

THE INTERNATIONAL CHESS TOURNAMENT.

Described Especially for the Journal by Champions M. S. Pillsbury and J. W. Showalter.

AMERICA PLAYS GREAT BRITAIN.

First Day of the Contest Leaves the Result in Exciting Doubt.

United States Champion Showalter Seems Certain to Win from Burn.

Pillsbury, America's Pride, After Having a Winning Position, Makes an Unhappy Slip.

HE MAY DRAW WITH BLACKBURNE.

No Advantage Apparently on Either Side Among the Rest of the Contestants—Great Interest on Both Sides of the Atlantic.



THE CHESS CHAMPIONS WHO ARE PLAYING IN THE INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT.

The great international chess match by cable was begun in Remson Hall, Brooklyn, yesterday and will be decided to-day.

His opponent was the cleverest player in England, a man of more than twice his years, who has studied the game since he was knee-deep in it.

Although conducted by cable, the games were played as smoothly as if the Americans were facing the Englishmen at opposite sides of the chess boards.

THE TERMS OF THE CONTEST. The contest was arranged by the British Chess Club, of London, and the Brooklyn Chess Club.

Before the opening the Americans tried the cable arrangement by sending the following message: The American team greets the British team, prepared to win without exultation or loss without humiliation.

To this Sir George Newnes replied: Cordially to the Americans and sentiments. Then there was a pause, while in the Pillar Hall of the Cannon Street Hotel, London, where the English game was being played, the referee, Baron Rothschild, drew two slips to determine who should have first move.

WE WIN THE TOSS. Luck favored the Americans, and word came back for Pillsbury to proceed. This gave first move to the Americans at the odd numbered boards and to the English at the even numbered boards.

TELEGRAPH ARRANGEMENTS. Two wires of the Commercial Cable Company were used, one for receiving and one for sending. As each move was made in Brooklyn the player wrote it on a blank, which a messenger carried to the operator.

ALL EYES ON PILLSBURY. Greatest interest centered in the game between Pillsbury and Blackburne. Since the former, though then but twenty-three years of age, won the highest honors at the Hastings (England) international chess tournament, a year ago, he has received tribute in praise from every quarter of America, and he went into the game yesterday to repay the debt if he could by winning in

a contest in which American pride demanded victory.

His opponent was the cleverest player in England, a man of more than twice his years, who has studied the game since he was knee-deep in it.

Although the rules required only twenty moves in an hour, Pillsbury and Blackburne rushed their game at a lively rate until noon, and were then ahead of all but Barry and Tinsley.

When it came down to hard play, Pillsbury was a study for all in the room. He has keen flashing eyes, and for fifteen minutes at a time he would sit at the table with his head between his hands, gazing at the board intently.

ANOTHER ABLE AMERICAN. Showalter, the big, good natured Kentuckian, was at the next table to Pillsbury. He is thirty-six years old, and learned the moves of chess at the age of eight.

It may be taken as an accepted fact that in an important chess contest nowadays the brilliant early attacks that characterized the play of twenty years ago are lacking.

Hence, few of the host of spectators and chess experts assembled yesterday to witness the international cable match were surprised at the cautious methods of opening the play adopted by the contestants.

On the Eighth Board, however, matters are exactly reversed, and the Britons will doubtless score the first win of the match at this table.

On the Sixth Board, Hodgcs has a weak pawn position on his Queen's wing, resulting from a variation of the King Lopez. He ought to be able to draw the game, despite the handicap. The slightest error may alter the whole complexion of affairs, and the cup may come to America yet, although it looks somewhat doubtful at present.

THE TIME LIMIT OF TWENTY MOVES in an hour is rather rapid chess, and probably the majority of the participants would have preferred the more reasonable limit of fifteen moves to the hour.

Some of those who witnessed the playing yesterday was Governor Griggs, of New Jersey, who came all the way from Trenton to see the contest. He is president of the Palerston Chess Club and said he was promoter of that position than of being Governor.

proper moment yields an equal game, but Pillsbury is not considered a good player. Initiating a line of play which eventually costs a pawn, but he obtains a very cramped game otherwise.

After 17. KR-K, KR-Q3; 18. QR-Q, K-B2; 19. R-KT1, R-KT1; 20. R-KT1, R-KT1; 21. R-KT2, with a winning game.

Scores of the Games.

Table with columns for American and English players and their scores. Pillsbury leads with 1-0-0, followed by Showalter 1-0-0, and others.

AS TOLD BY CHAMPION H. N. PILLSBURY.

