

Our Chess Corner

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

The pending club championship tournament at the Mechanics' Institute, 57 Post street, is well under way. Three players have clean scores, and honors for 1913 seem to lie between Fink and Hallweger. When they play their individual tourney game it is likely that the S. R. O. sign will be displayed. But chess is very uncertain and a dark horse in the person of W. Smith, formerly of Pittsburg, may upset calculations. Smith has had considerable experience in tourney play. Prior to leaving Pittsburg he contested a match with Howard Doldo, chess editor of the Gazette-Times, which the latter won by the odd game. While Rawling has a clean score, it has been at the expense of the weaker siders, and something may happen when he goes up against class.

Following is the standing of the leaders to date:

	W. I.	W. I.	
Fink	12 0	Rawling	3 0
Hallweger	8 0	W. Smith	4 1/2 1/2
R. Smith	7 1/2 1/2		

Many entries from the bay cities have been received during the week for the first correspondence match ever held between the chess players of northern and southern California. Indications point to a formidable team to represent northern California and to demonstrate that climatic conditions here in the north are more conducive to vigorous, imaginative chess than the siesta producing weather south of the Tehachapi. Play will begin April 15. As nearly as it is possible to do so, contestants will be paired with players of like strength. Any one wishing to take a board in this match (which is bound to be keenly contested, with every game fought out to the last pawn) may send his name and address to The Call Chess Editor before April 8.

The great New York vs. Pennsylvania correspondence match, in which 254 players took part, was won by the Pennsylvanians, 263 1/2 to 244 1/2. Eighty games remained unfinished and were adjudicated. Thus New York lost by a margin of 19 points, a close score considering that 565 games were played.

His Honor Mayor Blankenburg of Philadelphia, before assuming the task of cleaning the Augean stables of Quaker City politics, devoted odd moments at the shrine of Calasa. His penchant was problem composing and solving. In acknowledging receipt of the "Smokestack" Call which we sent him, his honor writes:

"My interest in chess has not flagged, although I am not in a position to devote any attention to it at the present time, as I am fully occupied in very important municipal work.

"I hope you will be eminently successful in your chess column. It is, without doubt, the game of games."

Tourney problem No. 4, printed in this column March 23, was evidently a hard nut to crack. Several wrote asking if the diagram was correct, and one rather reckless solver (whose name we withhold) went so far as to say that neither problem No. 5 nor No. 6 could be solved in three moves. When he discovers that No. 5 has two key-moves, and that No. 6 is as clever and pretty a problem as one shall find on an Easter day, perhaps he will count 100 before taking us to task another time.

H. E. Church had some trouble with No. 6. In a letter dated March 24 he remarks: "I find no 'mate in three' in problem No. 6. I phoned to the office, making inquiry as to the possibility of a typographical error. . . . I do not mind putting in all the study that is required on these problems, but there is nothing calculated to make one abandon problem solving, as the most provoking thing on earth, so quickly as old Typographical Error. . . . I know nothing about 'cooks,' so called, but if this is one my appraisal of their unworth would best be written on asbestos paper!" Mr. C. has stated the case with the skill of a legal luminary. Solitaire is time gloriously spent compared to hours consumed endeavoring to solve a bun problem. I believe murder would be done if certain solvers could come within striking distance of the man responsible for the putting forward in print of a defective problem. Fortunately, among the 26 problems printed in The Call there has been none so far that could not be solved. While one or two double key moves have been discovered, no solver has cussed us with just cause. Therefore, this seems an appropriate time to hand a bouquet to the artists who transmute our indifferent Spencerian into the neat printed columns comprising "Our Chess Corner." Typographically it is the peer of any column printed in the United States. (We make no claim for quality; we leave that to our loving friends.) Errors have been few and far between—and there is nothing easier than to mistake an R for a B or a P, etc. Since February 2, 1912, 25 games have been printed, containing 856 moves for white. Multiplied by two this gives 1,712 moves. Only about four errors have occurred in printed scores. Besides, there have been hundreds of moves in end games and solutions, which have been absolutely free from misprints. Certainly a remarkable record!

We take a just pride in its appearance. The column is read by hundreds of chess lovers in scores of California cities; and it is welcomed in Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Honolulu and many other localities.

After another strenuous attack on No. 6, in which he evidently used his 11th. Mr. Church observes: "No. 6 is a dandy problem, after you have solved it, though during the interim between first glance and final triumph I said many uncomplimentary, yea, unprintable things against it! Well, with much elation I herewith send you solutions."

