

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

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

All communications intended for this department to be addressed Chess Editor, Office of CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, Montreal.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. W. S., Montreal.—Correct solution of Problem No. 157 received. Also, letter and valuable contents. Much obliged.

Student, Montreal.—Solution of Problem No. 157 received. Correct.

A. C. Wolfville, N.S.—We answer "No" to your query; but we would like to have the position on a diagram in order the better to understand what is meant.

E. H.—Solution of Problem for Young Players No. 156 received.

We are anxious to call the attention of the Chess-players of the Dominion to the following letter. We trust that all those who may be desirous of entering the Tourneys will send their names to the writer as soon as possible. Our correspondent, J. W. Shaw, Esq., is a devoted Chess-player, well acquainted with all the regulations needed for such an enterprise, and calculated in every respect to manage all the details connected with Chess matches of every description.

We shall be very glad if the Editors of other Chess Columns in the Dominion will call attention to the subject.

26 Windsor Street, Montreal, Feb. 1st, 1878.

To the Chess Editor CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS:

DEAR SIR.—Observing the success which is attending the prosecution at the present time of Chess Correspondence Tourneys, both local, general, and international, in England and the United States, I feel induced to propose an undertaking of a similar nature in this Dominion.

We have, I am persuaded, a large number of first-class players in the Dominion who would gladly avail themselves of the advantages afforded by this novel and agreeable method of Chess play.

Chess by Correspondence, in my opinion, represents the highest form of the game—in its play department. It is as I read the other day: "like travel in good company most enjoyable; players who confine themselves to Club or parlor Chess are 'home-bred' compared with those who have sent their thoughts through scores of mail bags.

Its recommendations are manifold: ensuring freedom from slips and oversights—a common fault when playing over the board—opportunity to follow out a special line of attack to the best advantage—enabling one to anticipate the best possible replies of his antagonist—affording facility for the application of the best skill of which the player is capable—and guaranteeing, in the quiet retirement of the closet, a perfect freedom from interruption, a "sylvan bonum" to the Chess student. What player is there who has not had his calculations upset, and his equanimity disturbed, by the aggravating request from the other side of the board, "Come, now give us something." From annoyances like this a game by correspondence affords a perfect immunity.

Another reason impels me to propose a Canadian Chess Correspondence Tourney. It is impossible not to notice the slight estimation in which Canadian Chess is held by the community in England. Australia and other distant dependencies are given great prominence in the columns of the leading English Chess Journals, while Canada is passed over with seeming indifference.

If our leading players will only "take hold," we can show our brethren in the mother country that we are not behind them in our devotion to the game, in enterprise in furthering its objects, or in the manifestation of skill in Chess play of a degree sufficient to command their respect. Let us both exert and assert ourselves!

Stimulated by these feelings, I therefore, propose a Chess Correspondence Tourney, to be engaged in by, say, twenty-one players, strictly residents in the Dominion. An entrance fee not exceeding in amount five dollars might be asked, giving sufficient value to the Prize list to act as an incentive for the exercise of the players' best skill—the playing of, say, four games simultaneously would not be too great a tax on one's leisure, with a proper interval of time, say, seventy-two hours, between the receipt and posting of the moves.

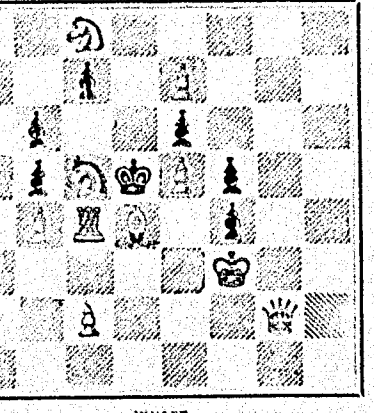
I enclose, subject to your approval, a list of Rules and Regulations for the governance of such a contest. Respectfully offering my services as Conductor of the Tourney, a post to which I will gladly give my time in the interests of Canadian Chess, I shall be most happy to receive applications for entrance to the proposed Tourney from my brother Chessists in the Dominion.

