

CITY CHIMES.

**THE WEEK.**—The dullness characteristic of the season is reigning in all departments of our city life. Even the weather failed us this week and we have had a few dark, dreary days; but as they are the first we have been called upon to endure this month it ill becomes us to complain. Business men are plodding along hoping for a more vigorous trade wind to arise ere long. Society folk are languishing for some excitement, but they are likely to languish for awhile. In these dull times when the holders of the family purse strings feel a firm grasp is necessary, the wives and daughters cannot go in for extravagant entertainment, and hence the never failing "5 o'clocks" form the most general method of entertaining at present. An odd feature of the afternoon tea is that nine people out of ten look tired when they receive an invitation to one of these functions which are universally pronounced a bore, and yet these same people will accept "Mrs. Blank's kind invitation" every time and really enjoy a social chat over a cup of fragrant tea in the pretty drawing-rooms of the hostess of the occasion. What a large proportion of the hypocrisy is inborn in our natures, to be sure. The Byron Combination at the Academy and the Doering-Brauer concert have been the chief public entertainments of the week.

**THE THEATRE.**—The plays put on at the Academy of Music this week have had good audiences and have furnished interesting entertainment. "Across the Continent" and "The Inside Track" have been on the programme so far this week, and this evening and to-morrow "Mixed Pickles" is the somewhat novel title of the comedy to be produced. As the engagement of the Company closes to-morrow Mixed Pickles should have large audiences.

**THE DOERING-BRAUER CONCERT.**—The entertainment given in St. Luke's Hall on Tuesday evening was a decided success. The weather was very disagreeable but, notwithstanding, the hall now occupied by the Doering-Brauer Conservatory was filled, and when the last comers arrived "standing room only" was announced as they entered the hall. The programme of the evening opened with a dissertation on the Art of Music which was intended to have been recited by Miss Eva Holmes, but owing to the illness of this lady, was given by Frau Doering-Brauer. Number 1, a trio for piano, violin and cello, was admirably rendered by Frau Doering-Brauer, Herr Bernhard Walther and Herr Ernst Doering. In this as also in the closing trio the three instruments blended melodiously and the effect was very pleasing. Herr Walther's violin solos were artistically performed and this gentleman is undoubtedly to prove a valuable addition to the musical talent of the city. Need I say anything of Herr Doering's cello solos? Every one expects a treat when the Professor brings his wonderful instrument on the stage and no one is ever disappointed. I do not approve of using countless adjectives to express appreciation, but even though I tried by multiplying these parts of speech I would utterly fail to give an adequate idea of the exquisite harmony produced by Herr Doering's cello. Although heartily enjoyed on Tuesday evening Herr Doering did not favor his audience with any "extras." Frau Doering is one of the few piano soloists who can command the full attention of her audience and who receives whole hearted applause for her efforts. Her solo on Tuesday evening was very pleasing and her parts in the other numbers of the excellent programme well performed. Herr Carl Doering made his debut in Halifax at this concert and was well received. His songs, sung in his native tongue, showed him to be possessor of a grand voice, well cultivated. The acoustic properties of St. Luke's Hall are such that Herr Carl's voice was not heard to full advantage and music lovers will anxiously await his appearance on the platform of a large concert hall. Miss Minnie Doyle contributed to the success of the entertainment in two songs well rendered. The staff of the Doering-Brauer Conservatory are to be congratulated on the success of their first concert of the season.

**DELSARTISM LECTURE POSTPONED.**—Those who had anticipated an interesting evening at the Ladies' College on Tuesday when Mrs. Henrietta Russell was to have given a lecture on Delsartism were much disappointed, and Mrs. Russell's many friends heard with deep regret of the illness which necessitated the postponement of her lecture. I had hoped to have had some Delsartean ideas to impart to my readers this week but owing to Mrs. Russell's indisposition they also must be deferred.

**FOOTBALL.**—Congratulations to Dalhousie! The football match of Saturday last between the senior teams of Dalhousie and the Wanderers was of supreme interest, and was witnessed by an immense gathering of people. Only a few exceedingly sanguine Wanderers had any expectation of the red and blacks winning and these few were doomed to disappointment, for the sturdy student lads swept all before them, ran up a score of 7-0, and won the long coveted trophy, with a total score of 37 points against 0. Of the six trophy matches, Dalhousie won four, the Wanderers, two. The United Service team, pardon the expression, was not in it. There has been the most amicable play throughout the series of games, no hard feeling has been given expression to if it has existed, and not a game has been protested. The trophy is fairly and deservedly Dalhousie's, and I would add hearty congratulations to the many that have poured in upon Capt. Gordon and his splendid team. The College boys have also come out ahead in the Junior league games and practically have won their trophy, as the following score shows:—Dalhousie 8 points, Navy 6, Crescents 2, and Wanderers 2. Dalhousie has to meet the Crescents and the Wanderers again. If the Wanderers are to keep up their reputation and retain the confidence of their sympathizers, they must be up and doing between now and the opening of next season, and see to it that the best players to be had from

within their ranks are on their teams. Dalhousians have success to spur them on, and will leave no stone unturned (or ball unknicked) to be rightly named invincible.

