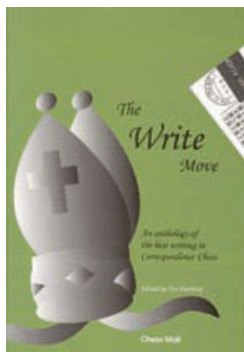




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Untruths and Mysteries about The Chess Player's Chronicle

Few things in my researches into nineteenth century chess have proved more puzzling than the publishing history of England's first main chess magazine, *The Chess Player's Chronicle*. I wrote a short bibliographical article about it for *Quarterly in Chess History* #13, but that was before I had seen a few of the very late issues. Even now, there are still some unclear stages in its history, or perhaps 'histories' is more accurate, since (depending on how you count it) there were two or more completely distinct publications that called themselves the *Chronicle*, between 1841 and 1902, and there are some mistaken statements about it/them in circulation. Unfortunately, I do not have regular access to a complete set of *Chronicles*, and probably few people do, any anyway it is not always possible to determine from the magazines themselves even such basics as the date of publication and who was the editor at a particular time.

Now is probably a good time to raise this matter, because Moravian Chess has published reprints of several (but not all) of the volumes, and these are available for purchase. A few of the volumes are even available for free download, or at least inspection of a few pages, at Google Books.

This article will not include all my discoveries about the magazine(s), but will chiefly deal with those questionable areas, and perhaps some readers may have information that helps to fill in the gaps. Some of my choicest discoveries about the *Chronicle* (as it will be referred to henceforth), have been held back for future publication in my thesis and subsequent book; these do not anyway affect the points raised in this article. After a short summary of when the magazine was published, let us examine the untruths, and then the mysteries. The article will conclude with a brief summary of what still needs to be researched.

The several series of the *Chronicle*

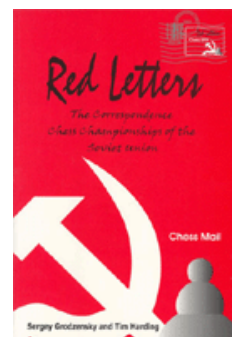
Volumes 1-13 were published from 1841-52 with Howard Staunton as editor. The earliest volumes did not correspond to years until Volume 4, which started in January 1843. Volumes 4-7 and 9-13 were monthly, the others weekly. The best account of publication dates was by Ken Whyld in *Quarterly for Chess History* #8.

There followed a New Series, Volumes 1-4, covering 1853-6, but during 1854 Staunton ceased to be editor and Robert Barnett Brien took over. The year 1856 was not completed (only eight issues being produced). Then there was no publication in 1857-8. The magazine was revived in 1859 in what is usually called the 'third run' or 'third series'. The editorship of this series will be discussed below, but R. B. Brien was possibly involved at first. The run continued through four volumes, the last ending prematurely in July 1862. That was the end of what could be called the 'apostolic succession' from Staunton to Brien, and on to whomever Brien passed the rights. Whyld says that 'was effectively the end of the periodical but its name lived on'.

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Rev. A. B. Skipworth

The *Chess Players' Quarterly Chronicle* appeared in early 1868, edited by Rev. A. B. Skipworth in Yorkshire. It went through four volumes (68-9, 70-1, 72-3, and 74-5), but became bi-monthly in 1869, although the word 'Quarterly' remains on the title pages. The series ended when Skipworth was appointed to a living in Lincolnshire late in 1875. The information in the standard bibliography by Douglas A. Betts, so far as it goes, can be relied upon up to this point.

Whyld's aforementioned article fails to mention what happened in 1876 and Betts is also inaccurate. There was a fifth volume of the third series and only three issues appeared, as he says, but it was for March not February. John Jenkin in Glasgow had taken it over and attempted to restore it as 'a monthly record of provincial chess', but closed it after three issues because he was losing too much money. The question of 1876 will be discussed further in the untruths section. These issues are available only in a few libraries, so I shall shortly make them available as a PDF file download, at a modest price, from my [website](#).

Another 'New Series' of the *Chronicle*, with monthly publication and edited by Ranken, began in 1877; in 1878 the chess dealer W. W. Morgan became involved as publisher. He and his heirs appear to have retained the rights to the title to the end. Ranken edited four volumes (1877-80), but then he and his band of unpaid volunteers defected to what became the *British Chess Magazine* in 1881.

