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MORPHY, THE CHESS WIZARD

Marvelous Skill of the Greatest Master of Modern Times.

Paul Charles Morphy, the famous American chess player, is classed as "perhaps the most remarkable chess player of modern times." He was born in New Orleans in 1837 and was notably precocious as a child. He showed this precocity particularly in games of chess, and before he was thirteen had defeated many well known amateurs. For several years he studied law at the College of South Carolina and played chess only occasionally. But in 1857, at the first American chess congress, held in New York, he easily defeated the best players that could be brought against him.

In 1858 Morphy went to England and there defeated Lowenthal, Boden and Bird and performed the most astonishing feats in simultaneous games without the board. When he was in Paris, the same year, he won five out of eight games with Harwitz and gave many exhibitions of blindfold playing. It was these last that were responsible for the early breakdown of his health.

After his return to the United States in 1859 he defeated the visiting German expert, Anderssen, in seven out of eleven games. He was admitted to the bar and began to practice law in New Orleans. But the strain of his blindfold contests had been too great for his mind, and he was forced to give up chess altogether and then to abandon all mental occupation. He lived in retirement until his death in 1884. His activity thus covered a comparatively short space of time.

Morphy's skill is described as inexorable. He never was a close student of chess. He played his games easily and quickly, with no preparation and little hesitation. Yet his combinations were "remarkable for finesse, depth, elegance and soundness." He also possessed a phenomenal memory.

—New York Times

JAPAN'S SENSE OF HUMOR.

It Seems to Be Too Subtle For Occidental Minds to Master.

Japan was the first foreign country where I saw moving pictures shown. In Yokohama one whole street is given up to moving pictures—Theater street. Great banners hung clear across it with the picturesque Japanese alphabet racing up and down them advertise the respective performances.

On the floor the audience sits, with their feet squarely turned under them, absorbed in the shifting shadows. The subtleties are in English, but so common is English coming to be in Japan that the meaning doesn't go over their heads. There is always some one to whisper the title's meaning.

American manufacturers have labored long and hard to find films that will amuse the Japanese, but their success has not been very marked. No white man can fathom a Japanese's sense of humor. Our funniest films over there go flat. But in the midst of a death scene in some dramatic film they will suddenly begin to rock with merriment. There is a fortune in it for any one who will locate the Japanese bump of humor and manufacture plays that will hit it.

The Japanese are now manufacturing their own films, but they are not of much interest to white people, as nothing ever happens in them. There is no action. Half a reel may be given up to drinking a cup of tea. But this may be exceedingly funny to the Japanese, for there has been more going on than shows on the surface. By the way they lift their cups, by the way they swing their fan they are passing a message. Two Japanese can talk to each other with their fans, while the white man standing alongside understands nothing of what they are saying.—World Outlook.

A King's Ransom.

The expression "worth a king's ransom," though generally supposed to mean the ransoms paid for a king, more probably refers to that paid to a king. In early times, when armies received practically no regular pay and the soldier's reward was the booty taken from the vanquished, each soldier had a right to the bodies as well as the goods of the prisoners he captured. The emperor might slay his prisoner, sell him to slavery or set him at liberty on payment of a ransom. But, though it was the common practice in feudal times for the individual captor to receive the ransom for prisoners of low degree, those for princes or great nobles were always paid to the king; hence a king's ransom.

Chameleon Beaches.

The beaches of Snails Island, in the gulf of Mexico, change color twice daily with the tides. The sands are really of a golden color, and when the rising tide spreads the wide beach still remains gold, but when the tide ebbs they look quite purple, and this is accounted for by myriads of tiny purple snails crawling in the wake of the ebbing tide. It is to these snails that the island owes its name.

Origin of Music.

The origin of music is lost in antiquity. Among civilized people it probably originated among the Egyptian priests, who employed this art in their religious rites and ceremonies. From the Egyptians the art passed on to the Greeks and Romans and so on to modern nations.—New York American.

