

The weakest link in his chain at present is admittedly the end game, but, of course, he has not yet had time to arm himself at all points.

Mr J. EDWARDS, who last year won the Championship as representative for Wellington, carried off the third prize (£5) as a nominee of the Otago Chess Club. He was born in Nelson, is 37 years of age, and learned to play chess in 1884 at the Timaru Chess Club, where he won a silver cup as first prize in a local tourney. He first competed for championship honours at Wellington four years ago, but was unplaced. He has little or no book knowledge, and relies mainly on his own conception of the moves as the game proceeds. His strong feature is the end game, at which stage a pawn is very powerful in his hands. His solving capabilities are here of no mean assistance to him.



Wrigglesworth and Binns, photo., Wellington.

MR W. MACKAY
(Winner Chess Championship).

in 1892; competed in the Adelaide Australian Congress of 1887, defeating Mr Gossip, and drawing with Messrs Charlick and Ealing, but not being a prize-winner. He has been connected with the Canterbury Chess Club (called prior to 1879 the Christchurch Chess Club) for upwards of 20 years, and has been its president since the death of the Hon. John Tassard. Has been chess editor of the *Canterbury Times* from 1883 up to the present date. Mr Hookham has a greater knowledge of the game than any other man in the colony. He is a model tournament player—he takes full advantage of his time limit, and plays a careful, sound, and, when opportunities offer, a brilliant game. He makes fewer mistakes than most other players, and when such do occur on his part they are due to physical fatigue. Mr Hookham is exceedingly popular, not only in chess circles, but with all those with whom he comes in contact. Had he considered his own interests only, he would not have attended the last congress, as he had just recovered from an illness, and at his advanced age the heavy play of a tournament is no joke. As however, nobody else could attend for Canterbury, Mr Hookham decided to compete, and so save the honours of his club.

Mr A. GIFFORD, of Balls, who also exercised the right of private entry, is 53 years of age, and is an M. A. of the New Zealand University, having taken first-class honours in Greek and Latin. He is a barrister by profession, but is at present engaged in teaching. He is favourably known in chess circles at Auckland, Napier, and Wanganui. In the last-named place his title of local champion was only shaken when he had Mr Ballance (our late lamented Premier) for an opponent. He plays blindfold chess, and a great future is predicted for him.

Mr RICHARD JAMES BARNES (Wellington Working Men's Chess Club), is a Victorian by birth. Was educated in Dunedin; commenced playing chess about twelve years ago, some time after removing to Wellington. Took part in the congress (five entries) held in Dunedin five years ago, and tied with Mr Hookham for first, but losing in the play off had to be content with second honours. In the congress (10 entries) held next year ('90 '91) in Wellington he represented the Wellington Chess Club, and secured the first prize and championship. In the Auckland Congress ('91-'92) he tied for fourth place out of nine entries. Took part in the congress at Christchurch ('92-'93, 10 entries) and won the third prize. In the first and second Dunedin Congress, and at Auckland and Christchurch, he represented, as on the present occasion, the Wellington Working Men's Chess Club. In the congress there were 11 entries, and Mr Barnes just managed to pull off the second prize, which makes his congress record—one first, two seconds, and one third. Mr Barnes is also still a member of the Wellington Chess Club, and has been one of the club's team in telegraph matches, losing his game the first time, drawing on the second occasion, winning the third, and losing on the fourth. Irrespective of congresses, Mr Barnes has in the ordinary tournaments of his club taken five first prizes, three seconds, and one third. Mr Barnes, as shown above, has had great experience in tournament play; has a thorough knowledge of the game; is exceedingly quick in grasping a complicated position; plays a sound and masterly game, and, as the result of his play in the recent Congress shows, is a plucky up-hill player. He is a capital trap layer, and has the knack of quickly seeing through those of his opponent.

Mr W. F. BARRAUD (Wellington) is 44 years of age, and was born in the colony. He was one of the original promoters of the Wellington Chess Club, which was founded in 1875. Chess was not played much in Wellington in those days, but some enthusiasts got up a match, Town v. Civil Service, which was won by the former. A dinner followed the match as a matter of course, and it was there that it was resolved to form a club, and Messrs Barrand and Edward Reeves were deputed to canvass the town for subscriptions. They did so with marked success, the club was formed, and has flourished ever since. Mr Barrand takes a deep interest in chess, and has always had a responsible board at telegraphic and club matches. He is also an amateur painter of no mean order, and is the President of the Camera Club.