Morgan then issued, with the help of a never-identified editor or editors, a new weekly series in a larger page format under the title *The Chess Player's Chronicle and Journal of Indoor and Outdoor Amusements*, although the non-chess content was minimal. Calling this volume five, to follow Ranken's four, gave an illusion of continuity. Publication was suspended at the end of 1882, but resumed in 1883 in time for the London international. From 1886 onwards there were numerous interruptions and suspensions of publication, and many of these issues are rare. The subtitle was eventually dropped. Having now seen them all, I can safely say that the ones from the 1890s are hardly worth reading. The impression, as one eminent chess collector said to me, is that the contents were just lifted from various chess columns.

Finally, two slim volumes (Volumes 17-18) appeared under the title *The Chess Chronicle* in 1901-2. Those issues are rather better and I suspect but cannot conclusively prove that Hoffer had some hand in editing them. In June 1902 the sad saga finally came to an end.

So that is the outline of the truth, so far as I have been able to establish it. Now let us rebut some errors (in the hope they don't subsequently resurface), and then look at the grey areas, the mysteries.

Untruths about the *Chronicle*

G. H. Diggle, a.k.a. 'the Badmaster', is responsible for a few of these untruths, and another source of error (about this and many other details of Victorian chess history) is Philip Walsingham Sergeant's book *A Century of British Chess*. Diggle wrote a lengthy article on 'British Chess Periodicals of the Nineteenth Century' to coincide with the centenary of *British Chess Magazine*. There are a few factually incorrect statements concerning the *Chronicle* in the first part of that article (to be found in *BCM*'s December 1980 issue), as well as questionable value judgements. There are also some 'suggestions of falsehood', which may have arisen from unclear phrasing or from Diggle's beliefs about the magazine. It can be hard to tell. The first untruth however was not his.

1. Old sources sometimes say the *Chronicle* began in 1840. *Wrong*: in fact it was 1841. The first volume ran from May to October, as the late Ken Whyld showed, and the title during that volume was *The British Miscellany and Chess Player's Chronicle*. The first half of the title was dropped for the second volume. It is hard now to find examples of people stating 1840 to be the start year, but the wrong belief seems to have been more prevalent in the past. In Harold Murray's papers (MS HJM Murray 161) at the Bodleian Library, there is a 1916 letter to him from Basil Goulding Brown where the latter says: 'Of course you have always been quite right about CPC I date. I was for a time seduced by it & others into thinking you & the date on the title page was wrong.' Writers since Murray have generally got it right.

2. Diggle stated that Staunton's *Chess Player's Chronicle* 1841-54 was 'the first of them all'. *Totally Wrong!* In fact there were some earlier chess periodicals with brief runs, but the *Chronicle* was the first to run for several years. The first magazine in English was *The Philidorian*, edited by George Walker in 1837-8, and that was preceded by a magazine in French.

3. The sixth volume was published in 1846. *Wrong!* (Similar mistakes have been made about other years.) A clear example is in Jeremy Gaige's much-respected (and recently reprinted) [*Chess Personalia: A Bibliography*](#) on page 124, where he gives the date of death of the Irish player Charles Forth (who died in 1845) as 27 July 1846, giving as his reference 'CPC 1846, p. 281'. There may be other errors in that book from a similar cause; I haven't checked. The point is that Gaige, and many other people, have been misled by the years printed on the volume title pages, which were often issued (with an index) after a year's publication was complete. This is a trap that any historian working with Victorian publications must be aware of, especially when the wrappers and title pages of individual issues have not been included by the binders (as also often happened).

4. Diggle also said that *The Chess Player's Magazine*, published from 1863-7, was the *Chronicle* under an 'amended title'. *Misleading/ A Distortion*. It was an attempt to copy the *Chronicle* formula after that title had ceased publication; there was no connection of editor or publishers.

5. Skipworth was an 'excellent editor' (Diggle). *Highly Questionable!* This is of course a value judgment, but he was anything but, and I doubt if he was so regarded at the time. He filled its pages mostly with games and problems. *The Glasgow Weekly Herald* complained on 7 March 1874 that: 'in a journal solely devoted to chess we are entitled to expect a pretty complete summary of the doings of the chess world generally, and in this respect the *Chronicle* has been lamentably deficient.'

