

## PROBLEMS FOR YOUNG PLAYERS, No. 197.

WHITE. BLACK.  
 Kat Q R 4 Kat Q B 4  
 Bat K R 4 Pawns at Q 4.  
 Kkat K K 1 and Q Kt 3.  
 Kkat Q B 7  
 Pawns at Q 3, K B 2,  
 K Kt 5, Q B 3 and  
 Q Kt 5.  
 White to play and mate in three moves.

A BEAUTIFUL EXTRACT.—The glory of summer has gone by—the beautiful greenness has become withered and dead. Were this all, were there no association of moral desolation, faded hopes, of hearts withering in the bosoms of the living, connected with the decaying scenery around us, we would not indulge in a moment's melancholy. The season of flowers will come again; the streams will flow gracefully as before the trees will again toss their cumbrous heads of greenness to the sunlight, and by mossy stone and winding rivulet the coming blossoms will start up at the bidding of their guardian. But the human heart has no change like that of nature; it has no returning springtime. Once blighted in its hour of freshness, it bears for ever the mark of the spoiler. The dews of affection may fall, and the gentle rain of sympathy be lavished upon it, but the stone root of blighted feeling will never again waken into life, nor the crushed flowers of hope blossom with their wonted beauty.

HOW HE "STOPPED THAT BOTHER."—In one of the north-western States, where the competition in Fire Insurance has been carried to an extreme, the ingenuity of a gentleman of the German persuasion was thus illustrated: A man was building a fine house; he had got it half completed. Of course, he had been solicited a dozen times a day for weeks by parties who wanted to insure it. Our German friend arrived upon the scene one morning, and saluted the owner with—

"Pleasant day, sir."  
 "Yes," gruffly responded the real estate owner.

"You builds a fine house dere, my friend."  
 "Yes," said the other a little more gruffly than before.

"Does dem insurance men bodder you much, my friend?"

"Bother me?" they've nearly worried my life out!"

"I shtops dot bodder," reiterated the German drawing forth a brand new house plate of the Insurance Company, and displaying it before the eyes of the builder: "Shust you nail dot up on the front of your house, and den all the insurance men dey tink you was insured. I comes by here in two or three weeks, and when you gets through mit him you gives me dot plate back again."

"All right. I'll try that."  
 "See here," added the builder, "you come back here in about three weeks; I want to see you again." He had evidently recovered a portion of his good humour.

"All right. I comes back," said the German. In due time he made his appearance, and the house-owner at once told him that he wanted him to insure his property, saying: "I can compete with the ordinary insurance agent, but you are entirely too sweet for me to resist, and you shall have the job." And he got it.

CATS.—"What is this?"

"This is a cat. Do you see the beautiful curve to his back? If you continue to be a good boy you shall some day have a thousand cats."

"Are cats a useful animal?"

"Yes, very. If it wasn't for the cats every house would be overrun with canary birds."

"Are cats very brave?"

"Yes. They'll hang around a corner for hours to get their claws into a poor little mouse not one-fortieth part their size."

"What food do cats prefer?"

"A twenty dollar mocking bird is their first choice. If the family are not able to keep a mocking bird, they must put up with an oriole or a German canary. It is only when suffering for food that a cat will accept of a sirloin steak."

"Cats can't sing, can they?"

"No, but bless 'em! they keep trying to learn how! They have got so they can sound the first four notes on the scale, and they are determined to get the rest."

"What time do they sing the sweetest?"

"At night, between the hours of 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. You have probably read items about bold, bad men flinging boot-jacks, sticks of wood and other missiles at singing cats. Don't ever associate with such people. Cats have as much right in America as anybody else, and it is only the mean kind of folks who will try to keep 'em from rising up in the world."

"How long do cats live?"

"Nobody knows, as no cat ever had a fair show to see how many years he could put in. After he has hung around one neighbourhood for fifteen or twenty years some one murders him in cold blood."

"Does the fur of the cat contain electricity?"

"Yes, and it is a great wonder why some of these scientific men d.d. not make use of the fact in searching for the clue to the telephone. There isn't much doubt that the day will yet come when a cat in Detroit, connected by a clothes line with one in Chicago, will form a perfect telegraph line."

"Do cats suck children's breath?"

"They do. Mothers should let their children eat onions as a preventive. Plug tobacco will answer the same purpose."

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