

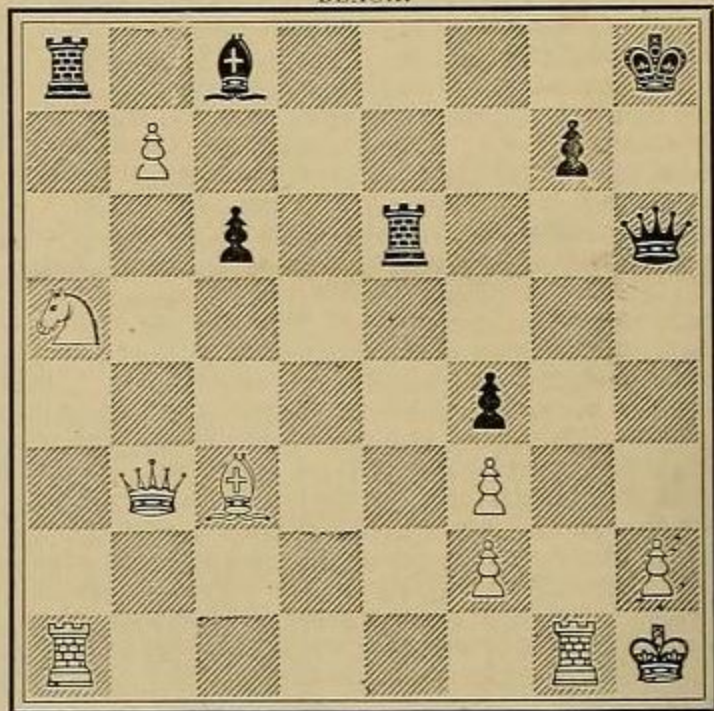
OUR CHESS COLUMN.

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."]

The following is an interesting position which occurred in a game between Dr. Marshall (black) and Capt. Scott (white) recently:

BLACK.



WHITE.

It is Black's move, and he announces mate in four moves.

Answers to Correspondents.

WM. O. DICKSON, San José.—Yours of the 14th received. Your remarks are pertinent. The mistake was a typographical error. The first line of the proposition should have read, "two moves."

U. HARTNELL, Salinas.—Your solutions are correct.

W. M. L.—See explanatory paragraph in this week's issue.

In the short game of chess, which was printed in last week's issue as a sample of Capt. MacKenzie's play, the words, "Remove White King's Knight," were omitted, which renders the game unintelligible, as White could not castle on his fifth move unless he were conceding the odds of King's Knight.

The arrangements for the chess tourney at the Mechanics' Library rooms are not yet completed, partly owing to the delay caused by the extreme scarcity of fine qualities of ebony and boxwoods in this market. The new sets of club chessmen after the Staunton model are now being turned, and we hope by next week to be able to announce that war has actually begun.

The editor of the Nevada *Tribune*, in a leading editorial criticism upon our article of January 5th, takes the chess editor to task for a want of proper reverence, in stating that the Saviour had played chess while on earth. We have the authority of Pope Innocent I. and Paul the Deacon (recorded in his "De Gestis Longobodorum"), Salvio, Ruy Lopez, and Panormitano (and others in "Cap. Lator de Homicid"), for the statement that the Messiah did play chess while on earth, and that, with the exception of indulging in the festivities at the marriage in Cana of Galilee, it is the only recorded instance of his taking any recreation in the way of amusement while on earth. It is also confirmed by the canon law of ancient Rome; and Verci, in his entertaining and valuable letters, says that the game had received the countenance of the Church from the earliest ages, and further quotes that it is "also confirmed by the canon law that priests are permitted to play at chess; and even if any priest or clerk playing at chess, and a quarrel consequently arising, should kill his adversary, such homicide should be accounted casual and not intentional, which would not be allowed after any other game; and the reason is, because *dabat operam rei licitae*." The foregoing facts are also recorded in the "Navicula sive Speculum Fatuorum," by Johannes Geyler, about the close of the fifth century.

Chess has included among its votaries the following celebrated men and women: Burton (author of the "Anatomy of Melancholy"), the Earl of Chatham, Helvetius, Commenius, Condé, Leibnitz, Sir W. Jones, Charles XII. of Sweden, Sir Walter Scott, Raleigh, Queen Elizabeth, Rousseau, Voltaire, Frederick the Great, Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Buckle (the historian), Tamerlane, Richelieu, Edmund Burke, Wollaston, Chamfort, St. Foix, Marmontel, Grimm, Marshal Saxe, Dr. Roget, Ferdinand of Arragon, D'Alembert, Murat, Marshal Berthier, Eugene de Beauharnais, Lord Bacon, R. A. Proctor, Robespierre, Henry I. of England, Charlemagne, Phillip II. of Spain, Emperor Charles V., Catherine de Medicis, Pope Leo X., Innocent I., Louis XIII. and Louis XIV., James I. of England, William of Orange, Sidney Smith, Verda, the late Duke of Brunswick, Howard Staunton, Sir John Harrington, Lord Lyttleton, Baron Rothschild, Commodore Vanderbilt, M. Grévy, Lord Lytton, the Duke of Wellington, Napoleon Bonaparte, Prince Albert, Victoria Queen of England, Napoleon III., Francis Joseph of Austria, Mary Queen of Scots, Hannah More, Jenny Lind, Mrs. Scott-Siddons, Charlotte Cushman, and a host of other names equally prominent in philosophy, science, the arts, music, literature, and drama.