Feeling assured that you fully sympathize with the object proposed, any assistance which you may be pleased to give through the instrumentality of your Column, will tend largely to promote the success of a Canadian Chess Correspondence Tourney.

I remain, dear sir, Yours respectfully, J. W. SHAW.

We have just been informed that some of Mr. Bird's friends on this Continent have heard of his side arrival in England, and that he is busily engaged with a publishing house in London in hurrying forward the appearance of his new work, Chess Openings, so that the patience of his subscribers may only be taxed for a few days longer.

PROBLEM No. 157. By W. ATKINSON, Montreal.



WHITE White to play and mate in two moves.

GAME 2591H. (From the Chess Player's Chronicle.) Played at the Leipzig Congress.

(Scotch Gambit.) (WHITE—Herr Metzger.) (BLACK—Dr. Zukertort.) 1. P to K 4. 1. P to K 4. 2. Kt to KB3. 2. Kt to QB3. 3. P to Q 4. 3. P takes P. 4. P to B 3. 4. P takes P. 5. B to Q B 4. 5. Kt to B 3. 6. Kt to Kt 5 (a). 6. Kt to K 4. 7. B to Kt 3. 7. P to Q 4. 8. K P takes P. 8. B to Q Kt 5. 9. Castles. 9. Castles. 10. Q Kt takes P (b). 10. P to K R 3. 11. K Kt to K 4. 11. Kt takes Kt. 12. Kt takes Kt. 12. Q to R 5. 13. Q to Q 4. 13. B to Q 3. 14. P to K B 4. 14. Kt to Kt 5. 15. P to K R 3. 15. Kt to B 3. 16. Kt takes Kt ch (c). 16. P takes Kt. 17. B to B 2 (d). 17. B takes R P (e). 18. Q to Q 3 (f). 18. B to Q B 4 (ch). 19. B to K 3. 19. B to K B 4. 20. Q to Q 2. 20. B takes B (ch). 21. Q takes B. 21. B takes B.

And Black wins. NOTES. (Chiefly from the Schachzeitung, condensed.) (a) 6 Castles is a better move, and we have seen it played by Dr. Zukertort in this position. (b) White, the Schachzeitung remarks, has recovered his Pawns, but has no longer any advantage of position. We should be surprised if this opening (a sort of engrafting of the Danish upon the Scotch Gambit), had any other result. (c) Kt takes B is preferable. White probably did not expect the recapture with the Pawn. His Q P is now weak. (d) Here White should have persistently challenged the exchange of Queens. (e) By this fine move Black rapidly and decisively assumes the offensive. (f) A miscalculation which costs a piece. White's only chance was to accept the sacrifice.

SOLUTIONS.

Solution of Problem No. 156. WHITE. 1. Kt takes P. 2. Mates accordingly. BLACK. 1. Any move.

Solution of Problem for Young Players, No. 157. WHITE. 1. R to Kt sq (ch). 2. R to B 4 (ch). 3. R to Kt 3 (ch). 4. R to R 4 mate. BLACK. 1. K to R 5. 2. K to R 6. 3. K takes P.

PROBLEMS FOR YOUNG PLAYERS NO. 157.

WHITE. K at K Kt 7. R at Q 4. B at K B 8. B at Kt 2. Pawn at K B 4. BLACK. K at K 3. Kt at K B 7. Kt at Q R 2. Pawns at Q B 5 and Q K 4. White to play and mate in three moves.

LOTS OF FUN. A railroad ticket agent has nearly as much fun answering questions as a post office clerk. A man made his way hastily to the ticket seller's window in the new depot, yesterday, and breathlessly said: "What time does the one-fifty—I mean, when does the first train leave for New York?" "One-fifty," was the answer. "Is that the first?" "Yes, sir." The man went away, but came right back and asked: "What's the fare?" "Two dollars." He thought awhile, and then said: "'S'pose that train's generally on time?" "Yes, sir." Then he asked for a time-table, asked if the road was paying now, tried to borrow a chew of tobacco, and finally went and sat down, looking as if he wanted to ask a question or two, but couldn't think what they were.

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