6. The *Chronicle* was not published in 1876, or (alternatively) only two issues were published – *Untrue*. This was not explicitly stated by Whyld in his article, but implied by omission, and the absence of 1876 from the series of Moravian reprints has probably given many people that impression. Some people (including librarians) to whom I mentioned the 1876 issues were quite surprised. Other people thought there were two issues, because that is what was stated in the *Illustrated London News* on

5 August 1876 (volume 69, p. 143) – but the *Illustrated* editor R.B. Wormald was then terminally ill and was either misinformed or made a mistake.

7. The January-April 1877 issues were ‘published from Glasgow, ed. Jenkin?’. *Untrue*. This minor mistake in Whyld’s article, mixing up 1876 and 1877, probably occurred as a result of having sold his late run of the *Chronicle* to Lothar Schmid (as he says in the article) and so not having them available for reference. There was still some Glasgow involvement on the marketing side (Archibald Murray was looking for a commercial publisher), but the editorial role had passed to Rev. Charles Ranken who produced the January 1877 issue in time for Christmas 1876, as a letter dated 28 December from G. B. Fraser to John G. White shows. He complains that his Scotch article (written months ago for Jenkin) appeared in that issue unrevised.

8. Betts (item 7-23 on p. 37) states that W. W. Morgan was publisher from 1877. *Untrue*. Title pages that year do not mention Morgan; he only became involved at the start of 1878, his name appearing for the first time at the foot of the final page of the January issue.

9. *Amusing Misprints*: A detail (noted by John Hilbert in an Internet article years ago) is that during Skipworth’s reign the apostrophe in the title implied a plural: *Players*’, instead of *Player’s* under the other editors. Sergeant’s footnote on page 169 of *Century* appears to note this, but is an exact reversal of the true situation. His proof-reader must have been terrible. The footnote on page 168 says Ranken ‘started the C.P.C. once again in 1867’ and on the facing page it has ‘The magazine did not appear again till January, 1887.’

10. ‘The *Chess Player’s Chronicle* under the editorship of the Rev. C. E. Ranken had come to an end with its issue of September, 1880...’ (Sergeant, *Century*, p. 179) *Wrong*. As anyone with access to the original magazine, or a copy of the Moravian reprint, can verify for themselves, the magazine and Ranken continued for three more months, until the publication of the December 1880 issue.

11. *Very Bad, Badmaster: Diggle*, ‘Periodicals’, p. 634, wrote that the *Chronicle* then ‘lived through a long and peaceful old age from 1868 right up to 1902’ and (p. 635) that it ‘remained, under the steadier direction of Ranken, chiefly assisted by Wayte’. It appears he must have overlooked Ranken’s resignation in 1880 and can hardly have read many of the later issues, as he seems unaware of all the breaks in publication highlighted in our appendix. While it is not impossible that Ranken had some involvement in the later years, that is most unlikely as it was never stated in the magazine or his obituaries. Moreover, he was on the editorial board of *BCM*, so is unlikely to have edited a competitor.

I do not guarantee that this is a complete list of mistakes. So far as Diggle’s article is concerned, he omits several of the magazines that were published in Britain in the nineteenth century; whether he knew about them but chose not to mention them, I cannot say.

Mysteries about the *Chronicle*

1. Was Staunton the overall editor of the original *British Miscellany* (that briefly preceded *The British Miscellany and Chess Player’s Chronicle* in February-April 1841) or only its chess editor? It may be impossible to answer this question unless a source unconnected with the chess world gives a clue. The *Waterloo Directory of English Newspapers and Periodicals 1800-1900* says he was, but its entry clearly includes some confusion with the subsequent chess magazine. I should like some independent proof.

2. Was Brien a boozier or a drug-taker? The downfall of the magazine in 1856 is usually attributed to Brien’s ill-health, possibly of the alcoholic

variety. Charles Tomlinson's memoirs, in *BCM* (November 1891), pp. 489-502, mentioned 'Brien's indulgence in a bad habit'. Sergeant (page p. 94) says Tomlinson meant drinking to excess. Can anyone be certain; is there other evidence?

3. Who exactly edited the 1859-62 series and at what dates? This is very complicated as no editor was named in the issues and accounts vary. Some say the Pole, Adolf Zytogorski was responsible. He definitely seems to have been involved up to May 1861, but perhaps not thereafter. Sergeant was rightly cautious. Diggle stated somewhat vaguely that it was 'under Kolisch, Zytogorski and Kling' but I believe that Kolisch probably only came to London in 1860, may have left before 1862, and was only briefly involved in the *Chronicle*. Does anyone know for sure what the dates of his London sojourn were?

