



(Address All Communications, Solutions, Etc., to CHESS EDITOR, SAN FRANCISCO CALL)

When Paul Morphy astonished the chess world by his brilliant achievements in 1856, the game received a tremendous impetus in the United States. Many of the leading newspapers of that day ran a chess column as a regular feature. Robert E. Bonner, the great sportsman, owner of the famous Maud S, engaged Morphy at a salary of \$5,000, paid in advance, to edit a chess column in his paper, the New York Ledger. But the growth was abnormal, and from a condition where chess was played by nearly everybody, in a few years the reverse of that proposition was the fact. Of course, the overshadowing tragedy of the civil war turned everything awry and was probably responsible for the slump in chess interest.

But the healthy, steady growth of the royal game in recent years may be said to date from 1895, when Harry Nelson Pillsbury, the American chess genius, went to Hastings, England, and from an brilliant gathering of chess masters as ever assembled won first prize. Lasker, Steinitz, Tarrasch and other giants of the chess board being placed below him. From that date till the present time hundreds of clubs have been organized throughout the country, thousands of games are played annually by correspondence, tournaments are becoming very frequent, the game has taken a firm foothold in the various colleges, and in the east there are several leagues composed of high school chess teams. Many newspapers devote space to chess affairs. Especially since the recent tournaments at New York city and Havana has the increasing popularity of chess been noticeable. Some of its manifestations are:

An international masters' tourney at Havana, in 1914; first class tournament at the Rice club of New York city in June, 1913, to R. Spielmann for which have been sent to H. Spielmann of Munich and to three Cuban players. It is also hoped to induce Marshall and Capablanca to compete. The ever generous Prof. I. L. Rice has given a handsome trophy to be played for annually by teams representing Cuba and America. Resumption of chess column in the New York Tribune. Formation of National Chess club in New York city, which promises to become one of the big clubs of the metropolis. In Pittsburg the chess players may have their choice of four or five chess columns. Beginning last week the Pittsburg Sun initiated a column, under the editorship of A. Isaacs. "Caissa" is also editing a column in the Pittsburg Referee. Besides these there are regular columns in the Leader, Dispatch and Gazette-Times. Here on the coast a 56 board correspondence match is under way in California, and in all probability a telegraphic match will be contested on Decoration day by the San Francisco and Los Angeles clubs.

Yes, the greatest of games is surely coming into its own!

We ask the indulgence of our readers for reprinting the following personal item from the pen of Charles Broughton, chess editor of the Staten Islander, New York city. It is at once a much appreciated boost and a gentle knock:

The people of California are fond of chess and do not devote all their energies, as the rest of the country is inclined to suppose, in attempts to make reservoirs of national parks and life miserable for the Japanese and Chinese who have been unfortunate enough to come among them. The San Francisco Call has one of the best chess columns in the country. It is edited by E. J. Clarke, who, it is true, like some wise men of old, came from the east. Mr. Clarke, however, has taken root in California and assents to the ancient remark that the reason the wise men came from the east is because they were wiser men.

Was it Ben Franklin or Socrates who remarked: "Be sure your sin will find you out"? Until recently Takarooka was a member of the local chess club, but in very uncertain standing. About 10 days ago the newspapers contained sensational accounts of the finding of his battered and lifeless body in the street in front of the 25 story Mechanics' Institute building. It will be recalled that the coroner's verdict was suicide by leaping from a window of the chess room on the twenty-fourth story. A tortured conscience bids us to confess the truth. Takarooka was pushed from that window! He had been making himself very obnoxious by winning games from his superiors—in color. So there was nothing to do but rid the club of his detested presence. Besides myself there was but one other person in the room. **HOW DID BROUGHTON FIND OUT ABOUT IT?**

The following items are from the St. Louis Globe-Democrat (whose chess editor, Ben R. Foster, has been active in spreading the gospel of Caissa for 25 years. Long may he wave!):

The Little Rock and Lewisville Chess clubs of Arkansas are contending for honors in a correspondence game of chess. It is producing so much excitement in the Little Rock chess circles that the positions are displayed after each move in the windows of the Howser Furniture company.

Frank J. Marshall, chess champion of America, contemplates publishing a selection of his finest games, under the title of "Marshall's Swindles." Marshall's happy faculty of extricating himself from difficulties by daring play earned for him this term, justly applied in Europe.

**GAME DEPARTMENT**

It is with much pleasure we announce that hereafter the Game Department of The Call Chess Corner will be edited by Mr. A. B. Stamer of San Francisco, who is well qualified to make it an interesting feature. When but a youth in knee trousers (or pants) Stamer defeated Pillsbury in one of the latter's simultaneous exhibitions. Since that time Stamer has been an assiduous student of the openings, and before the fire possessed one of the best chess libraries in the city.

