



## COLUMNISTS

*The Kibitzer*

Tim Harding

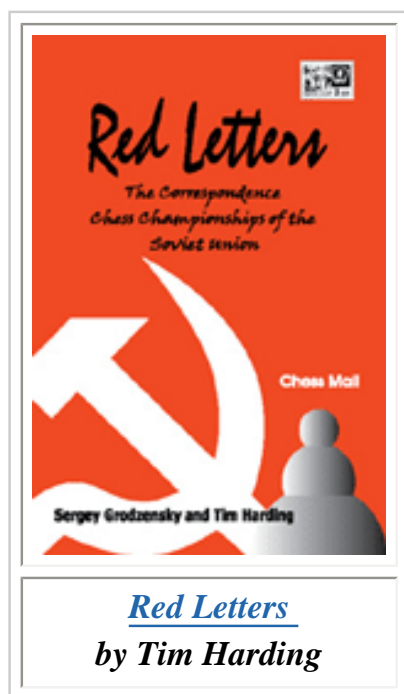
## The End of the Black and White Column

Last month, I showed how the London weekly illustrated paper *Black and White* began a chess column in 1893 and organised a little-known master tournament. The tournament with six players was good promotion for the paper and provided plenty of copy in the early weeks for the chess editor, Leopold Hoffer. October's edition of *The Kibitzer* set the scene and looked at the games from the first two rounds. Now I continue the story.

**Round Three (March 1st 1893)**

Round 3 was played on March 1 but readers had to wait until April 8 to see the first of the games played that day. Coverage of round 2 was concluded in the third column, published on March 25, but on April 1 the subject of the column was the Oxford-Cambridge annual university match, organised by Hoffer.

This was the first time that the title graphic for the column, *The Chess Board*, was omitted from the column but it happened a few times in later weeks.



The match was a victory by 6-1 for Cambridge, with the future British champion H.E. Atkins winning on board 1 against R.G. Lynam in 22 moves (French Defence). Oxford's only victor was P.W. Sergeant on bd.3. That game was also given. There was also a problem and some news items, but no report on the B&W masters.

The first game from round 3 to appear was the clash between the senior English players. Unfortunately it was an anti-climax as Bird continued his

run of bad form, but Hoffer made the best of it by saying that “this pretty game was played by Mr Blackburne quite in his former style” and Tinsley (in *BCM*) also said it was “a good game.” (This issue also carried group photographs of the Oxford and Cambridge teams but unfortunately for the readers of *Black and White* the individuals were unidentified. They were captioned later in *Chess Monthly*, however.)

***Henry Bird – Joseph Blackburne***

Black & White tourney, London (3), 1893

*B&W vol. V p430 (Hoffer’s notes, shortened)*

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Be7 4 0–0 Nf6 5 Nc3 d6 6 h3 Be6 7 Bxe6**

This move is surprising from a player of Mr Bird’s experience. It is contrary to principles and we have no hesitation in ascribing White’s difficulties to the injudicious exchange of this bishop.

**7...fxe6 8 d3 0–0 9 Bd2 Qe8 10 Ne2 Nh5 11 c3 Qg6 12 Kh1 Nf4 13 Bxf4**

13 Ne1 would have been better but Mr Bird will never give up the attack.

**13...exf4 14 Qb3**

Also useless. He might have first secured his own king position by 14 Neg1.

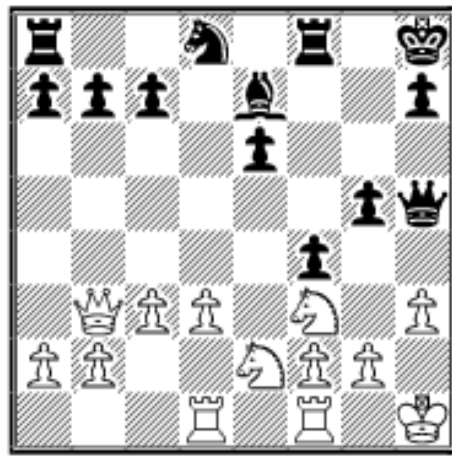
**14...Nd8 15 Rad1**

15 Rae1 would have been better, but White intended to advance his e-pawn. he had therefore first to defend his d-pawn.

**15...Kh8 16 e5 dxe5 17 Nxe5 Qh5 18 Nf3**

18 d4 f3 19 Nxf3 Rxf3 20 gxf3 Qxf3+ and wins.

