

Our Chess Corner

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

That Abraham Lincoln, the one hundred and fourth anniversary of whose birth was observed last Wednesday, was a great lover of the royal game will be of interest to followers of chess everywhere. While reading Herndon's splendid "Life," I stumbled upon a sentence, apparently thrown in "en passant," to the effect that Lincoln and a legal friend (a judge, I believe) frequently played chess. I thought this clue worth following up, as it was news to me that this great hearted man belonged to our fraternity. With the co-operation of the president of the Mechanics' Institute Chess club of this city, I wrote to Robert T. Lincoln, the surviving son of the great war president, hoping that by some chance a game played by Lincoln may have been preserved. But the hope was short lived, as the following interesting letter to the writer will show:

"Hildene," Manchester, Vt., October 9, 1912.

My Dear Sir—It gives me pleasure to answer the inquiries about my father's chess playing, so far as I can do so. I do not remember anything about his taking up the game, but I think it was within a few years of my own leaving home in 1859 to go to school in the east. He was then in the habit of playing with John G. Nicolay, then assistant to the secretary of state in Springfield, and afterward his own private secretary in Washington. A few years before I left home my father gave me instruction in the game and I often played with him, receiving odds from him, of course. I do not think that he played in Washington.

There is no probability of any record of his playing, for such a thing would have been made public long ago.

I do not think that there is any one living that could tell you more than I have done.

Very truly yours,
ROBERT T. LINCOLN.

There still was the remote possibility that a game between Lincoln and Nicolay had been scored and preserved among the latter's papers. Unfortunately, no such record remains. Miss Helen Nicolay, the noted author, daughter of the late John G. Nicolay, in answer to the inquiry on the subject replied:

Washington, D. C., Nov. 1, 1912.

I regret that I can not shed any light upon the subject of Mr. Lincoln's chess playing. I do not recall ever hearing my father speak of it, nor do I know of any one in Springfield who could give you the information you desire.

Very truly yours,
HELEN NICOLAY.

Since making the above inquiries a very amusing tale in connection with Lincoln and chess came to notice. According to the story, Lincoln's son, Tad, was sent to his father's law office one day to summon him home. Engrossed in a game, Tad was sent back with the message: "In just a minute." This was repeated twice, and on the third trip the lad thought that the "minute" was about up, for, on receiving the same reply, he suddenly scattered the pieces broadcast and sent the board flying with a well directed kick! The story goes that Lincoln's opponent was very angry. But the never failing humor of the former rail splitter asserted itself. Reaching for his hat, he remarked, in his peculiarly droll manner: "Come on, Tad; I guess it's time to go home."

This story is certainly good enough to be true, and, for all I know, it may be. But such a remarkably audacious act on the part of "Tad," would certainly have been known to Robert T. Lincoln, and no doubt he would have mentioned it. What wonderful possibilities for an artist in such a scene!

There is a world of pathos in Mr. R. T. Lincoln's observation: "I do not think that he played in Washington." Four years of strife and conflict, the burden of a civil war on his shoulders, left no time for even a brief respite at chess.

Some curious results in the recent national chess masters' tournament at New York were: (1) Marshall repeated his Cambridge Springs, 1904, and New York, 1911, performances, and went through the 13 rounds without the loss of a game, winning 8 and drawing 5; (2) Capablanca won 10 straight games, then lost to Jaffe in the eleventh round and drew with Chajes and Marshall, respectively, in the twelfth and thirteenth sessions; (3) Jaffe, the conqueror of Capablanca in their individual encounter, was defeated by Zapolone, the tall ender, who lost 10 games, but drew with Rubenstein—and Marshall! Queer, isn't it?

The chess stage has shifted to Havana, Cuba, where a double round tournament began yesterday. Eight experts are competing—Capablanca, Marshall, Chajes, Jaffe and Kupchik, all from the United States; Janowski, the French champion, and two Cuban players, Juan Corzo and Rafael Blanco, who will endeavor to uphold the chess honor of the "Pearl of the Antilles." Prizes to the value of \$1,200 will be distributed among the winners.

The following oddity was played recently at the Chicago Chess club. Through the kindness of Elmer W. Gruer, we are able to present this remarkable game, which, because of the final position of black's knights and bishops, makes it more of a study in geometry than chess:

Queen's Counter Gambit

White—Hodge.	Black—Houghtaling.
1. P-Q4	P-Q4
2. P-QR4	P-R4
3. P-K3	KPxP
4. QxP	Kt-KR3
5. Kt-QR3	Kt-B3
6. Q-Q	B-KR3
7. P-KR3	Kt-QR3
8. Q-B5 ch	Q-Q2
9. QxQ ch	KxQ
10. P-KR4	PxP
11. PxP	KtPxP
12. B-K1	Kt-B7 ch!!
13. K-Q	Kt-B7 ch!!
14. K-K2	B-QR4
15. KxB3	B-Q5 ch
16. K-Q2	B-K5 mate!!!