The game that Jaffe lost against Rubinstein in the recent New York tourney is highly amusing. Rubinstein has to pass through many perils. He does so unconsciously; frequently he is threatened with immediate loss, but he saves himself through it all and triumphs in the end. Of course, Jaffe missed the strongest move on several occasions, but his moves appeared to be very strong. The game was like a melodrama in which the villain hits with a show of force and always misses, and the gentle, good man wins out.

**Game No. 40**

**FRENCH DEFENSE**

Jaffe (white) vs. Rubinstein (black).

WHITE	BLACK	WHITE	BLACK
1 P-K4	P-K5	25 QxKt	Q-N6
2 P-Q4	P-Q4	24 R-KR4	Q-Q7(1)
3 Kt-KB3	B-QKt3(a)	23 Kt-B6ch	B-N
4 PxP	PxP	26 Q-B5ch	B-K3
5 Kt-R3	Kt-KB3	27 KtxPch	K-K
6 B-Q2	Castles	28 KtxB(1)	QxKt
7 Castles	R-K	29 R-KR3ch	Q-R2
8 B-KKt5	P-B5	30 R-KR3ch	Q-Q2
9 Kt-K5	QKt-Q2	31 P-B4(1)	P-Kt3
10 P-B4	Kt-B	32 Q-R2	PxP
11 K-R	Kt-Q3	33 R-R5	K-R2
12 Kt-K2	B-K5	34 Q-Kt3ch	K-Kt2
13 Kt-Kt3(b)	Q-Kt3(c)	35 Q-KKt3	P-B6
14 QxKt	PxKt	36 P-R4	P-R7
15 Kt-R3(d)	PxKt	37 P-Kt3	QxRP
16 QxP(e)	K-K2	38 Rxp	NxR
17 P-R5	KtxP	39 QxRch	QxQ
18 Q-K	Q-Q5	40 RxQch	N-K3
19 R-B4	QxP	41 R-B	B-Kt5
20 R-Kt(f)	KtxB	42 R-Q2	B-Q5
21 Q-Ktch	B-Kt3(g)	43 Resigns	
22 R(R4)-R(h)Kt	Btch		

**NOTES**

(a) This mode of development is contrary to a well founded principle. The Kt should be brought out first.

(b) White threatens to weaken his opponent by Kt to R5. Black is in grave difficulties. His only chance is now B-Kt. P-R3, Kt-B.

(c) Black prefers to bring the position at once to a climax. He jeopardizes his game, but has the chance that white, in the violent struggle which is bound to follow, might go wrong.

(d) The strongest move was KtxRf. If, then, KxKt; 16 Q-R5, N-Kt2; 17 P-B3, white regains the piece and wins easily.

(e) And here 16 Kt-B6ch, N-B; 17 KtxR, KxKt; 18 QxP would have yielded a winning attack.

(f) White evidently believes that he can win as he likes. The common sense procedure was to attack the King side by 20 Q-Kt3ch, Kt-K3; 21 Q-R5.

(g) By this clever stroke black gets his rook into action. If 22 RxQ, R-K5ch; 23 QxR, NxQ, black obtains good chances.

(h) If 22 QxR, N-K5, 23 R(R4)-R, Kt-Rtch; 24 K-Kt, Kt-K5, black has sufficient defence.

(i) Black should not have given up the

important diagonal held by the queen. Q-K4 was the right move.

(j) Obviously P-B6 was stronger, since the Q's ch on B5 would have proved fatal.

(k) The last attempt, but it fails against careful defense.—Lasker in the New York Evening Post.

The following game is from the recent jubilee tournament at Vienna:

**Game No. 47**  
**EVANS GAMBIT DECLINED**  
Reit (white) vs. Spielmann (black).

WHITE	BLACK	WHITE	BLACK
1 P-K4	P-K4	12 Kt-B3	Kt-B5(e)
2 Kt-KB3	Kt-QB3	13 B-Kt3(d)	B-Kt5
3 B-B4	B-N4	14 Q-Q2	Kt-Kt7
4 P-QKt3	R-Kt3	15 Q-K3	QR-Q
5 P-Kt3(a)	Kt-R4	16 Qx(e)	QR-Q
6 KtxP	Kt-R3	17 R-B4(f)	BxP
7 P-Q4	P-Q3	18 Kt-K2	BxKt
8 BxKt	PxKt(h)	19 BxR	BxP(g)
9 BxP	R-KKt	20 P-KR3	B-KK1
10 BxPch	NxP	21 P-KR4	P-KR3
11 BxP	Q-Kt4	Resigns(h)	

**NOTES**

(a) The better continuation is 5 P-QB4, P-QB3; 6 Castles, P-Q3; 7 P-R5, B-R2; 8 P-Kt5, Pxp; 9 BxP, Kt-K2, etc.

(b) Or, simply 5 1/2 PxP, Kt-K2, but almost every variation turns in favor of black.