**18...g5**



**19 Qb5**

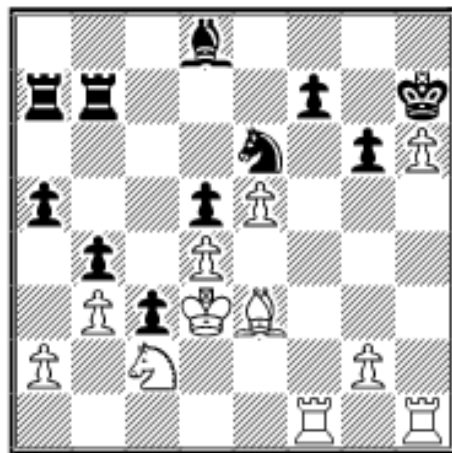
Allowing Black to bring his rook into play without loss of time. Mr Bird pursued a set plan for the last half dozen moves — viz. to bring his queen into the enemy's camp; but the whole combination proved faulty... White has already a bad position and should have defended his king's position at the eleventh hour with his knights.

**19...Rf5 20 Qd7 g4 21 Nfg1 gxh3 22 gxh3 Bd6 23 Nd4 Rg5 24 Ndf3 Rg7 25 Qa4**

The queen has to retreat from its useless excursion.

**25...Nf7 26 Rde1 Rag8 27 Qe4 Ng5 28 Nxc5 Rxc5 29 Qxe6 R5g6 30 Qd7 Qg5—+ 31 Qg4 Qd5+ 32 f3 Rxc4 33 hxc4 Rxc4 34 Re8+ Kg7 35 Re2 Rh4+ 36 Rh2 Rxh2+ 37 Kxh2 Qxd3 38 Rf2 Bc5 39 Rg2+ Kf6 0–1**

The other games from round 3 were draws, although not short ones. The column on May 15 had only three quarters of a page in total and the only game given was Mason-Van Vliet (which Tinsley described as “a rather long dreary game”). Here is the final position reached after White's 42<sup>nd</sup> move:



This was a dull game in which Mason lacked his usual inventiveness and Hoffer justly commented that it was a concession by the Dutchman to agree a draw as Black has a powerful passed pawn. Also the h6-pawn must eventually fall, so there would have been little risk for Van Vliet in playing for a win.

The other duel from the round was described by Hoffer as a “very interesting game.” By the time it appeared, Tinsley was giving simultaneous displays in the north-east of England. He wrote to Hoffer that: “the remarks on the Tinsley v Teichmann game published in *Black and White* were very interesting. The game was played over at Newcastle Chess Club.”

***Samuel Tinsley – Richard Teichmann***

Black & White tourney London (3), 1893

*Notes by Hoffer, B&W vol.V p496.*

**1 d4 d5 2 e3 Nf6 3 c4 e6 4 Nc3 b6 5 cxd5**

As also played in Mason-Van Vliet, where Hoffer remarked: "There is no immediate necessity for this; it only relieves Black from an otherwise more confined position."

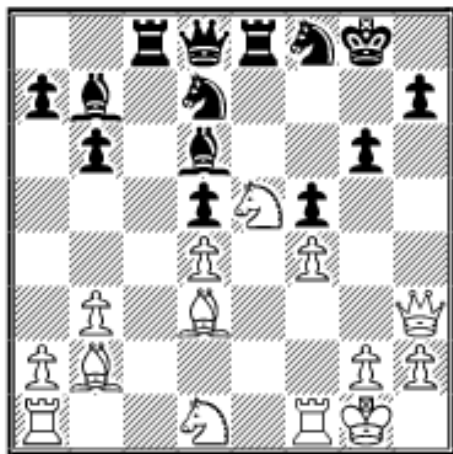
**5...exd5 6 Nf3 Bb7 7 Bd3 Be7 8 0-0 0-0 9 Qc2 c5 10 b3 Nbd7 11 Bb2 Rc8 12 Qe2 cxd4 13 exd4 Re8 14 Ne5 Bd6 15 f4 Nf8 16 Nd1 N6d7**

16...Ne4 would have been an excellent move here and would have avoided all complications.

**17 Qh5 g6**

A sure sign of weakness.

**18 Qh3 f5**



**19 Bxf5**

Ingenious, but 19 g4 would have been more forcible.

