

TO LAURA.

O, minstrel! strike the harp again,
And sing, nor heed those falling tears;
The notes of thy melodious strain
Recall to me the vanished years.

They bring before my tearful gaze—
Illumined with a tender light—
A vision of my youthful days,
When life's unclouded morn was bright.

Again I see, as in a dream,
The face of one remembered well,
Whose pensive eyes as sadly beam,
As when we parting said "Farewell."

Yes, minstrel! yes, methinks, I hear
The voice that many years ago
First poured upon my listening ear
That plaintive strain, so sweet and low.

'Tis fancy, for that voice is still,
And music's charm has lost its power
To drive away the ghost of ill,
That haunts me every day and hour.

And that fair angel face which gleams
So sad to memory's waning light,
Has faded like the last starbeams,
Which trembling leave the darkness night.

O pale, sweet Laura! thou art fled,
And joy from me has passed away;
I walk in darkness 'mong the dead—
A wretch who hates the living day!

Paris, Oct. H. W. STRAMBERG.

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

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

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. W. S., Montreal.—Papers to hand. Thanks.
Student, Montreal.—Solution of Problem No. 258 received. Correct.
E. H.—Solution received of Problem for Young Players No. 261. Correct.
T. S., St. Andrews, Manitoba.—Correct solution received of Problem No. 262, and also of Problem for Young Players No. 259. You are right; Q to Q R 4, in Problem 258 gives mate in three moves.

The difficulty which has arisen in connection with the late Tourney of the American Chess Congress will lead many persons to doubt the propriety of giving large sums of money as prizes for chess encounters. It is evident from all that has been stated bearing upon this unfortunate trouble among chess-players that the honor which was likely to result ultimately from the contest was not deemed the only motive which would actuate each player in his endeavor to obtain the first prize. We are sadly afraid that surmises of this nature will lead many to class our noble game with pursuits which, although harmless in themselves, have been looked upon with much suspicion as regards their influence in a moral point of view.

We are all aware that in ages long gone by, a gift, trifling in itself, was cherished because it was a testimony of success in some arduous competition. Now, however, as far as chess is concerned, the intrinsic value of the prize is supposed to be the only means of gathering together competitors of sufficient skill to make an ordinary contest in any way interesting. If such is found to be the case, it would be much better to forego such enterprises altogether than to run the risk of doing an injury to our game, which has hitherto been looked upon as a scientific study, rather than as a means of winning hundreds of dollars. There could be no objection to a gold medal, or anything of a similar nature. Such prizes are recognized in educational institutions, and are productive of good, but the increasing value of the money prizes which begin to characterize our large chess tourneys, are cannot but feel, will have a prejudicial effect in the long run, and the late difficulty at New York is a case in point.

The Russian chess magazine for December is a magnificent affair of seventy five pages, and replete with games and problems. As Schachmatni Listok is printed in Russian we cannot tell what good things are concealed in the 30 pages of solid reading matter with which the number opens. Of late the editor has adopted the sensible plan of giving the names of the players and of the problem composers in Roman type; we do not see why it would not be equally sensible to print the whole in French—the Court language of Russia—so that we outer barbarians could read what, in appearance, is the best chess magazine going.—Turf, Field and Farm.

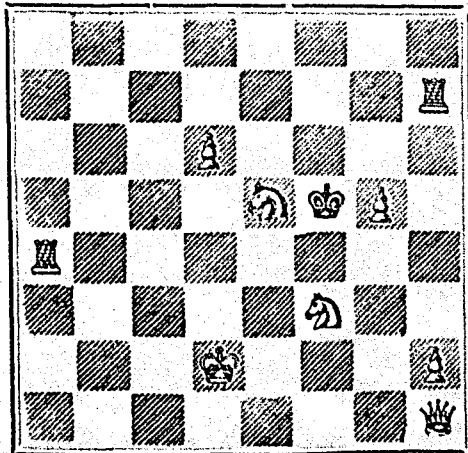
We learn that the meeting of the Lincolnshire Chess Association which met at Boston (Eng.) opened on the 20th of last month, and was a great success. Among the competitors for the prizes we notice the following well-known names:—Messrs. Bird, McDonnell, Ranken, Thorold, Wayte, Skipworth, Coker, De Soyres and Rowley. The play excited much attention, and was witnessed by a large assemblage of spectators, many of whom were ladies. The whole affair worked most harmoniously.

SCORE OF THE INTERNATIONAL TOURNEY.
Won. | Dr. |
America..... 28 | Great Britain..... 26 | 13

PROBLEM No. 265.

By W. Finlayson.
(From Chess Chips.)

BLACK.



WHITE

White to play and mate in two moves.

GAME 395TH.

(From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.)

The first of the two games played between Captain Mackenzie and Mr. Grundy, at the close of the Congress Tourney, for the first prize and championship.

White.—(Capt. Mackenzie.) Black.—(Mr. Grundy.)

- 1. P to K 4
2. Kt to K B 3
3. Kt to Q B 3
4. Kt takes P
5. K takes B
6. P to Q 4
7. R to Q B 4
8. K R to B sq
9. K to Kt sq
10. P to Kt 3
11. B to K Kt 5
12. Q to Q 2
13. R takes Kt (a)
14. B takes P
15. B to K B sq
16. B to Kt 2
17. B takes R
18. R to K B sq
19. Q to B 4
20. P takes P
21. Kt to Q 5
22. Q takes B (cb)
23. R takes Q
24. P to B 3
25. B takes Kt
26. R to B 7
27. K to B 2
28. P to K Kt 4
29. K to Kt 3
30. P takes P
31. R takes R P
32. P to K Kt 5 (b)
33. K to B 4
34. P to K Kt 6
35. K to K B 5
36. R to K R 4
37. P to K Kt 7

NOTES.

- (a) A stroke of play characteristic of the Captain.
(b) White plays thus, seeing that the pawn will queen if black attempts to capture the pawns.

SOLUTIONS.

Solution of Problem No. 263.

- WHITE. 1. R to Q B 7
2. Mate according to Black's play.

Solution of Problem for Young Players No. 261.

- WHITE. 1. Q to Q 6 (cb)
2. Kt mates

PROBLEMS FOR YOUNG PLAYERS, No. 362

- WHITE. K at Q B 2, Q at K B 3, Bat Q 6, Kt at Q B 3, Kt at Q B 7, Pawns at K 2 and Q Kt 3.
BLACK. K at Q 5, R at Q Kt 3, Bat K 6, Bat Q 2, Kt at K B 7, Pawns at K 3, K R 2, and Q Kt 4.

White to play and mate in two moves.



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Tenders for a second 100 mile section, WEST OF RED RIVER, will be received by the undersigned until noon on Monday, the 29th of March, next. The section will extend from the end of the 48th Contract near the western boundary of Manitoba to a point on the west side of the valley of Bird-tail Creek. Tenders must be on the printed form, which, with all other information, may be had at the Pacific Railway Engineer's Offices, in Ottawa and Winnipeg, on and after the 1st day of March, next. By Order, F. BRAUN, Secretary.

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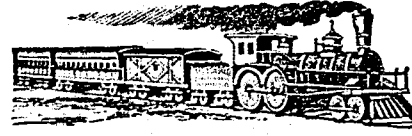
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By order, F. BRAUN, Secretary. Department of Railways and Canals, Ottawa, 7th February, 1880.

The time for receiving the above Tenders is extended one week, viz.: to MONDAY, 1st March, and the time for delivery of a portion of Rolling Stock is extended to the 1st JUNE.

By Order, F. BRAUN, Secretary. 19th Feb., 1880.

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