One common factor is certain. The series was 'published by J. H. Starie, Philidorian Chess Rooms, 46, Rathbone Place, Oxford Street'. Löwenthal wrote in his column in the *Era*, on 15 May 1859, that 'it is edited by the amateurs frequenting the rooms, among whom Messrs. Brien, Wormald and Zytogorski are the chief.' Brien was of course the previous editor and may have retained some interest in the title. Wormald was a professional journalist and, like Brien, had been at Oxford University, but several years later. So he too possibly did have some connection, but I should like proof that either was involved in this series. In fact if you read the above sentence closely he is not precisely saying those three were editors, and the statement addressed to him on the inside cover of the May 1859 *Chronicle* that 'there is a regular Editor...' appears to be a denial of what he was implying.

After two years there was a change. On 12 May 1861, Löwenthal wrote: 'We have received the first number of a new series of this well-known publication. It is now edited by Herr Kolisch and M. Zytogorski, and the Problem department is under the direction of Herr Kling.' Yet from June, only Kling's name remained on the cover. So what was really going on?

4. Who edited the magazines for Morgan from 1881 onwards? Who was 'C. C. Weekly'? Fraser named Rev. G. A. MacDonnell in a letter to John G. White dated 5 January 1881, but criticisms of the magazine in MacDonnell's *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, column (especially on 5 March) cast serious doubt on this. Also the editor in 1881-2 was possibly different from the 1883 editor as nothing was said on revival about the correspondence tournament which had featured prominently. Betts's bibliography, which is highly misleading about the later years of the *Chronicle*, names 'C. C. Weekly' as the last editor. Was there such a person? Either that was a misunderstanding by Betts, as publication was sometimes weekly, or else a *nom-de-plume* for the publisher.

5. Who knows anything about the successor to W. W. Morgan, who according to Whyld's article died on 23 June 1893? (And where did he find that information?) Tony Gillam told me Morgan had a son of the same name; who knows more or can produce any documentary proof?

Games from the *Chronicle*

To conclude this article, I include some little-known games. The first two, taken from the *British Miscellany*, for April 1841 are from the end of Labourdonnais' career (he died in December 1840).

George Perigal – Louis Charles Mahé de la Bourdonnais

London Chess Club, 1840

British Miscellany III (April 1841) pp. 256-7; notes by Staunton.

'Brilliant Partie, played a few weeks since, between M. De La Bourdonnais and the Honorary Secretary of the London Chess Club. The former giving the odds of Pawn and two moves.'

Remove Black's pawn from f7; White makes the first two moves.

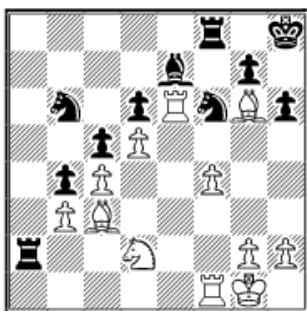
1 e4/d4 e6 2 Bd3

The adversary having no king's bishop's pawn, this move is one of the most attacking that can be made at this point of the opening.

2...c5

This is not an advisable mode of defence against the "pawn and two moves" attack. The first player might have taken a pawn, or played his KP one square, in either case obtaining a strong offensive position.

3 d5 d6 4 c4 Nf6 5 f4 exd5 6 exd5 Be7 7 Nf3 b5 8 b3 Nbd7 9 0-0 Nb6 10 Bb2 a5 11 Nbd2 a4 12 Qe2 0-0 13 Ng5 h6 14 Ne6 Bxe6 15 Qxe6+ Kh8 16 Qf5 Qd7 17 Qg6 Qe8 18 Rae1 Qxg6 19 Bxg6 Ra7 20 Re6 axb3 21 axb3 Ra2 22 Bc3 b4



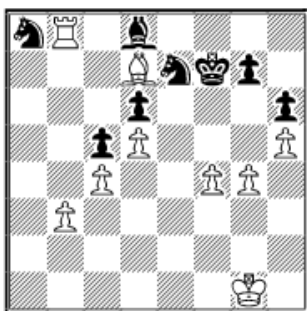
23 Ra1

Boldness indeed! We should have preferred however 23 Bxf6 as safer, and we believe, much better play.