(c) The play up to here is all book. The text move is better than 12 1/2 QxP, because of 18 Q-R5ch, Q-Kt2; 14 Q-B3ch, K-K; 15 Kt-Q5, with a good attack.

(d) If 13 P-B4, then 13 1/2 Q-R5ch; 14 P-Kt3 forced Rxp, winning right side, but he could have played 13 Q-B3ch, K-K; 14 B-B4, followed by castles.

(e) 16 Kt-Q3 might be considered. If 16 1/2 B-B3ch, then 17 P-B3, QxQch; 18 PxQ, RxKt; 19 Castles ch, followed by PxR. If 17 1/2 P-B5, then 18 PxP; 19 B-B4 or Kt-Kt4. There is a multitude of variations, black, of course, retaining the piece ahead; but white could make a stand with his pawns.

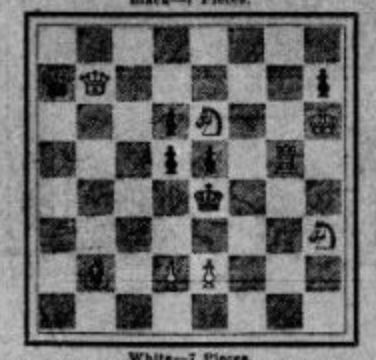
(f) Castles would be somewhat better, leaving the text move in reserve.

(g) Threatening B-B4 mate.

(h) For 1/2 B moves, than Rxp and wins.

**PROBLEMS**

**PROBLEM NO. 87. BY G. HEATHCOTE.**  
First prize "American Chess Bulletin" (1912).



White—7 Pieces.  
White to play and mate in two moves.

**PROBLEM NO. 88. BY F. JOHNSTON.**  
First prize "Football Field" (1911).



White—8 Pieces.  
White to play and mate in two moves.

**PROBLEM NO. 89. BY R. WINDLE.**  
White: K-QKt3, Q-QKt4, B-QKt7, P-Q5, R-QKt3 and Kt3.  
Black: K-K4, R-K2, P-Q2 and Q5.  
White to play and mate in two moves.

**PROBLEM NO. 90. BY W. SHINKMAN.**  
White: K-Kt2, B-QR3, P-QKt3.  
Black: K-K4, P-KR4 and 5.  
White to play and mate in four moves.

**SOLUTIONS**

No. 29: P-QS(Kt) No. 31: B-R4  
No. 30: B-K5 No. 32: Q-KR3

**SOLVERS' LIST**

Norman, city Fatio, Santa Clara  
Hall, San Jose "Ignoramus" city  
"Ray Lopez," city W. B. C., Niles  
Huber, city Rudolph, Oakland

**Correspondence**

W. F. P., Woodstock, Ore.—Queen to bishop eight solves problem No. 6.

H. L. D., Pittsburg, Pa.—Compare problem No. 1, Pittsburg Sun, with tourney problem "Jack Leer" published April 27 in Gazette-Times.

"IGNORAMUS" CITY—Nix, nix! You are mistaken about that problem by J. G. Nix. Kt to R2 is the correct and only solution.

**End Game No. 12**

To the Chess Editor The Call:

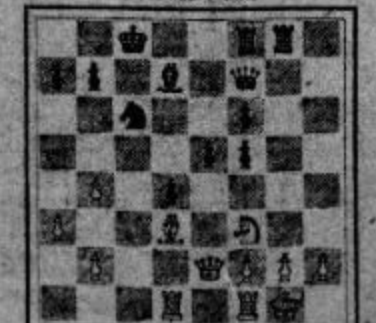
**A MIRAGE IN CHESS**

Macxalay, in his lamentable way, tells of the deception similar to that which misleads the traveler in the Arabian desert. "Beneath the caravan all is dry and bare, but far in advance and far in the rear is the semblance of refreshing waters. The pilgrims hasten forward to find nothing but sand where an hour before they had seen a lake. They turn their eyes and see a lake where an hour before they were toiling through sand. A similar illusion seems to haunt nations."

A similar illusion seems to haunt chess players. In 1903 I found myself watching a contest between devotees of the immortal position in Melbourne, Australia. The position, so far as I know, has never been published. The White Man starts out with "far in advance the semblance of refreshing waters"; but he hastens forward to find "nothing but sand" except perhaps a few "rocks." The Black Man (as it stings), being evidently more at home in that country, lands up in a veritable "oasis."

WALLACE E. NEVILL.

Following is the position:



White—12 Pieces.  
White, having the move, sees a pawn to be won—but it proves a mirage.

1 B-B4 B-K3  
2 BxPch QxP  
3 KtxP! KtKt  
4 RxKt Q-R3!!  
5 R-QB4

White pins the adverse queen removing the rook from danger. Of course, black has Rxpch, but a simple check by discovery after that will avail nothing. Black continues:

5 B-B4 BxPch  
6 N-R B-Kt3 ch ch  
7 K-R B-Kt3 ch ch