

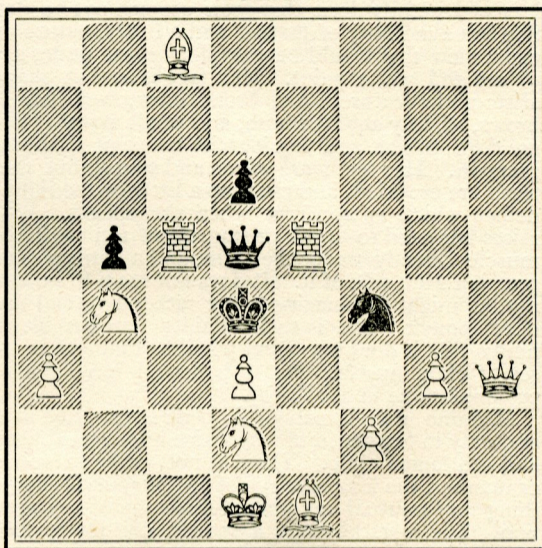
OUR CHESS COLUMN.

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."]

Strangers visiting San Francisco, who are fond of chess, are cordially invited by the officers to make themselves known at the Librarian's desk of the Mechanics' Institute, where they will be provided with visitors' tickets, and introduced to members, who are always pleased to meet and welcome lovers of Caissa from abroad.

Problem by Mr. A. F. Mackenzie.
Motto—"Have you got it? Look again."
BLACK.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in two moves.

The Death of John Wisker.

The last Australian mail brings us the melancholy intelligence of the premature death of this distinguished player, which occurred at Melbourne, Victoria, on the nineteenth of January last, at the age of thirty-seven years. His death was a sudden one, though the exact cause of it is not stated in the Australian papers. He was in Melbourne a few days before the event, and on the tenth of January had given an exhibition of simultaneous chess at the rooms of the Chess Club in the Coffee Palace, in that city.

Chess Intelligence.

Mr. Zukertort returned to New York on Saturday last, having, since he left Ottawa, visited Montreal, Quebec, and Boston. Nothing certain is known concerning his future movements. It is stated by one of the Boston papers that he said to "its reporter": "I shall start for New York on Saturday morning. I have some visits to make to Philadelphia and other cities, and I hope to be able to go to Cuba and play a number of games in Havana. Returning, I intend to visit New Orleans. . . . And I shall engage some of the best chess-players in New Orleans in competition. Leaving there, I shall journey to San Francisco by easy stages, and take steamer there for China and Japan, in some of the cities of which countries there are very expert players of the game."

The annual dinner of the Manhattan Chess Club came off on Saturday evening last at Martinelli's Fifth Avenue restaurant, and under the able management of President Green was a successful and enjoyable event. Over fifty gentlemen sat down to a repast prepared and served in Martinelli's best style. Among those present were George T. Green, president of the club, who presided, Messrs. Steinitz, Zukertort, Mackenzie, Gilberg, McKay, Delmar, Frère, Baird, Cohn, Lipschurtz, and Thompson, of Philadelphia, the last named having come from that city for the purpose. As is usual at the annual dinners of this club, the prizes in the handicap tournament were distributed, the recipients making brief acknowledgments. We report the speech of Captain Mackenzie in full. On receiving the envelope containing his prize, he arose in response to loud cheers and repeated calls, and drawing the paper from its inclosure, said: "Mr. President and gentlemen: It is a good plan to follow the maxim of so many chess-players—never 'miss a check,'" and sat down. Speeches were made by Mr. Steinitz, Mr. Zukertort, Mr. Frère, and others. Mr. Frère presented to the club a fine oil-painting of Paul Morphy, which the Directory had purchased; he stated that the portrait was painted by Elliott about twenty-five years ago, and was recently discovered hidden among the long-forgotten *inutilia* of a picture-dealer's establishment.

Wisker vs. McDonnell.

For the following specimen of the late Mr. Wisker's style of play we are indebted to the *South Australian Chronicle*. It occurred in a match between himself and the Rev. G. A. McDonnell, which was played in London shortly before Mr. Wisker sailed for Australia:

RUY LOPEZ.

White.	Black.	White.	Black.
Mr. Wisker.	Mr. McDonnell.	27—P KR4	27—R Q sq
1—P K4	1—P K4	28—P KR5	28—Kt KB sq
2—Kt KB3	2—Kt QB3	29—R Q5	29—K R2
3—B QKt5	3—P QR3	30—Kt K5	30—Q K sq
4—B R4	4—Kt KB3	31—P QKt4	31—P KB3
5—Kt QB3	5—B QB4	32—Kt KKt6	32—Kt Q2
6—Castles	6—P QKt 4	33—P x P	33—R x B
7—B Kt3	7—P Q3	34—Q x R	34—Q x Q
8—P KR3	8—Castles	35—P x Q	35—B x P
9—P Q3	9—P KR3	36—K B2	36—B QKt3
10—Kt K2	10—B Q2	37—K B3	37—R QB sq
11—P QB3	11—B QR2	38—R from Q	38—R QB5
12—Kt KKt3	12—Kt K2	Q3	
13—P Q4	13—Kt Kt3	39—P K4	39—K Kt sq
14—B K3	14—Q K2	40—K B4	40—Kt QB4
15—R K sq	15—P QB4	41—R x Kt	41—R x R
16—Kt KB5	16—Q Q sq	42—P Q7	42—B B2 ch
17—Kt x QP	17—B QB3	43—P K5	43—P x P ch
18—P x KP	18—Kt x P at K5	44—K B5	44—B Q sq
19—B Q5	19—B x B	45—Kt x P	45—P QR4
20—Q x B	20—Kt x Kt	46—K K6	46—P QKt5
21—P x Kt	21—Kt K2	47—P x P	47—P x P
22—Q K5	22—Kt Kt3	48—Kt B7	48—P QKt6
23—Q KKt3	23—R K sq	49—P x P	49—R B3 ch
24—QR Q sq	24—Q Q2	50—R Q6	50—R QB7
25—R Q2	25—R K3	51—Kt x B	51—R K7 ch
26—KR Q sq	26—R QB sq	52—K Q5	Resigns.

ENIGMA.—"My Pet."—First prize in Detroit *Free Press*, and a problem to rank with the most profound master-pieces of all time, by Joseph Ney Babson: White—K at K2, Q at QR4, R at QR8, B at QR6, Kt at QB3, Kt at KKt8, Pawns at QB6, QB7, K5, and QKt4. Black—K at his Kt5, Pawns at QB5, KKt2, and KR2. White to play and mate in four moves.