23...bxc3 24 Rxa2 cxd2 25 Rxd2 Nc8 26 Ra2 Nd7 27 Ra8 Ndb6 28 Rb8 Bd8 29 Re8 Rxe8 30 Bxe8 Bc7 31 Rb7 Bd8 32 h4 Kg8

La Bourdonnais appears here to have overlooked the advantage of winning the h-pawn.

33 Bf7+ Kf8 34 Be6 Ne7 35 h5 Ke8 36 g4 Na8 37 Bd7+ Kf7 38 Rb8



38...Bb6??

'Throwing away the game!' wrote Staunton (but it was lost in the end anyway).

39 Be6+ Kf6 40 Rf8# 1-0

Staunton: 'The interest attached to these last relics of La Bourdonnais' skill, is mainly ascribable to the melancholy

circumstances connected with them. As specimens of play, they appear to us, upon examination, to afford but a very imperfect and unsatisfactory notion of the pre-eminent powers of invention and combination, which this distinguished player at one time exhibited. In the game before us, he omits to seize the most obvious advantages, and, even when his opponent had sacrificed a piece, permits the victory within his grasp to be wrenched from him.'

De La Bourdonnais – Marmaduke Wyvill

London Chess Club, December 1840

Staunton, British Miscellany III April 1841, p. 286.

Staunton: 'The following was the last game De a Bourdonnais ever played, giving the odds of a rook. His opponent on this occasion was a very promising player in the London Chess Club.'

TH: Black is called just 'Mr W', but according to Levy & O'Connell (eds.), *The Oxford Encyclopaedia of Chess Games* (which has the reference OECG 183?-*BW-1) the opponent was Wyvill, later an MP who played successfully in the 1851 tournament. The finish they give is

somewhat different.

Remove White's rook from a1.

1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Bc4 Qh4+ 4 Kf1 g5 5 Nc3 Bg7 6 d4 d6 7 Nf3 Qh5 8 Nd5 Kd8 9 h4 c6 10 Nc3 h6 11 Kf2 Bg4 12 hxg5 Bxf3 13 gxf3 Qxg5 14 Ne2 Nd7 15 Bxf4 Qf6 16 Be3 Kc7 17 f4 Ne7 18 Ng3



18...Rad8?

TH: Loses some of the surplus material, but Black should still win. 18...d5 is best.

19 Nh5 Qg6 20 Rg1 Qxe4 21 Rxc7 Nf5 22 Rg3 Nxc3 23 Nxc3 Qe7 24 d5 Rde8 25 Nf5 Qe4 26 dxc6 bxc6

26...Qxf5 looks wiser.

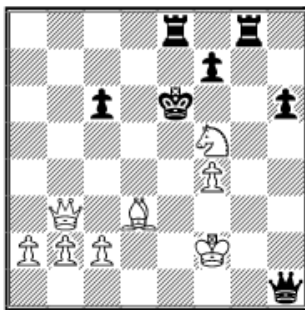
27 Qxd6+ Kd8 28 Bd3 Qh1 29 Qb4 Rhg8?

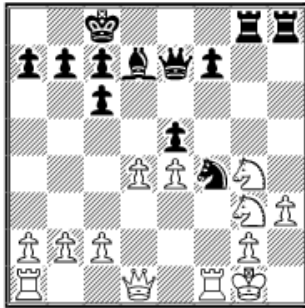
TH: Now the game should be drawn. Black could retain some winning chances by returning one of his two exchanges: 29...Qh2+ 30 Kf3 Qh3+ 31 Kf2 Rxe3 32 Qa5+ Ke8 33 Nxe3 Qh2+ 34 Kf3 Rg8.

30 Qa5+ Nb6 31 Bxb6+ axb6 32 Qxb6+ Kd7 33 Qb7+ Ke6

OECG gives the finish as 33...Kd8 34 Qb8+ Kd7 35 Qd6+ Kc8 36 Ba6#, stating their source as George Walker's Chess Studies.

34 Qb3+





Good enough to win eventually, but far too mundane. 17...Nxb3+ 18 gxb3 Rxb3 wins at once. 17...Qh4!? is also strong.