**19...Bxe5**

If 19...gxf5 then 20 Qg3+ Ng6 21 Nxc6 hxc6 22 Qxc6+ followed by Qxd6 etc.

**20 Bxd7 Bxd4+ 21 Bxd4 Qxd7 22 Qd3 Ne6 23 Ne3 Nxd4 24 Qxd4 Re4 25 Qd3**

**Rce8 26 Rf3 Qe7**

26...Qe6 to prevent Ng4, would be followed by 27 f5.

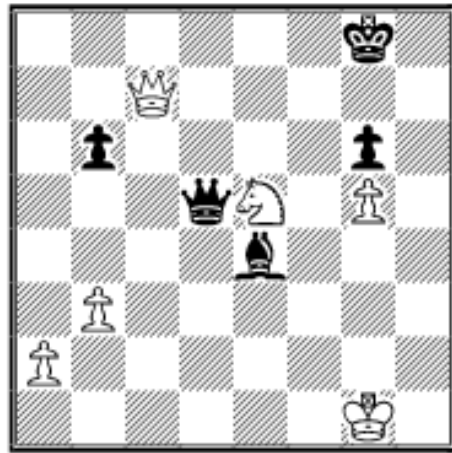
**27 Ng4 Rf8 28 Raf1 d4 29 R3f2 Qd7 30 h3 Kg7**

Teichmann cleverly prevented with the last series of moves White's advance of the f-pawn.

**31 Qd2 h5 32 Ne5 Qd5 33 Rc1**

Equally clever. Should Black unmask his queen with 33...Rexf4 White has ultimately the check with the rook in store.

**33...Rc8 34 Rxc8 Bxc8 35 Qc2 Qb7 36 Qc4 Bf5 37 Rd2 Rxf4 38 Rxd4  
Rxd4 39 Qxd4 Qe4 40 Qd6 Qb7 41 g4 hxg4 42 hxg4 Be4 43 g5 Qd5 44  
Qc7+ Kg8 45 Qb8+ Kg7 46 Qxa7+ Kg8 47 Qb8+ Kg7 48 Qc7+ Kg8**



**49 Qc4 Qxc4 50 Nxc4**

His only chance, if there is anything than a draw in it, was 50 bxc4. After the text move a draw is certain. The onus, however, falls on Black, and it will be readily conceded that Mr Teichmann played this instructive ending with exemplary correctness. Mr Tinsley conducted the game vigorously right up to the end, and the game reflects equal credit upon the skill of both players.”

**50...b5 51 Nd6 Bc6 52 Kf2 Kf8 53 Ke3 Ke7 54 Ne4 Ke6 55 Kf4 Kd5 56  
Ke3 Ke5 57 Nf6 b4 58 Kd3 Bb5+ 59 Kc2 Bc6 60 Kb2 Kf4 61 Nh7 Bd5 62  
a4 1/2-1/2**

In *BCM*, Tinsley, who seemed to be having the most interesting games in the tournament, wasn't able to give the moves, because of the copyright agreement, but he gave the following summary:

“Tinsley v Teichmann was another colossal game. In the middle game the first player got a slight pull and offered a Bishop, but Teichmann declined, and the proffered sacrifice proved, as exchanges resulted, less satisfactory than another line of play. Soon after Tinsley again got the attack, and as Teichmann was short of time, he had to abandon a Pawn, leaving Tinsley, at adjournment, Kt and three pawns against B and two pawns. It appeared on after analysis that a draw was in any case probable, and that was actually the result, but it was mainly owing to White's making tempting moves hastily on two occasions.”

For readers of *BCM* who hadn't bought *Black and White*, this may have been a bit like reading a sports report, but without any sense of suspense since the result is already known.

#### **Round Four (March 2nd 1893)**

This was “the least interesting day and the games were finished early,” observed Tinsley. B&W readers had to wait until the column for April 29 to see Tinsley-Mason and Blackburne-Van Vliet, both draws of little interest. This was a problem for the columnist who would have preferred lively games, and a system where draws were re-played would certainly have suited him better in this case.

Hoffer got around this difficulty by giving lighter notes than usual and using the space to give some chess news from elsewhere. Page 526 had an item, with a small photograph, about the Dutch-born Walbrodt who was then touring America, while page 528, besides printing the usual mate problem, had an obituary of the loser of the Evergreen Game. Hoffer observed that Jean Dufresne, who was 64, had “died in harness” since he was the editor at that time of a chess column in *Ueber Land und Meer*. This was a Stuttgart publication which, some ten years later, organised a famous correspondence tournament, run by Emil Schallopp.

