

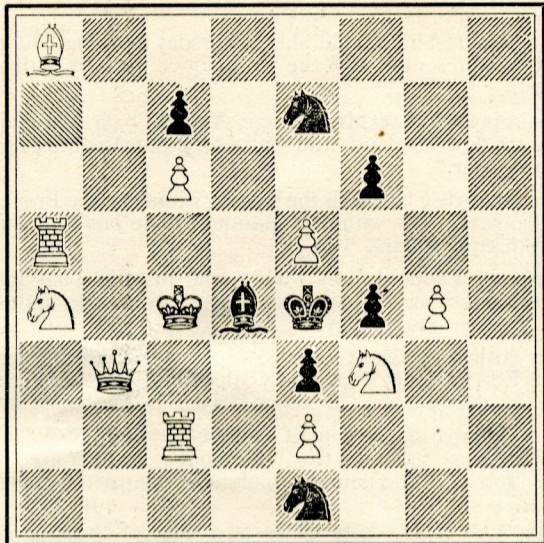
OUR CHESS COLUMN.

Problems and Other Topics of Interest in the King of Games.

[All communications for this department should be addressed to "Chess Editor Argonaut, No. 2115 Fillmore Street, San Francisco, Cal."]

Problem II.—By A. Cyril Pearson.

BLACK—EIGHT PIECES.



WHITE—ELEVEN PIECES.

White to play and mate in two moves.

The following is the first game in the friendly consultation match between Prof. Piepers, Mr. Peck, and Capt. Scott on one side, and Dr. Marshall, Mr. Wallstein, and Mr. Welsh on the other:

White.	Black.	White.	Black.
Peipers, Peck & Scott.	Marshall, Wallstein & Welsh.	19—Kt Q5	19—KR K4
1—P K4	1—P K4	20—P KR3	20—Kt KB3
2—KKt B3	2—QKt B3	21—Kt x Kt	21—P x Kt
3—P Q 4	3—P x P	22—QR Q5	22—K KB sq
4—KB QB4(a)	4—P Q3	23—P QKt3	23—QR K sq
5—Kt x P	5—Kt x Kt	24—K KB2	24—P Kt4
6—Q x Kt	6—P QB4	25—P x P	25—P x P
7—Q Q3	7—B K2	26—Q Q3	26—R x R
8—QKt B3	8—KKt B3	27—P x R	27—Q Q2
9—Castles	9—Castles (b)	28—R x R ch	28—Q x R
10—P KB4	10—B K3	29—Q K3	29—Q K4
11—QB K3 (c)	11—P QR3	30—Q x Q	30—BP x Q
12—P QR4	12—Q Q2	31—P KB6	31—P R3
13—QR Q sq	13—QR QB sq	32—P Kt4	32—K Kt sq
14—P KB5	14—B x B (d)	33—P KR4	33—K R2
15—Q x B	15—Q QB3	34—P KR5	34—K Kt sq
15—B KKt5	15—Q QB3	35—K K3	35—K R2
17—KR K sq(e)	17—Kt KKt5(f)	36—K Q3	36—P QKt5
18—B x B	18—R x B	37—K K4	37—K Kt sq (g)

(a) Very fine, but old birds are not caught with chaff.

(b) And the advantage of the opening is neutralized.

(c) Very like lost time.

(d) Forced, or black loses a piece.

(e) An error. Better abandon the pawn and play for position. QR to K square is much stronger.

(f) This looks enticing, but is not good.

(g) And the game is drawn by mutual consent.

A splendid work, says the *London Field*, of three hundred and seventy-one pages, entitled "Book of London International Tourney," edited by J. Innes Minchin, has been published by James Wade, 18 Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W. C. The book contains the usual historical matter; and then, the main thing, the games. Of these, there are two hundred and forty-three in major tourney, and fifty-three selected from the Vizayanagaram Tourney. Unlike some writers, we have expressed our satisfaction with the arrangement that the great masters were applied to, to annotate each his own games. We still applaud this course. Dr. Zukertort annotated all his games, thirty-two in number, and they stand an imperishable record and monument of every quality that can adorn a chess genius and scholar, and command the highest honor for a chess-master. Herr Steinitz edited his thirty, omitting the two with Zukertort. Blackburne's games are ably and impartially supervised by Mr. Bird, as well as most of his own. Mason's games are analyzed by himself, and in a very modest, unpretentious way. Tchigorin has been criticised by the Rev. W. Wayte, and no critic could more fairly or appreciatively enter into the spirit of his principal. Mr. Mackenzie is annotated by Rev. A. B. Skipworth, two by Bird, and the rest by the editor; as are mostly Englisch's and Rosenthal's games; also the few remaining games of Winawer. Lastly, of a batch of nine games by Mortimer, Noa, Sellman, and Skipworth, three are by Rev. Mr. S., the rest by the editor. The current notes of *The Field* and *Chess Monthly* have been pretty freely drawn on, but always appreciatively acknowledged. The Vizayanagaram games are edited by W. M. Gattie. The committee justly prides itself on the promptitude with which it has closed its labors; and that its "Book of the Congress" is incomparably nearer the events that produced it than any other ever before issued. The criticisms on the "Book" seem to be the absence of an analytical index and illustrative diagrams.

"Chess," says Franklin, "is not merely an idle amusement. Several very valuable qualities of the mind—useful in the course of human life—are to be acquired or strengthened by it, so as to become habits, ready on all occasions. For life is a kind of chess in which we have points to gain, and competitors or adversaries to contend with, and in which there is a vast variety of good and ill events that are, in some degree, the effect of prudence or the want of it."

Love vs. Chess.

When lovers linger o'er their moves at chess
They love their game, but love themselves not less;
With deep-drawn sigh, with ardor unabating,
It may be seen
Both King and Queen
Are thinking of another kind of mating.

The Mechanics' Library Association is just about adding four fine new tables and sets of Staunton men to their chess-room—a sort of New Year's present to their members, which they propose to celebrate next week by a friendly tournament among themselves. Contributions for prizes to be awarded may be forwarded to the chess editor of the *Argonaut*.