Mr OWEN C. PLEASANTS (Colyton) is twenty-four years of age, and is engaged in farming parents in the Rangitikei district. He is a very steady and rising player, has an excellent idea of the game, and will undoubtedly be heard more of in the near future. This is his second attempt for Championship honours, and considering the small chances he has of obtaining sound practice, his score is not to be despised. He has devoted considerable time to the solving of problems, which has been of good service to him in the end games. Mr Pleasants sticks tenaciously to an advantage when

gained, and plays a plucky uphill game. His style might be copied with advantage by those of our young players who are given to what is poetically called 'skittles' and 'timber shifting.'

Dr. HENRY REGINALD HATHERLY, of Wanganui, learnt chess when he was a child, but took no special interest in the game until he commenced practice in Nottingham, when he joined the Nottingham Chess Club, of which he soon became a prominent member. He was President of Nottingham Chess Club four years consecutively, and played in most of the inter-county matches. In 1888 he undertook the editorship of the chess column of the *Nottinghamshire Guardian*, which position he retained until he left England in June, 1893, for New Zealand. He was a frequent, and is still an occasional contributor to the *British Chess Magazine*. He is the composer of numerous chess problems which have appeared in various English chess columns, and is able to solve most two and three movers readily from the diagram. Dr. Hatherly is a rapid player, and has played as many as seventeen games simultaneously. He has a great dislike to close games, and especially to the Stonewall opening, and in his anxiety to secure an open game often risks too much. He lacks the steadiness which is essential to success in tournament play. He is at present editor of the Chess column which is appearing weekly in *A.I.*, and takes an enthusiastic interest in all that concerns his favourite game.

Mr GILBERT PEARCE (Mania) is engaged in pastoral pursuits in Taranaki, and is thirty-five years of age. He was born in England, and it was in that country that he learnt at the age of fourteen, to play chess. He has studied the books a good deal, and though he has not played much across the board, has held his own in correspondence games against the Hon. Mr Bryce, the two Saxtons, Judge Rawson, and others of no mean ability. Being the strongest player in his district, he has always to give odds in the local tournaments, but notwithstanding, he has a fair record of wins. The Congress just closed was the first Mr Pearce had competed in, and, it may therefore be attributed to his lack of opportunity for engaging in serious play that he has not shown a better score. He may console himself, however, with the knowledge that he is one of the two players who beat the champion.

Mr JOSEPH WOOD, who represented the Wellington Working Men's Club, learnt the game in Canterbury twenty-three years ago, having at different times been a member of the Canterbury, Auckland, Napier, Melbourne, and Wellington Clubs. He has won three prizes in Canterbury, one in Auckland, and two in Napier, besides taking first and second places in Status Tourneys. He is well posted in the various openings, being exceptionally strong in the King's Bishop's gambit. Like his Club mate, Mr Barnes, he was handicapped by severe illness, having in fact to allow some of the games to be scored against him by default. Mr Wood's love of chess did not cause him to neglect athletics, he having been an interprovincial cricketer for some fifteen years.

Mr H. C. SKISSE, the energetic hon. sec. of the New Zealand Chess Association, is, as might be expected, a warm chess enthusiast. In his brief chess career he has won 2 first and 1 third prize in club tourneys, and with many others we hope to find him competing for championship honours at no distant date. It is to him and to Mr F. K. Kelling, the first secretary of the Association, that we are mainly indebted for the foregoing biographical sketches of the competitors.

A HUMOURIST ON MARRIAGE.

Two loving hearts may be united by marriage, or two goodly estates; the latter union is generally the more productive of happiness. People who have no money are sometimes married for love. Usually they are not married at all. People who have money marry for love, and in this case there is probably a combination of both systems. There is a proverb going the rounds about 'marrying in haste and repenting at leisure,' but as a matter of fact the repentance is often a deal more hurried than the marriage. It is considered wicked to have more than one wife at a time, and that is the cause of many distressing breach of promise actions. A man I knew who wished to make two souls happy was treated with great harshness. He married one woman for love and the other for money, and as one would not give her love without money, and the other her money without love, he was rather embarrassed. The matter was eventually submitted to a judge of arbitration, and the award included free lodgings for my friend. But there is a delicious sense of freedom after that sort of thing, even in goal. It is the fashion nowadays to scoff at matrimony, but I notice that girls are ready to accept any man who promises to supply them with all the comforts of life; and if there was no marriage many a man who is now living in ease and comfort on his wife's father would have to toil hard for his daily bread.

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