On May 6 space was tight and there was no problem published. Hoffer gave the only decisive game from round four, in which once more Bird let himself down.

***Richard Teichmann – Henry Bird***

Black & White tourney London (4), 1893

*Hoffer, B&W vol.V pp556-8 (shortened).*

**1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 Nf3 d6 4 d4 cxd4 5 Nxd4 Bd7 6 Be3 g6 7 Be2 Bg7 8 0-0 h5**

This advance, of course, precludes castling on the kingside... It is therefore a sure indication that Mr Bird means fighting.

**9 f4 Nf6 10 h3 Nxd4 11 Bxd4 Bc6 12 Bf3 Kf8 13 Qd2 Nd7 14 Rad1 Bxd4+ 15 Qxd4 Qb6 16 Rf2 Qxd4 17 Rxd4 Nc5**

17...Kg7 would have given liberty of action to both rooks. The Knight moves seems useless as he returns to d7 immediately afterwards.

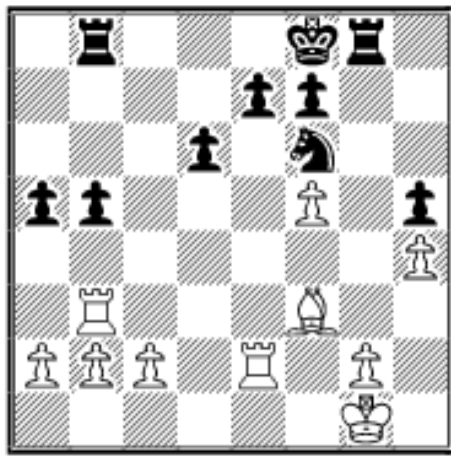
**18 Be2 Kg7 19 f5 Nd7 20 Bc4 gxf5**

20...Ne5 would have been a good post. White could hardly have ventured upon 21 f6+ which would have only lost a pawn.

**21 exf5 Nf6 22 Re2 Kf8 23 Nd5 Bxd5 24 Bxd5 Rb8 25 Bf3 Rg8 26 h4**

Presumably to prevent ...Rg5 but he leaves the f-pawn isolated. 26 g4 would have improved the position.

**26...b5 27 Rb4 a5 28 Rb3**



**28...Nd7**

Now commences really the pretty part of the game. Mr Bird abandons a pawn designedly in order to get his pieces into play. But he could have played 28...Ng4 29 Bxg4 Rxc4 30 g3 a4 31 Rbe3 Rb7 threatening ...Rbc4, followed by either the same ...Rbc7, so as to bring his king to g7 and f6, or ...Rc5 so as to remove the pressure from his e-pawn. The line of play chosen by Mr Bird is highly

ingenious but complicated in proportion.

**29 Bc6 Ne5 30 Bxb5 Rg4 31 g3 Rc8 32 Rd2 a4 33 Re3 Rb4 34 c4 Kg7**

If 34...Nxc4 then 35 Bxc4 followed by f6 breaking up the centre.

**35 b3 Kf6 36 Rde2 Ra8 37 Kg2 axb3 38 axb3 Ra3 39 Ba4 Kxf5 40 Rf2+ Ke6 41 Be8**

Threatening Bxf7+.

**41...f6 42 Bxh5 Rxb3 43 Rxb3 Rxb3 44 Be2 f5**

He should not have touched the centre, which he maintained intact with so much trouble all through the game. He might have played 44...Rc3 45 Rf4 Kf7 followed by ...Kg7 so as to attack the h-pawn with the king if it advances.

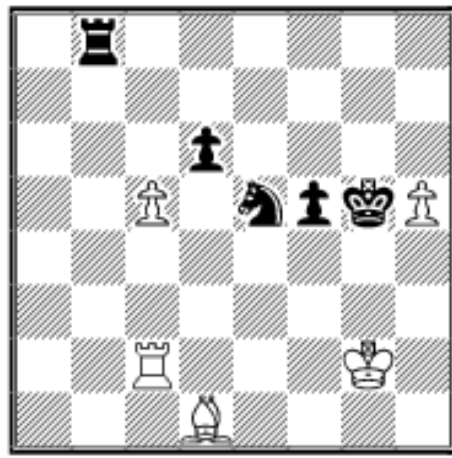
**45 h5 Kf6**

Now his chances of winning are gone.

