we may indicate the following:—Bedford Club, held at the Bedford Institute, Wheeler street, S. W.; Railway Clearing House Club, Euston road, N. W.; Brockley and New Cross Club, Ashby Place, Brockley road, S. E.; City Bank Club, London and Westminster Bank Club, Kensington Amateur Club, and there are various smaller associations scattered over London. We have now but to enumerate the remaining public chess rooms of the metropolis, and our task will thus be finished. There is the King's Head, in Fenchurch street—an inscription over the door informs you that Queen Elizabeth dined there on the 19th May, 1551. We imagine she might also have made a very good meal there at present. Ascending the stairs you observe on the left a portrait of the great Henry, with full stomach and full payment. The chess-room is on the second floor, and arrived there you will fancy yourself in the sixteenth century. Helmets, shields, and antique swords are hung about the walls, while the windows are tinted with heraldic devices—no doubt highly intelligible to the antiquarian. Among the frequenters of the room are some fair chess-players, and we may mention for the benefit of those who take an interest in the adjoining column that draughts seem also a popular game there. Another place where a tolerable amount of chess-playing goes on is the Anchor, Cheapside. The chess-room is situate at the top of the house, which is four huge stories high. It is very wholesome exercise going up stairs, and the frequenters we apprehend need have no recourse to Bantingism. Arrived, breathless, at the altitude, you observe with wonder, not unmixed with admiration, that there are various elderly gentlemen in the room, and arrive thereby at the conclusion that as lovers laugh at locksmiths, so chess players, however grey-headed, derive any amount of stair climbing. For the benefit of our readers we paid a visit to Swainston's, of Gresham street, City. Very fine chessmen are there provided by the establishment, and the liberality of the proprietor in that matter is undoubtedly much to be commended; but chess appliances, however splendid, do not exhilarate much in default of players, and of the latter there were on this occasion none visible to the naked eye. There is a handsome, tastefully fitted, and very comfortable chess room at the City Restaurant upon the same floor as the room of the City of London Club. Some, though not very much, chess is played at Carlo Gatti's room in Villiers street, Strand, adjoining Charing Cross Railway Station. The best day is the second Tuesday in every month, when the "Rooks" Chess Club meets there. The "Rooks" are a genial company of gentlemen, and as their name shows, are devoid of that self-esteem which is too often an unpleasant characteristic of chess-players. Notwithstanding the unassuming title, some of their number are creditable performers. Chess is played, but we believe to a small extent only, at "The Shades," in Leicester Square. The room is underground, which is the reason, perhaps, that it seems rather a dull place; though a couple fond of quietness might find it to their taste. Chess-

playing to a more or less extent goes on also at the following places, viz: Lake's, Gracechurch street; Crosby Hall, Bishopsgate street; Hill's, Bishopsgate street; Khrol's, Coleman street, on both sides of the way; and Reichardt's, Bucklersbury. The Café Royal, Regent street, used also to be patronized by chess-players, but we are not aware whether or no such is now the case.

A capital game in the recent match by telegraph. TORONTO V. SAFFORTH.

(King's Bishop's Gambit.)

- White. Mr. J. H. Gordon. (Toronto). 1. P. to K. 4th. 2. P. to K. B. 4th. 3. B. to Q. B. 4th. 4. B. takes P. (b). 5. Q. Kt. to B. 3rd. 6. Q. to K. 2nd (e). 7. B. to B. 4th. 8. Q. P. takes B. 9. Q. B. takes P. 10. B. to K. 3rd. 11. Kt. to B. 3rd. 12. Castles (K. R.). 13. B. takes P. ch (f). 14. Q. to B. 4th ch. 15. Kt. to Kt. 5th ch. 16. Q. to K. 4th (b). 17. Kt. takes B. 18. Q. takes Kt. 19. Q. takes Q. 20. B. to B. 4th. 21. K. R. to K. sq. 22. K. takes R. 23. B. to K. 6th. 24. B. to Kt. 5th. 25. B. to B. 4th. 26. B. takes Kt. 27. R. to Q. sq. 28. R. to Q. 7th ch. 29. K. takes R. ch. 30. K. to B. 2nd. 31. K. to K. 3rd (f). 32. P. to Q. B. 4th. 33. P. to K. Kt. 3rd (m). 34. P. to Q. B. 3rd. 35. P. to K. R. 3rd. 36. P. takes P. 37. P. to Q. R. 3rd. 38. K. to Q. 3rd. 39. P. to Q. Kt. 3rd. 40. P. to Q. Kt. 4th. 41. P. to K. 4th. 42. K. to K. 3rd. Black. Mr. G. E. Jackson. (Safforth). P. to K. 4th. P. takes P. P. to Q. 4th (a). K. Kt. to B. 3rd. K. B. to Q. Kt. 5th Castles. B. takes Kt. Kt. takes P. R. to K. sq. Q. Kt. to B. 3rd (d). K. Kt. to B. 3rd. K. Kt. to Kt. 5th (e). K. takes B. B. to K. 3rd (g). K. to Kt. sq. P. to K. Kt. 3rd (h). Q. to Q. 3rd. Q. takes Kt. K. takes Q. R. to K. 2nd. Q. R. to K. sq. K. takes K. K. to K. 4th. K. to K. sq. P. to Q. B. 3rd. K. takes B. K. to B. 2nd. R. to K. 2nd. K. takes R. K. to K. 3rd. K. to K. 4th. P. to K. R. 4th. P. to Q. B. 4th. P. to K. Kt. 4th. P. to K. Kt. 5th (n). K. to B. 4th. K. to K. 4th. K. to Q. Kt. 3rd. P. to Q. R. 4th. K. to K. 4th. Drawn Game.

