

READY FOR A BIG CHESS MATCH

STEINITZ AND LASKER'S CONTEST NOW ASSURED.

Wonderful Success Achieved by Both Experts, and Their Long Records of Victories—The Champion Says that if He Loses It Will Be Steinitz Defeated, Not His Theory—Hard Problems for The Times's Readers to Solve—Gossip of Players.

In spite of Gunsberg and Hoffer, the principal English chess journalists, who succeeded in influencing English chess amateurs not to send any backing to Lasker, in spite of sneering remarks in *Wochen-schach*, in spite of attempted ridicule from several sources, the match between Steinitz and Lasker will go on. Articles between the principals have been signed the players have forwarded the forfeit of \$250 each to the referee, and the stakes, which are in the hands of Messrs. Gilberg and Rudd, will be forwarded to the stakeholders at the stipulated time.

Chess players are therefore to be congratulated upon the eve of one of the greatest struggles over the checkered board.

It is admitted all around that a match of so great interest has not taken place since the memorable contest between Steinitz and Zukertort in 1886. The reason why there is so much excitement in chess circles all over the globe is easily to be accounted



William Steinitz.

for. While in the matches Steinitz against Gunsberg and Tschigorin, Tschigorin against Tarrasch, known quantities have met, Emanuel Lasker has not met in match play either Tarrasch, Tschigorin, or Gunsberg, and, although the Teuton's career is composed of an endless chain of successes, still, nobody knows what he really can do, and whether his play will be strong enough to overcome Steinitz, whose record never was equaled by any player of the past.

For twenty-six years the veteran has successfully defended the championship of the world, and, as will be seen from the record given below, he defeated in set matches such men as Dubois, Deacon, Mongredien, Blackburne, Green, Andersson, Bird, Fraser, Zukertort, Martinez, Sellman, Mackenzie, Golmayo, Tschigorin, Carvajal, Vazquez, and Gunsberg, many of these twice.

While Lasker is considered to be certainly one of the four greatest living chess experts, namely, Steinitz, Tschigorin, Tarrasch, and Lasker, it is difficult to say whether he is stronger than the Russian or his countryman, Tarrasch, as he never met either of these players over the board, and it is for this reason that he is spoken of as an unknown quantity. His success in set matches over Bardleben, Bird, Miniati, Mieses, English, Lee, Blackburne, Golmayo, Vazquez, Ettlinger, and Showalter was complete, and his style of play is considered excellent, but an excellent style may lead to naught if he have to meet an opponent of equal or superior strength.

It is therefore impossible to forestall the winner of this coming match, and even men like Showalter, Delmar, and Albin cannot form an opinion. Says Showalter, for instance: "Ask me something easier. I know only one thing, that Steinitz never in his life met a man of Lasker's strength."

When Delmar was approached on the subject by a reporter for *The New-York*



Emanuel Lasker.

Times, he said: "Lasker's youth might help him along, but Steinitz is Steinitz after all. Nay, I can't commit myself to name the winner." Albin, on the other hand, gave the writer the following story: "Here is a young man who has made up his mind to study chess for two years as a student might go in for law or medicine. The theory of the game has so far advanced that often players are at a loss what to play, when engaged in a contest, and unless Steinitz's genius can detect new lines of play he will have a terrific battle to fight. Lasker's style is wonderfully exact and mathematically correct, and there is no telling whether Steinitz will be able to account for his youthful opponent."

Steinitz himself is said to have made the following statement: "While I have not played serious chess since my match with Tschigorin, I have had no end of domestic trouble and bother during these last two years. Still, I am confident that I can play chess as heretofore. I never underrate an opponent, and I believe that Lasker is a really fine player. Moreover, the latter had the chance to study all my games, my book, and therefore my style, and if I do lose he will have to beat me with my own weapons." That is to say, Steinitz may be beaten, but his theory will have to do the job.

It is only fair to state that the thanks of the *Chess World* are due to Mr. Steinitz for consenting to meet Lasker. Everybody knows that the champion intended to resign the championship, but when it was rumored that the Teuton would challenge him for \$5,000 a side he altered his mind. Finally the challenge was issued for \$3,000 and accepted, but when Lasker found that, in consequence of the hard times, he could not raise the stipulated amount, Steinitz consented first to a reduction of \$250 and finally to one of \$500, an act of courtesy which those who interested themselves in the match should never forget. If a man who has held the world's championship for twenty-six years accepts a challenge for a match which promises to him less remuneration than matches he contested before, he deserves some praise.