GAME DEPARTMENT

Our American chess champion, Frank J. Marshall, is so used to either winning or drawing that when he has to lower his colors he does so most awkwardly. In fact, Marshall is a very hard loser. He went through 13 rounds in New York and 13 rounds in Havana without losing a game; but in the fourteenth and final round at Havana, Janowski outplayed him nicely. Marshall should have resigned gracefully after the French master's thirty-eighth move, but he prolongs a hopelessly game for 10 additional moves. The score:

Game No. 26
QUEEN'S PAWN OPENING
Janowski (white) vs. Marshall (black).

WHITE	BLACK	WHITE	BLACK
1 P-Q4	P-Q4	25 PxP	B-B3
2 Kt-K3	Kt-K3	26 R-K7	B-B5
3 P-B4	P-K3	27 BxR	RxR
4 B-K3	QKt-Q2	28 P-Q7	B-B2
5 P-K3	B-K2	29 P-Q7	B-B2
6 B-Q3	PxP	30 P-K5	P-QKt3
7 BxP	Kt-Q4	31 P-K5	P-K5
8 BxR	QxP	32 K-K2	P-B4
9 Castles	Castles	33 K-Q3	B-B7ch
10 Kt-B3	KxKt	34 K-Q3	R-B6
11 P-K3	P-QKt3	35 R-Q3	PxR
12 B-K	B-K2	36 K-R	P-R5
13 P-K4	KR-Q	37 K-Q2	P-B6
14 Q-Q2	P-QB4	38 KxP	P-B4
15 Q-B4	PxP	39 PxP	P-Kt3
16 PxP	QxP	40 PxP(Kt4)	K-Kt3
17 B-K3	Q-B2	41 P-B7	R-KR
18 Q-K3	Q-K3	42 B-K5	R-B6ch
19 QxQ	RPxQ	43 K-Q4	R-B5ch
20 Kt-K5	B-B6	44 K-R5	RxP
21 P-B4	Kt-B	45 P-R5(Q)	R-B7ch
22 QR-Q	Kt-R2	46 K-Q4	R-Q7ch
23 KtKt	KxKt	47 K-K5	Resigns
24 P-Q5	PxP		

A. G. Pearsall of the Cabrillo club, San Diego, has a score to settle with certain correspondence players, and rumor has it that he is biding his time till the north vs. south correspondence match to square accounts. Mr. Frazier spoke very highly of the Cabrillo's skill in postal card chess; yet we have received five games in which "Resigns" was written in Mr. Pearsall's column. Looks like a conspiracy. Strange, isn't it, how we forget our lost games and love to linger over the details of our victories! A. E. Davis of North Yakima, a veteran correspondence expert, who may make his home in this city in the

near future, defeats Pearsall when the latter adopts the P-B4 defense to the Huy Lopez.

Game No. 27

RUY LOPEZ
Davis (white) vs. Pearsall (black).

WHITE	BLACK	WHITE	BLACK
1 P-K4	P-K4	14 BxQKt	PxR
2 Kt-K3	Kt-QB3	15 Kt-K4	KxKt
3 B-K5	P-B4	16 BxKt	Q-K5
4 P-Q3	Kt-B3	17 P-QKt3	P-KK3
5 Castles	P-Q3	18 B-K3	KR-Q
6 Kt-B3	B-K2	19 R-B2	P-Q4
7 PxP	RxP	20 PxP	PxP
8 Kt-KR4	B-KKt3	21 QR-KB	R-Q3
9 P-R5	B-R4	22 Q-B2	P-QB4
10 Kt-B5	B-Kt3	23 BxP	PxR
11 KtKt	QxKt	24 R-B6	Q-K
12 B-Kt5	B-R2	25 Q-KB5	R-K7
13 Q-Q2	Castles(K)	26 Q-Kt4ch	Resigns

PROBLEMS

TOURNEY PROBLEM NO. 9, BY A. J. FINK.

Black—2 Pieces.



White—7 Pieces.

White to play and mate in three moves.

TOURNEY PROBLEM NO. 10, BY A. J. FINK.

Black—7 Pieces.



White—9 Pieces.

White to play and mate in three moves.