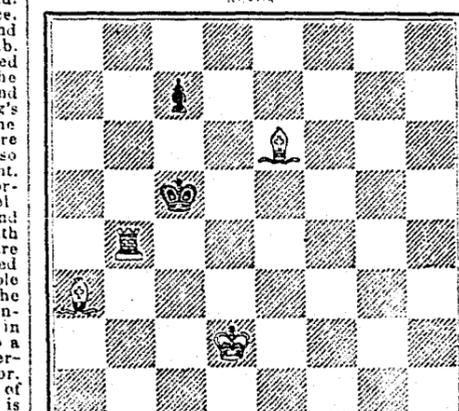
(a) An excellent counter attack to this gambit, now in vogue; the old move, Q. to R. 5th ch., has, at least, the merit of preventing the adversary's castling, and retards the development of his rooks. (b) We prefer P. takes P. (c) Hazardous. (d) Q. to R. 5th ch. would also have been good here, but the move made seems quite as strong. (e) Q. to K. 2nd would have been safer; apparently enabling Black to retain his pawn already won. (f) The right style, as White retains his piece and the pawn, with a better position. (g) If K. to Kt. 3rd, White can force mate in five moves. (h) All this is very well played; Kt. takes B. would not have regained the piece. (i) The only move. (j) The last fourteen moves on both sides seem to us the best possible; here, however, K. to B. 3rd would have been the correct play, e.g. Black.

- White. 31. K. to B. 3rd. 32. P. ch. 33. P. to K. R. 4th. 34. P. to Q. B. 4th. 35. K. takes P. 36. P. to B. 5th wins. Black. K. to B. 4th (a). K. to K. 4th. P. to K. R. 4th. P. takes P. ch. K. to B. 3rd.

If, in the above, Black play 32. K. to Kt. 4th, White can move K. to Kt. 3rd with the advantage. It is evident that Black could not have removed his King to the Queen's side.

- White. 31. P. to K. R. 4th. 32. K. to B. 3rd. 33. P. to K. R. 4th. and our impression is that here White could gain the move at the critical point with a winning advantage, but we shall be happy to receive, from any of our cotemporary or correspondents, a more perfect analysis of the ending. (m) P. to K. R. 4th strikes us as better. (n) A masterly stroke, ensuring the draw.

PROBLEM No. 74. By Mr. W. Atkinson, Montreal.



White to play and mate in three moves.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 72. White. 1. Kt. to Q. 2nd. 2. Q. to B. 5th ch. 3. Kt. mates. Black. R. takes P. K. takes B.

VARIATIONS. 1. R. to K. 4th. 2. K. moves. 3. B. to R. 2nd mate. R. other moves (c). 4. K. moves.

1. Q. to Kt. 6th ch. R. to B. 4th. 2. B. mates. K. takes B. 3. Kt. mates. (a) R. to B. 2nd. K. moves.

1. Q. takes R. ch. K. takes B. 2. Kt. mates. K. to B. 2nd. K. moves.

1. Q. to Kt. 6th ch. B. to Kt. 3rd. 2. Q. to Kt. 6th ch. K. moves. 3. B. mates.

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