

Musical.

MONTREAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

The concert given by this Society, on Wednesday evening, the 17th inst., was hardly up to the usual standard. The committee have received such scant support from the public that they could not afford to engage expensive professional talent, and so were obliged to fall back on some of our local vocalists, who, whatever their pretensions may be in drawing-room selections, were altogether unequal to the interpretation of the great work attempted on this occasion. This in itself was sufficient to detract from the general effect, without the occasional shortcomings which are noticeable even at the best concerts. The orchestra was small, but much too loud for the choir, which, though apparently numbering sixty or seventy voices sounded thin and weak, and was at times completely drowned by the accompaniment.

The programme was well selected and arranged, and comprised the following pieces:—

- Coronation Anthem.....Handel.
- Capriccio in B minor.....Mendelssohn.
- 115th Psalm.....Mendelssohn.
- Overture—Der Freyschütz.....Weber.
- Song—"The Beggar Maiden".....Barnby.
- Reverie.....Vieuxtemps.
- Choral Fantasia.....Beethoven.

The Coronation Anthem would have gone well enough but for the spluttering of the cornets (there were no trumpets) in the semiquaver accompaniment; the choir sang evenly, and vocalized the runs comparatively smoothly. The choruses in the Psalm were not so well sung; the basses were at sea several times, and, but for the support of the orchestra would have lost their places entirely. The sopranos were good, and sang steadily throughout the entire evening, but the altos and tenors were weak and unsteady.

The solo parts were taken by Mrs. Thrower, Mrs. Cooke, and Mr. Geddes. None of these has a voice at all adequate to the performance of the music, and as for Mr. Geddes' attempt at "The Lord shall increase you," it was certainly the poorest performance we have yet heard at the Philharmonic. This gentleman's voice consists almost entirely of what Professor Ellis would call "flatus," and when he got below the middle notes not a sound could we hear! Instead of singing the passages smoothly, as marked by the composer, Mr. Geddes sang *detaché* throughout, the first phrase being sung thus: "The Law—haw, haw, haw, hawd shall," &c. The orchestra accompanied this piece very well, the bassoon being in good hands, but it was like "Hamlet" with the hero left out. In the second part of the concert Mrs. Thrower sang a little better than in the first, but the song did not seem to suit her voice; she was *encored*, however, and in response sang "Pretty Polly Oliver" very sweetly. It seemed to be pitched a good deal lower than the other song, and this was probably the reason of its success. Mrs. Thrower should elect to be either Soprano or Contralto; very few singers have been successful as both.

The instrumental portion of the programme was immeasurably superior to the vocal. Mr. Barnes played the capriccio in B minor by Mendelssohn in a masterly manner, and the orchestra (conducted temporarily by Mr. William Couture) accompanied him remarkably well. Mr. Deseve played a violin solo by Vieuxtemps exquisitely, being accompanied on the piano by Mr. Barnes, and was *encored*. The Freyschutz Overture was fairly played, if we except the horn parts, which were execrable. The Choral Fantasia was, on the whole, well rendered. Miss Abbott's playing sounded weak after the masterly performance of Mr. Barnes, but she played the lighter portions rather prettily. The orchestral part was well played, the wind parts being above the average, and the choral portion was well done after the voices got into swing. There was a hesitancy about starting, and the tenors began a full quarter-tone flat, but after the first *forte* the orchestra pulled the voices through in splendid style, and sent the audience home with the tuneful *motif* ringing in their ears.

Why will Mr. Barnes insist that nothing has ever been performed in Montreal before? A short time since he would have us believe that the "Messiah" was never before performed in Canada, and now we are told that the 115th Psalm, the Mendelssohn Capriccio, and the Freyschutz Overture have never before been done here. It is hardly a year since Mendelssohn's Psalm was performed by the choir of St. Andrew's Church, and an explanatory lecture delivered by the Rev. Gavin Lang; the Mendelssohn Capriccio has been repeatedly played in that same hall by Mr. Lavallee and others, and the Freyschutz Overture was an old song here twenty years ago. We are quite satisfied to hear these pieces again and again, but to advertise them as novelties is rather amusing.

It is a pity that the Philharmonic should not keep up to the old standard, and engage such singers as Mrs. Osgoode, Miss Kellogg, Messrs. Winch, Whitney and Toedt. Let us hope that sufficient will be guaranteed before the final concert to enable the committee to give a concert in the Rink similar to that which closed the season last year, and to present a complete work with first-class artists as soloists.