SOLUTIONS

Tourney Problem No. 9: Kt-Q4
"Cook," Tourney Problem No. 5: Kt-B4ch
Tourney Problem No. 6: B-B5

SOLVERS' LIST

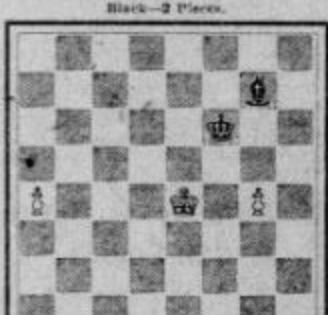
Name and residence—	Total points	Name and residence—	Total points
Windle, Winnemucca, 16	10	"O. N.," Berkeley, 10	10
Hall, San Jose, 10	10	McCracken, Vacaville, 10	10
Church, city, 10	10	Hutchings, city, 9	9
"Ruy Lopez," city, 14	14	Warrington, Oakland, 9	9
"D. E. F. E.," city, 14	14	Woodruff, Oakland, 9	9
Eston, city, 14	14	Herrington, city, 9	9
Norman, city, 14	14	Fazio, Santa Clara, 8	8
Darling, Carmel, 12	12	Elba, Los Gatos, 8	8
"Ignoramus," city, 12	12	Fernans, city, 8	8
Halle, city, 12	12	Chilton, city, 8	8

END GAME DEPARTMENT

A neat study from "Halpern's Symposium":

END GAME NO. 5.

Black—2 Pieces.



White—3 Pieces.

White to play and win.

Solution to No. 2, by Holzhausen, printed March 22:

WHITE	BLACK	WHITE	BLACK
1 Q-QB3	K-KR8	8 Q-Q4ch	K-KR8
2 Q-R7ch	K-R8	9 Q-K4	K-K3
3 Q-K7	K-K8	10 Q-B4ch	K-K8
4 Q-K6ch	K-R8	11 Q-KK3	K-K8
5 Q-B6	K-K7	12 KxP	P-R5(Q)
6 Q-B5ch	K-B8	13 Q-KK3	Any
7 Q-Q5	K-K8	14 Q mates	

But if black on his twelfth move takes a knight instead of a queen (a line of play evidently overlooked by the composer), white must play with precision, otherwise black can draw. The "knight" solution follows, beginning with 12 1/2 P-R5(Kt):

WHITE	BLACK	WHITE	BLACK
1 P-R5	P-R5(Kt)	6 Q-B4ch	K-K8
2 QxRP	Kt-B7	7 K-K4	Kt-R5(a)
3 Q-R4	K-B8	8 K-B3	K-B5
4 Q-B4ch	K-K8	9 Q-R3	
5 Q-Q4	R-B5		and wins

(a) If instead Kt-R5, 8 K-R3, wins.

There may be a simpler line of play if black "knights" the pawn. If so, we would like to be shown.

Correct solution to the "queen" variation received by J. Fazio, Santa Clara, and B. Z. McLeroy, Presidio, city.

Correspondence, Notes, Etc.

F. G. N., City—You say, "White can not mate in three" in problem No. 6. A good many of us spent a busy Easter trying to answer the question, "a mate or not a mate." After all, chess problems are simple things. All that is necessary to find the open sesame is to move the right piece to the right square. "G. H." is more severe. He passes up both Nos. 5 and 6 as unsolvable in three and adds: "Hoping that we shall have no more of the above type of problems," etc.

On the other hand, R. E. L. Windle of Nevada (a resourceful solver and a clever composer) commented: "No. 5—dainty and artistic. No. 6—a pretty explanation of the Indian theme."

"Ruy Lopez" wrote: "No. 6 proved a stinker. I solved it by the process of elimination, allee samee Sherlock Holmes, but decided it must be a bishop move, 1 where? One square along the diagonal seemed as effective as another. Then the craftiness of the composer was revealed. B to R5. Presto!"

IGNORAMUS, City—Thanks for your problem. I have not examined it, but A. J. F. pronounces it very neat. After contest is over (and if all's quiet on the Rappahannock) we shall print it.

W. E. ARNOLD, New York City—The double barreled "F" problem (dedicated to A. J. F.) received. Mr. Fink is working on a companion piece, and, as we say, if the column still wavers, we plan to run them after the pending A. C. White contest. Thank you for your wishes for our success.

SAN MATEO VS. BARNEY FRANKELS

(Special Dispatch to The Call)
SAN MATEO, April 5.—The San Mateo baseball team will meet the Barney Frankels on the local diamond tomorrow. San Mateo defeated the Mitchell & Murphy team of San Jose last Sunday by a score of 12 to 1, and the Frankels played a 12 inning tie with Santa Clara. Manager Jack Howard expects a record breaking crowd for the second game of the season.