William Steinitz was born on May 17, 1836, at Prague, and studied at the Technical College in his native town from 1858 to 1860, when he became a journalist and chess player. After getting first prize in a Vienna tournament, he was sent as Vienna's champion to the London tournament in 1862, where he captured the first prize with 8 points against Anderssen, (12 points,) Paulsen, (11 points,) Owen, (10 points,) Macdonell, (9 points,) Dubois, (9 points,) Barnes, (7 points,) Hanna, (7 points,) Blackburne, (4 points,) Lowenthal, (4 points,) Deacon, (3 points,) Mongredien, (3 points,) Green and Robey, (2 points each.) After the conclusion of the tournament, he decided to remain in London, where he staid until 1884,

when he made New-York his new home. Here follows Steinitz's complete record:

	TOURNAMENTS.		
	Games Won.	Lost.	Drawn.
1862—London, international.....	5	3	3
1867—Paris, international.....	18	5	3
1870—Baden-Baden, international.....	9	4	1
1872—London, international.....	7	1	1
1873—Vienna, international.....	20	2	5
1882—Vienna, international.....	20	6	8
1883—London, international.....	19	7	1
Total.....	103	27	23

Steinitz took sixth prize in 1862, third prize in 1867, second prize in 1870, first prize in 1872, first prize in 1873, divided first and second prizes with Winaver in 1882, and took second prize in 1883. He also competed in a great many minor tournaments. He received first prize in Dublin in 1865; second prize in Dundee in 1867, and others.

	MATCHES.		
	Games Won.	Lost.	Drawn.
Steinitz vs. Dubois, '62.....	5	3	1
Steinitz vs. Deacon, '63.....	5	1	0
Steinitz vs. Mongredien, '63.....	7	0	0
Steinitz vs. Blackburne, '63.....	7	1	2
Steinitz vs. Green, '63.....	7	0	2
Steinitz vs. Anderssen, '66.....	8	6	5
Steinitz vs. Bird, '66.....	5	5	0
Steinitz vs. Fraser, '67.....	3	1	3
Steinitz vs. Blackburne, '70.....	5	0	1
Steinitz vs. Zukertort, '72.....	7	1	4
Steinitz vs. Blackburne, '76.....	7	0	0
Steinitz vs. Martinez, '82.....	7	3	0
Steinitz vs. Sellman, '83.....	3	0	2
Steinitz vs. Mackenzie, '83.....	3	0	0
Steinitz vs. Sellman, '85.....	3	0	0
Steinitz vs. Zukertort, '86.....	10	5	5
Steinitz vs. Tschigorin, '89.....	10	6	1
Steinitz vs. Carvajal, '89.....	4	1	0
Steinitz vs. Golmayo, '89.....	5	0	0
Steinitz vs. Vazquez, '89.....	5	0	0
Steinitz vs. Gunsberg, '91.....	6	4	9
Steinitz vs. Tschigorin, '92.....	10	8	5
Total.....	137	44	51
Tournament total.....	103	27	23
	240	71	74

Emanuel Lasker was born on Dec. 24, 1868, in Berlinchen, near Berlin. He visited the Real Gymnasium, at Landsberg, and studied mathematics at Berlin and Heidelberg. He learned the game from his brother when a boy of twelve years of age, and won in 1889 the Haupt-Turnier at Breslau. Since then he became an acknowledged master. Here is his complete record:

	TOURNAMENTS.		
	Games Won.	Lost.	Drawn.
1889—Amsterdam, international.....	5	1	3
1890—Berlin, national.....	1	1	2
1890—Graz, national.....	1	1	3
1892—London, national.....	1	1	0
1892—London, quintangular.....	1	0	0
1893—New-York, international.....	13	0	0
Total.....	39	4	10

	MATCHES.		
	Games Won.	Lost.	Drawn.
Lasker vs. Bardleben, '89.....	2	1	1
Lasker vs. Bird, '90.....	1	0	2
Lasker vs. Miniati, '90.....	7	2	0
Lasker vs. Mieses, '90.....	3	3	3
Lasker vs. English, '90.....	2	0	0
Lasker vs. Lee, '91.....	1	0	0
Lasker vs. Blackburne, '92.....	5	5	0
Lasker vs. Bird, '92.....	5	6	0
Lasker vs. Showalter, '93.....	6	6	0
Lasker vs. Ettlinger, '93.....	5	0	1
Total.....	42	5	18