Following is a further selection of games from the recent New York tournament:

Game No. 5

QUEEN'S PAWN OPENING

Kline	Capablanca	Kline	Capablanca
White	Black	White	Black
1 P-Q4	Kt-KR3	27 Kt-KK12	KtKt(Q3)
2 Kt-KR3	P-Q3	28 BxKt	RxR
3 P-B3	QKt-Q2	29 QxR	R-Q
4 P-B4	P-B3	30 Q-K2	P-R5
5 Q-Q2	Q-B2	31 Kt-K3	P-QR4
6 P-K4	P-K4	32 R-B	P-R5
7 B-K12	B-K2	33 P-QR4	R-Q5
8 B-Q5	Castles	34 Kt-K2	R-Q2
9 QKt-Q2	B-K	35 Kt-K3	Q-Q
10 Castles	Kt-R4	36 R-Q	RxR ch
11 Kt-R4	B-R3	37 KtR4	Q-Q5
12 Kt-K3	Kt-B	38 Kt-B2	P-K14
13 PxP	PxP	39 RpxP	RPxP
14 B-R4	Q-K2	40 RpxP	BxQKtP
15 BxP	QxP	41 KtP	B-Q5
16 Kt-K	Kt-B5	42 Q-B	PxP
17 P-KK12	Kt-R4 ch	43 Q-K12	P-K15
18 B-R	P-KR4	44 Q-K15	P-K15
19 QKt-K12	P-KR14	45 Q-K5 ch	K-K12
20 P-B3	Kt-K13	46 Q-K7	P-K17
21 Kt-K3	P-B3	47 KtP	B-K15
22 P-KK14	KKt-B5	48 KtP	RxKt
23 B-B2	KtR4	49 Q-K15 ch	K-B
24 KtKt1	B-K3	50 Q-B5 ch	K-K2
25 QH-Q	KB-Q	51 Q-K15 ch	K-K
26 P-K12	Kt-B3	52 Resigns	

Tenenwurzel, the East Side expert, sacrifices a piece for two pawns and obtains an apparent winning attack. Janowski parries very skillfully and completely turns the tables on his opponent. Moral: Never sacrifice a piece if you can help it!

to CHESS EDITOR, SAN FRANCISCO CALL.)

Game No. 6

QUEEN'S PAWN OPENING

Tenenwurzel	Janowski	Tenenwurzel	Janowski
White	Black	White	Black
1 P-Q4	P-Q4	13 BxP ch	KxR
2 Kt-KR3	Kt-KR3	14 QxKt	Kt-K4
3 P-B3	P-B3	15 B-K12	B-K3
4 P-B4	P-K3	16 Q-K4 ch	P-R4
5 Kt-R3	B-Q2	17 Q-KR4	KtKt1 ch
6 B-Q3	Castles	18 QxKt	Q-R5
7 Castles	Kt-B3	19 P-R3	QR-Q
8 P-QR3	Q-K2	20 QxKt1	R-R2
9 PxR	BxP	21 Q-B6	B-Q4
10 P-QK14	B-Q3	22 Q-B7	Q-K14
11 PxP	PxP	Resigns	
12 KtP	KtKt		

Here is a game of which it might be said, in the words of the melodrama advertisement, "A thrill every minute!" The attack and defence are both splendidly conducted, and the play will appeal to the lover of the Morphyesque in chess combats:

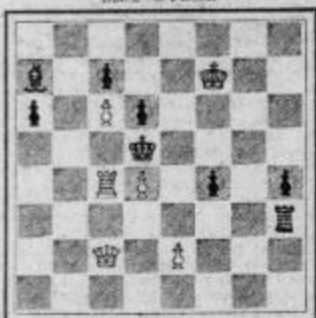
Game No. 7

FRENCH DEFENCE

Jaffe	Rubinstein	Jaffe	Rubinstein
White	Black	White	Black
1 P-Q4	P-K3	23 QxKt	Q-B6
2 P-Q4	P-Q4	24 R-K12	Q-Q7
3 P-QR3	R-K12	25 Kt-B5 ch	K-R
4 PxP	PxP	26 Q-B5 ch	R-K2
5 Kt-R3	Kt-KR3	27 KtP ch	K-K
6 B-Q3	Castles	28 KtR	QxKt
7 Castles	R-K	29 B-K12	Q-B7
8 B-KK15	P-B3	30 R-K12 ch	Q-K2
9 Kt-K3	QKt-Q2	31 P-R4	P-K12
10 P-R4	Kt-B	32 Q-R3	PxP
11 K-R	Kt-K12	33 B-KR3	K-B2
12 Kt-K2	B-Q3	34 Q-K12 ch	K-K12
13 Kt-K12	Q-K12	35 Q-K12	P-B4
14 QxKt	PxR	36 P-K14	P-B7
15 Kt-R5	PxKt	37 P-K15	QxP
16 QP-R5	R-K2	38 BxP	RxR
17 P-B3	KtP	39 QxR ch	QxQ
18 Q-K	Q-Q5	40 BxQ ch	K-R3
19 B-R4	QxKtP	41 B-B	R-K15
20 B-K7	KtR	42 B-B	B-Q5
21 Q-K12 ch	R-K14	Resigns	
22 Kt-B	Kt-B7 ch		

PROBLEMS

PROBLEM NO. 3. BY E. PALKOSKA.
Black—8 Pieces.



White—6 Pieces.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM NO. 4. BY F. W. HUBER.
Black—5 Pieces.



White—6 Pieces.

White to play and mate in two moves.

Solution to Problem No. 1: R-R3 or Q-K3.
Solution to Problem No. 2: P-Q4.

COMMENTS: No. 1—This problem has two solutions, due to the absence of a black pawn on king bishop two.

No. 2—For a two-mover, this certainly trapped quite a few solvers, by pawn to queen eight.

Solved by:

Name and residence—	No.	No.
S. E. Stevens, city.....	1	2
W. A. Strommeier, city.....	1	2
W. D. Moore, Alameda 3.....	1	2
W. D. Penzcook, Vallejo.....	1	2
G. J. Munn, city.....	1	2
D. H. Higgins, Oakland.....	2	2
F. W. Huber, city.....	6	0
F. B. Redolph, Oakland.....	0	2
F. J. Grossberg, city.....	0	0
J. F. Ballinger, Los Gatos.....	0	0
"Buy Lopez," city.....	1	2
J. O. Carlton, city.....	1	2
G. P. Beakle, city.....	1	2
J. C. Schroeder, Veterans' Home.....	1	2
E. W. S., Vacaville.....	1	2
C. A. H., city.....	0	2

END GAME DEPARTMENT

By "E. K."

The Mechanics' Institute vs. Cabrillo Chess club of San Diego correspondence game, recently won by the San Francisco players, developed a very pretty study in the end game. White (San Diego) having two passed pawns for a knight, seemed sure of a draw. But the unfortunate position of the white monarch gave the institute players an opportunity which was not neglected.

San Diego (white—5 pieces): K at KR3; R at QR4; pawns at KR5, KR4, QR2.

San Francisco (black—4 pieces): K at KB6; R at Q5; Kt at QB 5; P at QR4.

White moved P-Kt6 and black forced the game.

Solution to last week's end game study:

1 B-B6!, BxB(a); 2 R-Q3!!; QxR;

3 PxP ch, BxP; 4 draw.

(a) If PxR, white wins by R-Kt5.

Correspondence

A. F. D., North Yakima, Wash.—Thanks for your letter; also "tickled to death"—almost. Will try to use material next week.

J. C. S., Veterans' Home—Your kind expressions regarding "splendid chess column" deeply appreciated. Will try to deserve your praise.

R. J. V., Stanford University—Score of tournament game forwarded by you is apparently incorrect.

K. R. C., Madera County—Your design of head for chess column received. Many thanks.

L. T., Corning, Cal.—Whitaker-Capablanca end game position. How do you continue after 54 P-K14 ch, in your analysis? 55 QxP is forced. Then—? Did you overlook white's bishop at K5?

P. H. B., Los Gatos, and C. A. Haufe, city—You are in error concerning Problem No. 3. Did you forget about the PxP in passing rule?

Cuban Tournament Open

HAVANA, Feb. 15—The Cuban chess tournament opened at the Havana Chess club here today with eight masters entered. The pairings were:

Kupchik vs. Janowski; Corzo vs. Capablanca; Blanco vs. Chajes, and Marshall vs. Jaffe. Only three games were finished. Capablanca defeated Corzo and the games between Kupchik and Janowski, and Marshall and Jaffe were drawn. The Blanco-Chajes contest was adjourned.

The second round will be played Monday.