Showalter Is Sure of Winning, but the Game on the Eighth Board Is Lost to America.

It is almost too soon to give the Journal an analytical story of the wonderful cable match at the end of the first day's play.

England's champion, the veteran Blackburne, accepted Pillsbury's Queen's Gambit, and lost no time in making things up. Lively skirmishing was the order, the upshot being that queens were exchanged, and Blackburne was forced to move his king without castling.

At the third board "the grand old man at chess," Bird, who is given to eccentricities on the chessboard, fulfilled expectations by defending Burville's 1. P-Q4, irregularly. A French defence variation ensued, but Bird would not be brought down to book lines.

Tinsley developed his Queen's gambit, declined by Barry, with 4. B-KB4, the Boston man supporting his QP with the QBP.

Delmar, the Metropolitan Chess Club's champion, began, as is his wont, with P-Q4, posting his KB at Q3, though at QK2, and pushing his P to K3.

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Sixth Table—Ruy Lopez.

Table comparing moves for White and Black in the Ruy Lopez variation.

Fifth Table—Ruy Lopez.

Table comparing moves for White and Black in the fifth Ruy Lopez variation.

Notes by Pillsbury.

(a) Most masters prefer the development of Q-K1-Q2. B-K12; 7. P-Q4, etc., as yielding a stronger attacking position.

Third Table—P-Q4 Opening.

Table comparing moves for White and Black in the P-Q4 opening.

Notes by Pillsbury.

(a) 11 B-B3 appears strong, but White answers 12. K1-B2, followed soon by P-Q3 and K1-Q3.

Fourth Table—Queen's Gambit Declined.

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followed by B-Kt 2, was equally satisfactory.

Seventh Table P-Q4 Opening.

Table comparing moves for White and Black in the P-Q4 opening.

Notes by Pillsbury. (a) In this position Tinsley, at the Hastings tournament continued against Tarrasch Kt-B 3, eventually succeeding in exchanging it for the white Q B, with the better game.

(b) P-Q B 4 appears stronger. White should attempt to dislodge the adverse knight by Q-Q B 2 as soon as possible, or else force Black to declare himself by doubling guarding the knight by P-K B 4, after which White would obtain command of the K 5 square with his knight.

Eighth Table—Giuoco Piano.

Table comparing moves for White and Black in the Giuoco Piano variation.

Notes by Pillsbury.

(a) Wrong on principle, and this move later on plays an important part in completely wrecking his defensive position. Moreover the straightforward course was P-Q 4.

AS SEEN BY ENGLISH EYES.

How the Great Match Was Watched by Distinguished Chess Enthusiasts in London.

London, March 13.—The British team which did duty in the international chess match between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland on the one side and the United States of America on the other, conducted their games in the Pillar Hall of the Cannon Street Hotel in this city to-day. The affair created great interest and enthusiasm.

At about 2 o'clock the hall began to fill with the most notable persons known in metropolitan chess circles, the arrangements being supervised by Sir George Newnes, baronet, the president of the British Chess Club.

Among those present were the president of the City Chess Club and a good many officials of the Metropolitan, Bobelman, St. George and other chess clubs.

The friendly greeting sent over by the American team from the Brooklyn Chess Club was very cordially received and much applauded when read by Sir George to a brilliant assemblage of chess experts.

Sir George also announced that owing to an indisposition of the British player, E. O. Jones, E. M. Jackson had to take his place on the team.

Before the beginning of the match the general opinion prevailing here was that the American team were decidedly stronger than the British.

In course of play the opinion about the strength of the American team and the expectation of an American victory was weakened or increased by the positions arrived at in the several games. The admiration for Showalter's brilliant and dashing attack in his game against Burn, was generally shown, and no end of flattering remarks were made by the spectators about the Kentuckian.

Pillsbury, too, had Blackburne at his mercy, and Günsberg, who was one of his present, remarked to some other bystanders that Pillsbury had an easy win by playing 19. RxbB.

The spectators were all the more surprised when Pillsbury later on played 26. KR-B7, losing thereby a most valuable piece, and general regret was prevailing at this incident.

Jackson's play was very much appreciated by his many friends, but, speaking generally, the Britishers found it very hard work indeed to cope with the American players, and they were rather glad when time was called half an hour earlier than originally agreed upon.

Among the numerous spectators was the Lord Chief Justice.

Henry La Motte Is All Right. Assistant Surgeon Henry La Motte, of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, who was reported as missing to the police yesterday has telegraphed from a Long Island town that he is all right. He will be joined by his wife to-day.