Remenyi, the great Hungarian violinist, one of the three announced as "the greatest living violinist," is performing with great success in the West, and is to be here about the middle of April, Messrs. De Zouche & Co. having engaged him for two concerts in Nordheimers' Hall. He travels with a small but accomplished concert party, and from reports all along the route, public opinion appears to concede the claim on his behalf, as being fully warranted. We are curious to hear this rival of Wilhelmj.

Au Redacteur Musicale du CANADIAN SPECTATOR :

MONSIEUR,—Vous plaisait-il de porter à la connaissance de vos nombreux lecteurs, que La Société des Symphonistes de Montreal, n'est pas tel que l'insinue votre chroniqueur musical, dans le dernier numero de votre journal, composée de Canadiens Français seulement et exclusivement.

Quiconque, quelque soit son origine et sa nationalité, a droit d'être admis membre actif de cette Société, pourvu qu'il soit artiste musicien ou amateur possédant la capacité voulue et une conduite morale irréprochable.

La reflexion de votre chroniqueur est blessante et injuste d'autant plus que lors de notre début à l'Université McGill plusieurs des membres de notre Société n'appartenaient pas à l'élément Français. Si cet élément dans le Société domine, ce n'est assurément pas le fait d'une combinaison. Tous les artistes, musiciens et amateurs ont été et sont invités à se joindre à nous; mais tout n'ont pas répondre à notre invitation. Nous accuser d'exclusivisme est injuste et malveillant.

Nous attendons de votre part, comme acte de justice que vous reparez le prejudice qui nous a été causé par le reflexion injuste de votre chroniqueur.

Le but que notre Société cherche, c'est de doter Montreal d'un orchestre complet, sous un directeur habile, qui nous fasse entendre et connaitre les chef d'oeuvre de composition musicale, que nous n'avons jusqu'à présent eu le bonheur d'écouter n'ayant pas les elements necessaires pour former cet orchestre. A vous de nous encourager et de nous aider, au lieu de ralentir notre zèle.

J'ai l'honneur d'être votre tres obeissant serviteur,

Chs. Alb. Vilbon,  
Secrétaire de la Société des S. de M.

Montreal, 15 Mars, 1880.

Chess.

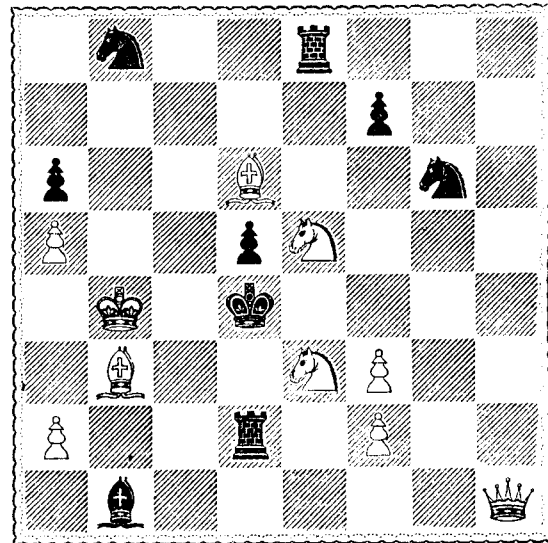
All Correspondence intended for this Column, and Exchanges, should be directed to the CHESS EDITOR, CANADIAN SPECTATOR Office, 162 St. James Street, Montreal.

Montreal, March 27th, 1880.

PROBLEM NO. LXIV.

Lowenthal Problem Tourney No. 2. Motto: "Wintonians."  
From Chess Players' Chronicle.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM NO. LXI. By Mr. D. Klark. Q to Kt 6.

Correct solution received from C.W.P., Toronto, "Very neat, and free from duals"; J.W.S., Montreal, "Of medium merit, embodying a familiar idea"; PAX.

GAME NO. LX.

An interesting *partie* between Sheriff Spens and Mr. G. B. Fraser, played in Edinburgh in the recent match between the East and West of Scotland. From Glasgow Herald.