A Fitting Fine.

"There's a hard magistrate in that court."
"What did he do?"
"A couple brought before him were accused of spooning in the park, and he made them fork over."—Baltimore American.

MAKING YOUR WILL

Have You Put Off This Important Task, and, if So, Why?

DRAWING UP THE DOCUMENT.

Rules by a Probate Law Authority That Tell Just What to Do and What Not to Do in Making a Last Testament Secure in Its Provisions.

"More than 97 per cent of Americans die without making a will," says Frederick Halsey in the American Magazine. "Have you made yours? It is conceded by legal authorities that it is the duty of every person to leave a written will in order that the estate may be closed, the property divided among the proper beneficiaries and that the family or friends may have the benefits of the property, yet more than 80 per cent of the holders of valuable property neglect this duty.

"The old superstition that the man who makes a will writes his death warrant is one of the chief causes of delay in making proper provision for the distribution of any estate after death. It is hard to calculate what percentage of men and women believe this superstition, because the majority will deny it. Court experts know that the percentage is large. Yet life insurance figures, taken in comparison with dates on wills, seem to show that instead of being correct the superstition is without basis and that men who have made wills have lived longer than the average."

Charles S. Cutting, who is one of America's foremost authorities on probate law, gives the following directions for making a safe will that can't be broken:

Before you consult anybody decide how you propose to leave your property.

If the disposition to be made is simple and ordinarily skilled person can draw your will.

If your will is complicated, including trusts, life estates and so forth, employ the most skilled draftsman within your acquaintance.

Do as your legal adviser tells you as to matters concerning which there may be doubt.

Be sure to comply with all formalities required by the statute, especially the following:

Subscribe your name to the will in the presence of witnesses.

Declare it to be your will in their presence.

Have at least two witnesses sign in your presence.

If you sign by mark or for any reason are unable to write your name have at least three witnesses to the fact of your signing by mark or that you requested some other person to write your name.

Ask people who have long known you and who have no doubt as to your sanity to be witnesses.

Place your will in the custody of some perfectly responsible person or corporation or in some receptacle, as a safety deposit vault, which cannot be opened after your death without the presence of public officials.

Remember that any provision you make for your wife is an offer to her to purchase from her her statutory rights and that if she chooses she may reject your offer and take under the statute.

Don't put off making a will until you are ill and your disinherited relatives will say that your mind is affected.

Don't believe that making your will will hasten your death.

In states where the statutes give a widow dower only in her husband's real estate don't get the idea that she will be the owner in fee of one-third of his realty.

Don't attempt to tie up your estate for a long period, providing for ultimate distribution in the distant future. Courts are very apt to find ways to construe such a will contrary to your intention.

Don't let your will be the vehicle of conveying to posterity your hatred or dislike of individuals.

If you are wealthy and have provided well for your family don't forget the obligation you owe to the community.

Don't attempt to change your will after it is written and witnessed by drawing lines across certain portions of it and writing in other directions. Such attempts will fail.

Don't make a nonresident of your state executor of your will. Many states will not permit him to act.

Don't have the man you selected as executor sign as a witness. It may disqualify him.

Don't allow any legatee or devisee in your will to sign as a witness. If he does he may lose his legacy or devise.

If you wish to add a codicil to your will don't fail to have the codicil refer unmistakably to the will and to attach the codicil thereto physically.

Don't hesitate to change your will by codicil or otherwise whenever you see fit.

Impossible Ones.

"He was a born fisherman and could swear to the truth."

"He sought the office only for his country's good."

"He took his own advice and never failed to practice what he preached."

"He presumed that an editor's time has a certain value, always wrote briefly and to the point and never stopped his paper because he knew it all before it got into print."—Atlanta Constitution.

What narrow innocence it is for one to be good only according to the law.—Seneca.

LEMBERG A LARGE CITY.

Fourth in Austria and Russians Again Draw Near To It.