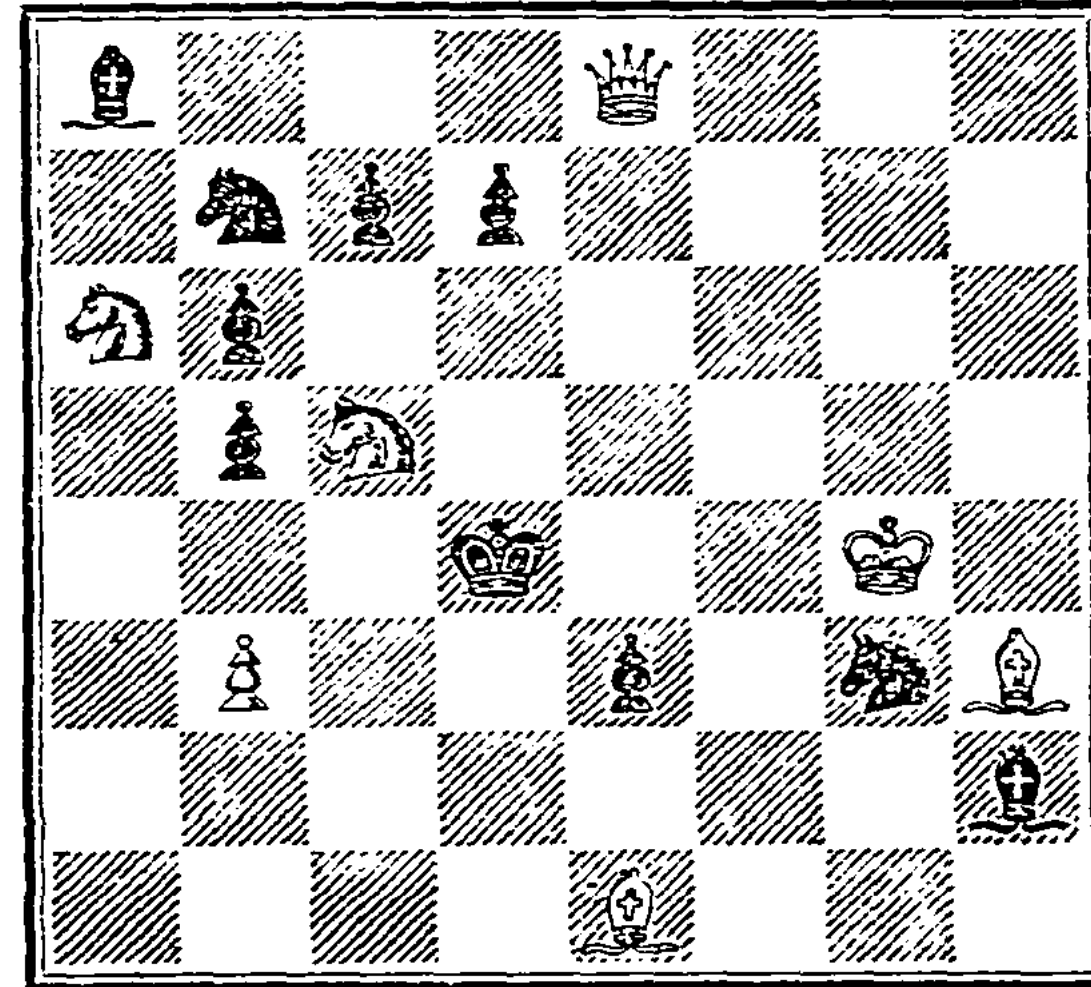
	SERIES OF MATCH GAMES.		
	Games Won.	Lost.	Drawn.
Lasker vs. Ettlinger.....	3	0	0
Lasker vs. Delmar.....	3	0	0
Lasker vs. J. W. Baird.....	3	0	0
Lasker vs. O. G. Baird.....	3	0	0
Lasker vs. Ryan.....	3	0	0
Lasker vs. Hanham.....	3	0	0
Lasker vs. Isaacson.....	3	0	0
Lasker vs. Simonson.....	3	1	0
Lasker vs. Hodges.....	3	1	0
Lasker vs. de Visser.....	3	0	0
Lasker vs. Richardson.....	3	0	0
Lasker vs. Blackmar.....	3	0	0
Lasker vs. Voigt.....	3	1	0
Lasker vs. Shipley.....	3	1	0
Lasker vs. Robinson.....	2	2	0
Lasker vs. Martinez.....	2	2	0
Lasker vs. Reichhelm.....	2	0	0
Lasker vs. Golmayo.....	2	0	1
Lasker vs. Vasquez.....	3	0	0
Total.....	41	3	3
Total tournaments.....	39	4	10
Total matches.....	42	5	18

As was generally expected, Albin came out a winner in his match with Delmar. The latter's supporters were, however, delighted when he administered a defeat to the Viennese in the last game but one.