**46 g4 e6 47 gxf5 exf5 48 Bd1 Rb8**

Why not 48...Rc3.

**49 Rc2 Kg5 50 c5**



**50...d5?**

Now follow a series of incomprehensible moves. The simple way would have been 50...dxc5 51 Rxc5 Nd3 52 Ra5 Nf4+ 53 Kg3 Rh8 etc. and draws.

**51 c6 Nc4 52 Kf2 Kf4 53 Be2 Nd6 54 c7 Rh8 55 Rc6 Ke5 56 Ba6 d4**

The game is lost now. If 56...Nc8 then 57 Bxc8 Rxc8 58 h6 and queens one or other

pawn. Mr Bird has thrown away a pretty game.

**57 h6 Rxh6 58 Rxd6 Rh2+ 59 Kg1 Rc2 60 Rd7 1-0**

### **Final Round (March 3rd 1893)**

On May 13, space was again tight but the problem was back and the column also included the last-round game Mason-Bird. I shall come to that in a moment.

May 20 was the first occasion since the launch of the column that *The Chess Board* altogether failed to appear: presumably the decision of the editor who was getting bored with the protracted coverage and wanted to give the space to something else? Maybe there were arguments behind the scenes.

On May 27, chess was back but it was given less than half of page 652. There was a problem and some short news items. A Mr Ward-Higgs is mentioned as player who won for Surrey against Sussex in a match played at Croydon; the Ward-Higgs trophy is still played for annually today in an inter-county correspondence competition organised by the British Chess Federation. Whether this was donated by the same Ward-Higgs or a descendant, I cannot say.

The announcement was made that: 'The concluding game and analysis of the "Black and White" Masters' Tournament will be published next week.' I can imagine that a compromise was reached, with the chess editor pointing out that he needed more space to conclude the story adequately and that the publication was hardly getting value for money if it did not allow the decisive games to be printed with adequate space for notes.

So on June 3, page 684, the other two games of the last round (Van Vliet-Tinsley and Teichmann-Blackburne) at last appeared. Of course, as I said last month, Hoffer had already let the cat out of the bag by describing the last round scene and giving the final crosstable in only the second column.



Here now is the description that he gave in the column of March 11:

“The Masters’ Tournament started by Black and White came to a close on Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> when the fifth and final round was played at Simpson’s Divan. On Thursday Blackburne was leading, whilst Mason and Teichmann stood equal for the second prize, and Tinsley and Van Vliet equal for the third. Provided Mason could not beat Bird in the final round, Blackburne had only to draw to keep the lead; and this policy he adopted, especially as Teichmann had the first move against him. In any case, he selected a safe form of the French Defence, so as to keep a draw in hand. And all that could then happen in case Mason should defeat Bird would have been a tie for the first and second prize. At an early stage, however, it was apparent that Mason could only draw at the utmost, Bird having recovered somewhat from his ill-luck in the preceding rounds. Blackburne, therefore, proposed a draw, which Teichmann ultimately accepted; thus Blackburne secured first honours.”

“Shortly before the time fixed for the adjournment, Bird drew with Mason, although he had three pawns and rook to Mason’s two pawns and rook; now the attention of the players and the numerous spectators was concentrated on the last board going.”

The Blackburne game does not require much space, but I give it for the record.

***Richard Teichmann - Joseph Blackburne***

Black & White tourney London (5), 1893

*B&W vol.V p684.*

Blackburne played safe and was content with a draw to get first prize while White was also content to take no risk.

**1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 exd5 exd5 5 Nf3 Bd6 6 Bd3 0–0 7 0–0 Bg4 8 Bg5 c6 9 Ne2 Nbd7**

Hoffer observed that Blackburne might have tried 9...Bxf3 as played by Makovetz against Marco at Dresden.