Unless the Russians meet suddenly with a signal reverse in their drive along the Austrian east front, Lemberg seems destined to pass under the dominion of the Czar for a second time since the beginning of the great war. This, the fourth city of Austria, is described in the following war geography bulletin of the National Geographic Society, issued from its Washington headquarters:

When the fortifications of the inner city of Lemberg were dismantled in 1811 and the space which they occupied was converted into promenades for the prosperous citizens of this modern Gallician capital of 200,000 inhabitants it was doubtless assumed by many that, having suffered "the sting and arrows of outrageous fortune" for the first five centuries of its municipal existence, fate would allot it a surcease from siege and capture.

Lying 60 miles almost due east of Przemysl, and more than 450 miles northeast of Vienna, Lemberg is situated on the banks of the Peltew river, an affluent of the Bug. It nestles in a small valley which opens to the north, and is surrounded by hills, the most picturesque being the well-wooded Franz-Josef Berg, to the northeast. To the east, a distance of 87 miles, is Tarnopol, near the Russian border, one of the first points of attack when the Muscovites recently pushed beyond the Gallician frontier.

A description of the modern city of Lemberg as it existed in August, 1914, requires many modifications today, for the scars of war are to be found in its many handsome homes; its broad, well-paved streets; its Roman Catholic cathedral, a handsome gothic structure completed in 1480; its Greek cathedral, completed in 1779; its Armenian cathedral in the Byzantine style, dating back to 1437; and its magnificent monuments to such Polish patriots as King John III Sobieski, who after having saved Lemberg from the same enemy a few years previously, in 1684 saved all Europe from Mohammedan invasion by routing an army of 300,000 Turks encamped about Vienna, his own forces numbering only 70,000.

Called Lawow in the Polish tongue and Leopolds in Latin, Lemberg was founded by a Ruthenian prince in 1239. Nearly a hundred years later it was added to the domain of Cassimir the Great, who bestowed upon the city the charter and privileges widely known during the middle ages as the Magdeburg Right.

Following the fall of Constantinople, Lemberg enjoyed a revival of trade with the East, but it was caught in the maelstrom of rebellion and pillage which swept over the Ukraine and a part of Poland during the last half of the seventeenth century, when the Cossack hetman, Chmielnicka, was directing the infamies of the "serfs' fury."

Lemberg was one of the Polish cities to fall before the arms of Charles XII of Sweden when the ill-advised Augustus II was drawn into the Great Northern war, which devastated central Europe for the first 20 years of the 18th century. In 1772, upon the first partition of Poland, Lemberg became an Austrian possession, and 12 years after this event Joseph II established the University of Lemberg which, at the time of the outbreak of the present war, had more than 2,000 students.

One of the most attractive parks of Lemberg, and a favorite promenade, bears the name of the Polish patriot, Jap Kilinski, a humble little shoemaker, who fought bravely in 1796, was captured and taken to St. Petersburg. After his release he returned to his shoemaker's bench and in his leisure hours wrote his recollections, a valuable record of this period of his country's history.

Since the establishment of the Gallician Diet in 1861 Lemberg has enjoyed increasing prosperity. Its manufactures include machinery and iron ware, matches, candles, liqueurs, chocolate, leather, bricks and tiles, while its commerce is largely in linen, flax, hemp, wool and oil.

In 1907 two interesting finds were made in the vicinity of this city by laborers boring for oil. The bodies of an elephant and a rhinoceros were unearthed in a remarkable state of preservation, even the hides being intact, due, probably, to the preservative qualities of the oily soil in which they were buried.

Father and Daughter Drowned.
R. H. Barrow, prominent throughout the state in U. C. T. circles, and his little daughter, Miss Jennie Barrow, when they were drowned in the son's Pond, near the Country Club, of Spartanburg Tuesday afternoon, while Mrs. Barrow and three sons stood near the edge of the pond and were unable to give any aid.



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