Hodges, after disposing of Showalter in the eighth game of the match, now leads his adversary with the odd game. The Kentuckian seemed to be in wretched form when contesting the last two games of the match.

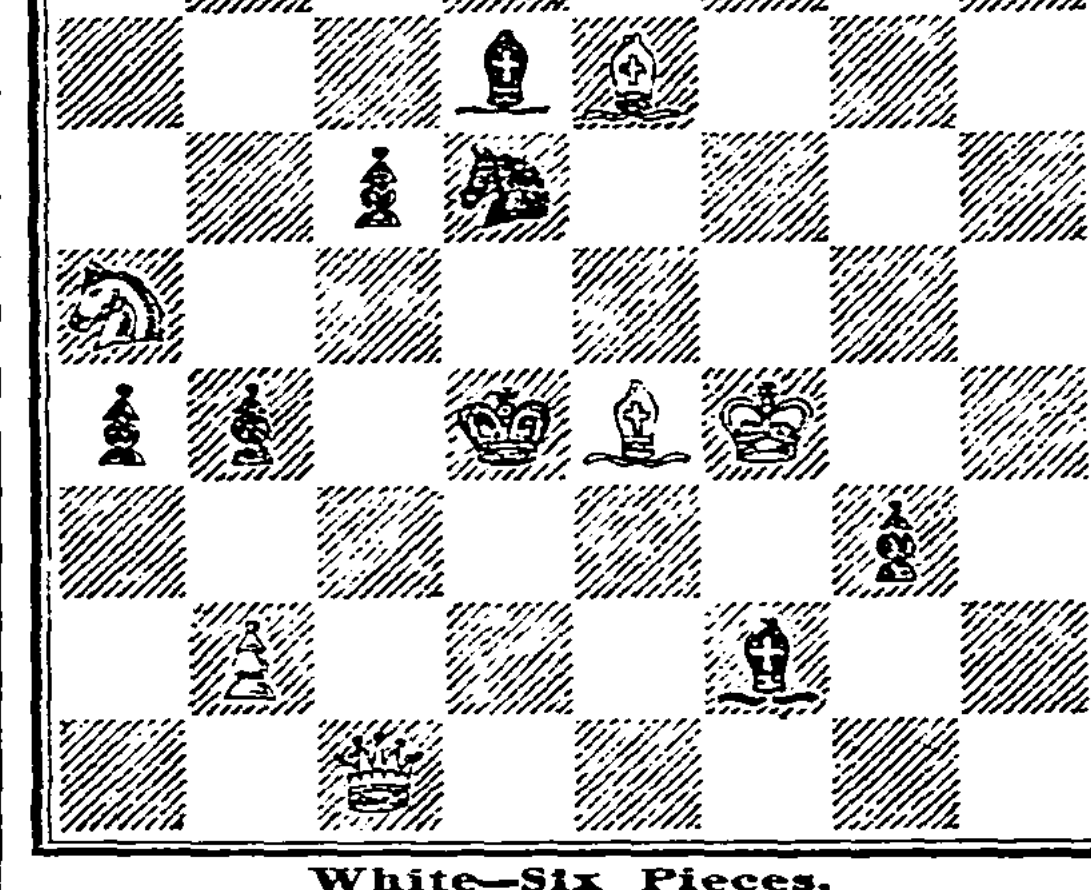
Appended are the problems which were awarded second prizes in the international tournament of *The Staats-Zeitung*:

Problem No. 7—By Emile Pradignat, Montpont, France.
Black—Ten Pieces.



White—Seven Pieces.
White to play and mate in three moves.

Problem No. 8—By Rudolph Schuler, Orange, N. J.
Black—Nine Pieces.



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

Solution to Problem No. 5—Q—Kt4.
1. Q—Kt4, QxQ or moves; 2. R—Kk7, any; 3. R mates accordingly.

1. Q—Kt4, Kt (E7) moves; 2. B—Q4, any; 3. B or R, mate.

1. Q—Kt4, Kt (E3) moves; 2. R mates.
1. Q—Kt4, P—KB3; 2. B—B5ch, K—Q4; 3. P—K4 mate.

1. Q—Kt4, P—Q4; 2. B—B5 mate.
1. Q—Kt4, any other move; 2. QxPch, KxQ; 3. RxKt mate.

Solution to Problem No. 6—B—R6. Correctly solved by Sigismund Hirsch, New-York; William Chamberlaine, Fort Hamilton, N. Y.; A. V. Ellery, New-York; E. A. Bailey, Jersey City, N. J., and F. Wehle, New-York.