**10 Ng3 Qc7 11 Qd2 Rfe8 12 Rae1 Rxe1 13 Rxe1 Re8 14 Rxe8+ Nxe8 15 Qe3 Nef6 16 Nf5 Bxf5 17 Bxf5 h6 18 Bh4 Bf4 19 Qe7 Bd6 20 Qe3 Bf4 21 Qe7 Bd6 22 Qe3 Bf4 1/2–1/2**

**Dramatic Last Game**

The destination of the lesser prizes (20 Pounds for second place and 10 Pounds for third) rested on the outcome of the last game to finish. Tinsley

described the scene in *BCM* as follows:

“Now the crowd could pay unhindered attention to Van Vliet v Tinsley, the sensation of the day. Tinsley defended with the Centre Counter Gambit, and White forced open the KR file, and got a Kt well posted on Q6. With B at g2 however, Tinsley was pretty secure, and in the middle game sacrificed rook for knight, thereby winning two pawns with the best game. A little later a false combination resulted in the loss of the offered piece, and Tinsley was a rook behind, with only pawns to counterbalance. VV, however, attacked, and Tinsley playing steadily with the object of drawing...”

Hoffer also gave, in Black and White, a vivid account of the final game:

“Van Vliet had won the exchange, afterwards a piece, so that in the end he was a rook to the good; Tinsley, however, having the attack, which he maintained with considerable ingenuity. Van Vliet anticipating an easy victory, made a useless counter-attack, thus depriving his king of the defending forces, and finally overlooked a perpetual check. Tinsley, however, seeing his opponent to a certain extent demoralized, would not accept a draw, and finally checkmated him when Van Vliet could draw the game by force, had he sacrificed his queen and rook. The difference being, that instead of dividing the third prize with Tinsley, he brought the latter’s score up to that of Mason and Teichmann, whilst he did not get a prize at all.”

Here now is the comedy of errors, together with the notes provided by Hoffer on June 3, and some additional comments by the fortunate Tinsley.

***Louis Van Vliet – Samuel Tinsley***

Black & White tourney London (5), 1893

*Notes based on those by Hoffer, B&W vol.V p684.*

“The game between Van Vliet and Tinsley is a remarkable specimen of ‘luck’ at chess, paradoxical as it may appear. Van Vliet overlooked first a forced win; Tinsley then in turn overlooked a forced win; Van Vliet afterwards missed a forced draw, and finally allowed himself to be checkmated on the move.”

**1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Qxd5 3 Nc3 Qd8 4 d4 Nf6 5 Bc4**

Hoffer preferred 5 Bd3 Nc6 (of course, not 5...Qxd4?? 6 Bb5+) 6 Be3 e5 7 Nf3 Bd6 8 0–0 0–0.

**5...Bg4 6 Nge2 Bxe2**

There is no necessity for this exchange; nor, perhaps, for the previous bishop move.

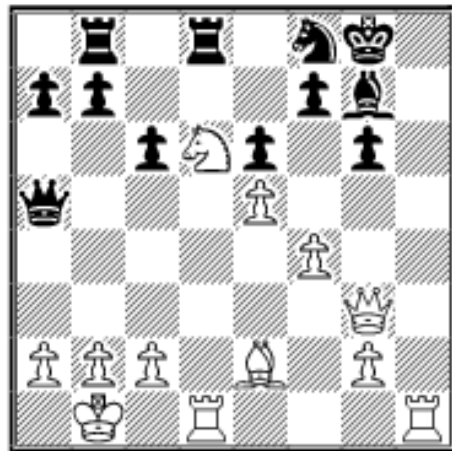
**7 Bxe2 g6 8 Bf4 c6 9 Qd3 Bg7 10 Be5 Nbd7 11 Qg3 Nxe5**

Taking off the bishop leaves Black's bishop blocked in for a considerable time, as White supports the e-pawn with Bf4. He might therefore have waited until compelled to do it.

**12 dxe5 Nd7 13 f4 e6**

This leaves a dangerous square at d6 and f6 for the adverse N. Black is drifting into a bad position.

**14 Ne4 0-0 15 0-0-0 Qc7 16 h4 Rfd8 17 Nd6 Rab8 18 h5 Qa5 19 hxg6 hxg6 20 Kb1 Nf8**



**21 Bd3**

The bishop move is quite unnecessary for the attack, and enables Black to sacrifice his rook advantageously. If he simply doubled his rooks on the h-file, followed by Qh4, Black would have had difficulty in extricating his king from the threatened mate.