GRECO COUNTER GAMBIT.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
Mr. Spens.	Mr. Fraser.	8 Q to R 6	R takes P (ch)	16 B to K R 6 (ch)	K to Kt 3 (e)
1 P to K 4	P to K 4	9 Q to K sq	Kt to K Kt 5	17 Q to B 5	R to K 4 (disch)
2 Kt to K B 3	P to K B 4	10 Q to R 5 (ch)	K takes Kt	18 K to Q B sq	K takes B
3 Kt takes P (a)	Kt to Q B 3	11 Q takes P (ch)	K to B 2	19 P to Q Kt 3	P to Q 5
4 Q to K R 5 (ch)	P to K Kt 3	12 P to Q 3 (e)	P to Q 4	20 Q to Q R 3	Q to K Kt 4 (ch)
5 Kt takes Kt P	Kt to K B 3	13 Q to K B 3	Kt takes B P ch		And White resigns.
6 Q to R 4	R to K Kt sq	14 Q takes Kt	B to Kt 5 (ch)		
7 Kt takes B	R to K Kt 5	15 B to K 2 (d)	R takes B		

NOTES by Mr. D. Y. Mills.—(a) B to Q B 4, as was given in the German Handbook, is a simple and effective continuation.  
(b) Kt takes Kt is here the correct move.  
(c) P to Q Kt 3, though not satisfactory, would have given White more resource.  
(d) If K to Q 2, Black wins in four moves, unless the White Queen is sacrificed for nothing.  
(e) If K takes B, White draws by Q to B 4 (ch), followed by Q to B 7 (ch) if K defend B.  
(f) Because if K to Kt 2 the Q is immediately lost, and if Kt interpose Q R to Q square would be equally disastrous.

CHESS INTELLIGENCE.

EAST AND WEST SCOTLAND MATCH.—A highly interesting match between the chess players of East and West Scotland took place recently at the Balmoral Hotel in Edinburgh. No fewer than fifty-four players engaged in the contest. This match was first played in 1871, and was renewed in 1872, since which time it has been held every four years. Several clubs in the East of Scotland took part, but Glasgow alone furnished all the players from the West. In every contest the East have proved themselves the stronger. We give above one of the games between Sheriff Spens of Glasgow and Mr. G. B. Fraser of Dundee. Such spirit offers a superb example for emulation, not only in Canada but in many other countries.

ROSENTHAL-ZUKERTORT MATCH.—Mr. Rosenthal, finding it rather difficult to bring about a match with Mr. Zukertort by indirect means, at last sent him a direct challenge containing only three conditions, namely: 1. To play three times a week; 2. Thirty moves in two hours; 3. Not to play during the hot season. Mr. Zukertort has replied accepting the challenge on the following terms: 1. To play three games a week—no game to be adjourned, but to be played out in the course of the same day; 2. The first thirty moves in two hours, every fifteen moves afterwards in one hour; 3. The stakes to be at least £100 a side, and the victor to be he who first scores seven games; 4. The match to be played at the St. George's Chess Club, London; 5. The right of publishing the games in France to be exclusively Mr. Rosenthal's, in England Mr. Zukertort's. He proposes to begin the match in April.—*Chess Monthly*.

THE CHESS MONTHLY for March is of equal excellence with its predecessors. Endings from Actual Play are continued, but are entirely chosen from a recent publication by A. C. Vasquez of Mexico, who has published a collection of his Games. The work is reviewed in another portion of the magazine. The "Analysis of From's Gambit" and Horwitz's "End Games" are continued.

MONTREAL CHESS CLUB.—The regular Quarterly Meeting of the Club will be held in the Club Room, Mansfield Street, on Saturday evening next at 8 o'clock. A large attendance is anticipated, as several matters of importance will be discussed. Gentlemen wishing to become members may forward their names to the Chess Editor of the SPECTATOR, or to Mr. Henderson, the Secretary, 174 St. Hypolite Street.

ITEMS.—Mrs. Gilbert has won her fourth game with Mr. Gossip in the International Correspondence Tourney.—A game of chess by telephone was recently played between the Chichester Club and the chess players of Brighton, a distance of about twenty miles. Would it be believed that Brighton, with its Pavilion, Mephisto and excellent chess column, conducted by Mr. W. T. Pierce, has no chess club? However, Hartford, Conn., was in the same position till very lately; but a club has now been started, with Mrs. Gilbert as Second Vice-President and Mrs. Banks as Corresponding Secretary.—A game between Mr. Lowenthal and a lady is now going the rounds of the chess columns. To our belief it first appeared in a series of articles on Chess published by Mr. Lowenthal in the *Daily Telegraph* in 1866-7. It was published as Game No. 2 in the chess column of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR of Dec. 28th, 1878.—Toronto sends a team to Hamilton on Good Friday to play a friendly contest over the board.—A movement seems about to be made for a meeting of the Ontario Chess Association at an early date.—In the Congress Problem Tourney 48 valid sets have been entered. Two of them have the same motto, *Per aspera ad astra*. By-the-bye, what ridiculous and inappropriate mottoes some composers adopt! In the *Glasgow Herald* Tourney one motto is "Kaffozleum." Can anything be more silly or vulgar?