The game to-morrow between Dalhousie and Acadia for the College championship promises to be interesting.

**THAT CRICKET LEAGUE.**—Thanks to the *Truro Daily News* for the reprint of my suggestion in re the organization of a Maritime Provincial Cricket League. If the athletes of the Provinces consider the idea practicable, it is to be hoped some movement will be made in the matter without delay. Cheers.

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DRAUGHTS-CHECKERS

All communications to this department must be addressed directly to the Checker Editor, Mr. W. Forsyth, 36 Grafton St.

TO CORRESPONDENTS

**ANDREW WHYTE, New York.**—Your card is at hand, and I have mailed reply. Am glad to learn that THE CRITIC is regularly reaching you at your new address.

**E. D. BRUCE, Shelburne.**—Thanks for your letter enclosing 25c. for Hill's Synopsis which has been mailed to you.

**L. M. STEARNS, Derry Depot, N. H.**—Thanks for exchange. Have mailed you reply.

**"BRIDGEWATER."**—Your solution to Problem 356 is interesting, but you have been careless in getting it up, as at your fourteenth move 14 10 instead of 9 13 which you give white wins at once. At other stages your moves are not playable, and at the following position you allow white to win by black playing 6-9 instead of 30-25 which would make the win doubtful:—black men 5, 11, 12, kings 6, 30 white men 14, 19, 20, kings 17, 18. In both the positions submitted you have put black pieces where whites should have been, as a black man on 28 will become a king in one move by going on to 32. The position that you, doubtless, intended to give was:—black man 5, kings 15, 16; or 5, 15, 32; white men 13, 23, king 24; white to play. Black will win in either case, both being phrases of the well-known second position. As to your last position submitted, I may remark that when white played 27 23, followed by 15-19 the win is very ingenious, but black might have turned the tables by 15-18.

SOLUTION.

**PROBLEM 356.**—The position was: Black men 5, 11, 12, 22, king 10; white men 13, 18, 19, 20, king 31; Black to move. What result?

10-6	b-3	8-c	3-8	12-19
18-14	9-13	9-6	18-23	
6-2	8-3	8-3	26-22	
13-9	13-17	6-2	23-16	
2-7	22-25	1-3	8-7	7-2
9-6	31-26	2-7	14-10	
7-2	25-30	18-3	22-18	
6-1	26-22	7-16	16-11	
2-7	3-7	3-7	18-14	
1-6	17-13	22-18	10-7	
a-7-3	7-3	c-30-26	2-6	
6-9	13-9	19-15	7-2	

w. wins.

**ANDREW SPENCE, Winslow.**

- a 7-2 loses here by 6 9, 2-7
- 14 10.
- b 3-7, 10 14 white win.
- c Again 3-7 loses.
- d Mr. Humphreys dropped the play here calling it a white win.

Mr. Spence here failed to play 30-25 which would have made his solution complete.

Var. I.

By E. H. Humphreys, Trenton.  
3-7 30-26 11-15 and  
22-18 2-7 19-16 white  
9-3 26-22 12-19 wins.  
14-10 18-25 7-11

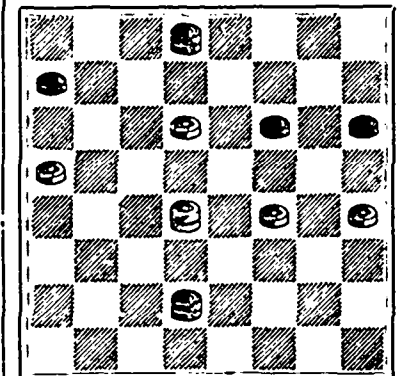
Mr Spence showed a win here by 20 16 which, though sound was much longer than the above.

We regard the solutions of Messrs. Humphrey of Trenton and Spence of Windsor, as equally good and we accordingly send each of them a prize—a copy of the *American Checker Review*.

PROBLEM 358.

This position arises from a solution to Problem 356 sent in by Mr. Cooper of Halifax.

Black men 5, 11, 12, king 2, 26



White men 10, 13, 19, 20, king 18.  
Black to play and draw.

We hope our solvers will give this position some attention as we think it worthy thereof.

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