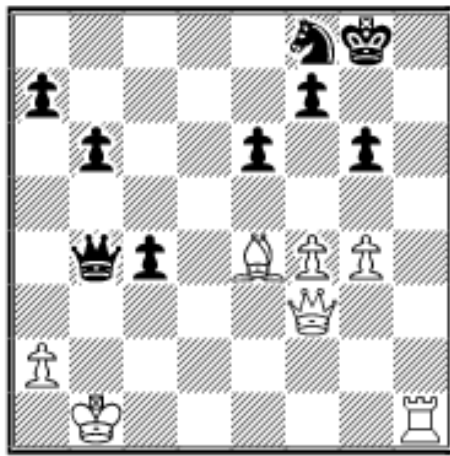
**21...Rxd6**

A knight in such a commanding position and two pawns are a good exchange for a rook. All this could have been avoided had White not played Bd3 on the previous move.

**22 exd6 Qb4 23 c3 Bxc3 24 Qf2 Bd4 25 Qc2 Qxd6 26 g3 c5 27 Rh3 Rd8 28 Be4 Qb6 29 g4 Bxb2**

This is an oversight.

**30 Rb3 Rxd1+ 31 Qxd1 Qc7 32 Rxb2 b6 33 Qf3 c4 34 Rh2 Qc5 35 Rh1 Qb4+**



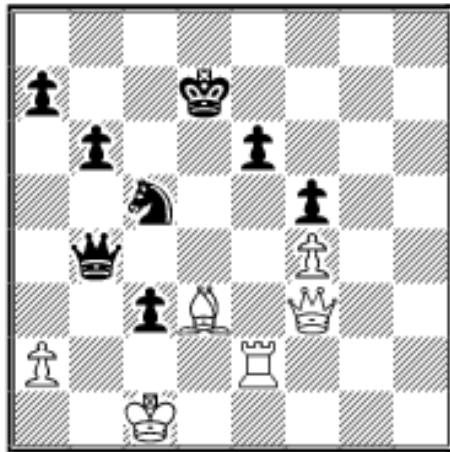
**36 Kc1?**

36 Ka1 was the safest place. Black had then not the remotest chance of an attack.

**36...c3 37 Rh2 f5 38 gxf5 gxf5 39 Rg2+ Kf7 40 Qh5+ Ke7 41 Qg5+?**

White now had a forced mate by 41 Rg7+ Kd6 (41...Kd8 42 Qd1+ Kc8 43 Bb7+ Kb8 44 Qd8#) 42 Qd1+ Kc5 43 Rc7+ Kb5 44 Bd3+ Ka5 45 Rxa7#.

**41...Kd6 42 Bd3 Nd7 43 Re2 Nc5 44 Qd8+ Kc6 45 Qc8+ Kd6 46 Qf8+ Kd7 47 Qg7+ Kc6 48 Qg2+ Kd7 49 Qh3 Kc6 50 Qf3+ Kd7**



TH: The critical moment arrives. Tinsley comments here: "White offered the sacrifice of his bishop, leaving checks on which resulted in a forced but lucky and remarkable win for Black."

**51 Bxf5??**

He has to guard now against 51...Qa3+, drawing, but 51 Rc2 Qd4 52 Be2 Qg1+ 53 Bd1 wins.

TH: This variation of Hoffer's is nonsense because he overlooked that 51 Rc2 is met by 51...Qxf4+! 52 Qxf4 Nxd3+ after which Black's knight and pawns should beat the rook. However, White does have good moves, e.g. 51 Qe3 after which 51...Qxf4?? doesn't work because it's not check and White has 52 Bb5+.

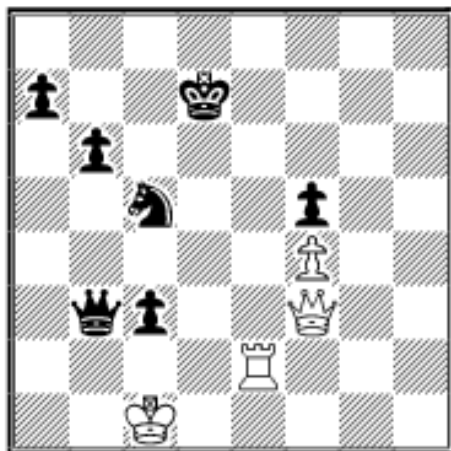
**51...Qa3+ 52 Kc2**

Forced, else the queen is lost.

**52...Qxa2+ 53 Kd1 Qa1+ 54 Kc2 Qa4+ 55 Kb1 Qb3+?**

Now here Black could have won with 55...Qd1+ 56 Ka2 Qb3+ 57 Ka1 Qa3+ 58 Kb1 58...c2+ winning the queen. (To this, I would add that if 58 Ra2 Qc1+ 59 Bb1 Nb3 mate. However, Van Vliet failed to notice that he had been reprieved.)

**56 Kc1 exf5**



**57 Qh5??**

Instead of this blunder, White could have drawn the game by 57 Re7+ whether Black takes the rook or not. White, being stalemated, he can pursue the king forever with checks. On the very last move.

Tinsley says more or less the same: “Van Vliet, probably vexed at getting so bad a game, played his queen away and was mated; just when (Tinsley not making the

best continuation) he could have forced stalemate by sacrifice of rook and queen! This the first player discovered later but it was not noticed at the time.”

**57...Nd3 mate 0–1**

Summing up the event, Hoffer wrote sympathetically:

“Finally, it is to be regretted that the veteran, Mr Bird, should not have been placed, due to ill health. His games, however, whether he wins or not, are always full of vigour and ingenuity, and we may sum up by saying that he plays Chess. Mr Teichmann has justified expectations. He is a young player of talent, and we are pleased that he has had an opportunity to show it by taking Gunsberg’s place.”

Tinsley concluded his account as follows:

“The tourney was not sufficiently prolonged to be a great test of strength; but if anyone is inclined to argue that there is too large a proportion of draws, I reply that some really excellent games were produced also; and the true student will feel a certain amount of indifference as to the actual termination of accurately played games, of which the draws naturally furnish some of the best specimens obtainable. I was gratified at Mr Blackburne’s position and not dissatisfied with my own. We all, excepting Van Vliet and Bird, had good and bad luck, Mr Van Vliet’s luck was atrocious and Mr Bird’s little better. There *is* luck in chess.”

### **The Last Columns**

Although this was the end of the tournament coverage, it was not the end of the chess column in *The Black and White*. It continued without interruption to the end of Volume V.

The column for June 10, 1893, had an Evans Gambit game (new to me) won by the “eminent blindfold player” and lawyer, Herr Alexander Fritz, by correspondence against Dr C.Schmid of Dresden. I think this was the Fritz after whom the 5...Nd4 line in the Two Knights Defence is named.

The June 17 column published a game between Teichmann and an unidentified amateur in the Muzio Gambit, while on June 24, Hoffer presented a game won by Walbrodt against H.Helms in an American simul.

Volume 6 (the second half of 1893) had chess in five issues only. The Index directs readers to pages 26-30, 54-6, 84-6, 148-150, 182. The column was always very near the back of the 32-page issues. So it ran continuously for three more issues, then one was missed (the second time this had happened) after which two more appeared in consecutive issues.

The July 1, 1893, contains a very poor postal game Biggs-Sherrard sent in by Biggs. Hoffer wrote: “It was forwarded to us by the loser – not a frequent occurrence, since losers have, as a rule, not the best of memories.”

On July 8, he gave an Evans Gambit game “Mr M-Hoffer.” The quality of the items was declining. Maybe he knew the column was going to end and saw no point in making any special effort?

For a change on July 15, he printed a game which Mikhail Chigorin had won against three consulting amateurs in Petersburg. This was a bit better but there was no chess in the July 22 issue.

On July 29 Hoffer had space for a problem only on page 148 problem only, and on page 150, after the usual full page advertisement on the right hand side, he had a half page which he used to present a game played in Mexico City between M.M.Sterling (of Peru) and L.Reina (of Mexico).

The very last chess column by Hoffer in *The Black and White* appeared on page 182 in the August 5, 1893 issue. The main item was a game that H.N.Pillsbury lost with White in 64 moves in a ‘Berlin Wall’ Spanish to J.F.Barry from a match they were playing in Boston, Massachusetts.

Thereafter the column ended abruptly with no word of explanation, as has often been the way with chess columns in periodicals. I couldn’t find any comment in *Chess Monthly* about the end of the column; I suppose Hoffer was hoping to resurrect it, or felt embarrassed about it, so refrained from complaining in his own journal.

Whyld’s book states correctly that there is no chess in the paper during 1894; I have checked both volumes. Whyld suggests that a new column began later,

probably with a different editor, but so far I have not looked at later volumes.  
If I find anything more of interest, I will let readers know next year.

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