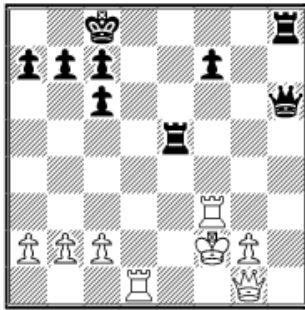
18 hxc4 Qh4 19 Rxf4

If 19 Nf5 Qh2+ 20 Kf2 Qxc2+ 21 Ke3 Rxc4.

19...Qxc3!

Elegant; 19...exf4 is also good, though.

20 Rf3 Qh2+ 21 Kf2 Rxc4 22 Qg1 Qh6 23 Rd1 Rxe4 24 dxe5 Rxe5



25 Kf1

25 Rd4 is slightly better, but 25...Qg6 26 Qd1 Rg5 should win.

25...Rhe8 26 Rf2?

26 Rh3 holds on a bit longer, but 26...Rf5 + 27 Rf3 Qh5 is strong.

26...Qd6! 27 Rb1 Qb4 0-1

The year after Jenkin's failure with the magazine he came back strongly as a player and won the Counties Chess Association First Class (effectively a British Amateur Championship) at Birmingham. In the main tournament he had an easy win against Bernard Fisher, who missed his chance at the critical moment.

John Jenkin – B. W. Fisher

Birmingham, 1877

French Defence [C01]

CPC 1877 p. 226

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 exd5 4 Nf3 Nc6 5 Bd3 Bd6 6 Nc3 Nf6 7 0-0 Bg4?!

The magazine says he should have castled, or at least at the next move had interposed the bishop.

8 Re1+ Ne7?! 9 Bg5 c6 10 Bxf6 gxf6 11 h3 Bh5 12 g4?!

Not criticised in *CPC*, but clearly this is an unnecessary weakening move.

12...Bg6 13 Nh4 Kf8

13...Qc7 looks more dangerous.

14 Qd2 h5!?

Criticised in *CPC* but probably best.

15 Bxg6



Capturing on g6 with the knight was probably the lesser evil. Now Black has a great opportunity for counter-attack.

15...Nxc6

The *Chronicle* said not 15...fxg6?!



because of 16 Rxe7!?, but it is not so clear after 16...Kxe7 17 Nxg6+ Kd7 18 Nxh8 Qxh8; therefore 16 g5! should give White some advantage.

The best move, however, was not mentioned in the *Chronicle*: 15...hxg4! 16 Bf5 Rxh4 (16...gxh3 is less clear after 17 Rxe7.) 17 Bxg4 f5 with complications favouring Black.

16 Nf5 hxg4 17 hxg4 Nf4?

Exchanging knights by 17...Nh4 18 Nxh4 Rxh4 was recommended in *CPC*, followed by ...Kg7; 17...Qd7!? is also possible.

18 Ne2

Now White has the edge again.

18...Qc7??

Fatal, as *CPC* says. It suggested 18...Ng6 and 18...Ne6 was also possible to close the e-file.

19 Nxf4 Bxf4 20 Qb4+ Kg8 21 Re7 Bh2+ 22 Kf1 Qf4 23 Rxf7 Rh4 24 Qxb7 Rb8 1–0

After finishing in a tie with Wayte, Jenkin played the following game in the play-off, which he was rather lucky to win. Here the magazine borrowed Steinitz's notes.

John Jenkin – Rev. William Wayte

Counties Chess Association First Class play-off Birmingham, 1877

Spanish [C79]

CPC 1877 pp. 248-9 from *The Field*, 1 Sept. 1877, p. 253.

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0–0 d6 6 d3 Bd7 7 c3 g6 8 h3 Bg7 9 Nh2 0–0 10 Be3

White's play at this stage is slow and tentative.

10...Ne7 11 Bb3 Bc6 12 f4 exf4 13 Bxf4 d5 14 Bg5 Qd6 15 Bf4 Qd7 16 e5 Nh5 17 d4 Nxf4 18 Rxf4 f6 19 exf6 Rxf6

19...Bxf6 was superior, wrote Steinitz.

20 Rxf6 Bxf6 21 Nd2 Rf8 22 Ndf3 Qd6 23 Ng4 Bg7 24 Qe2 Bb5 25 Qd2 Bd7 26 Nge5 Bc8 27 Re1 c6 28 Qe2 Kh8



Steinitz observed that, with the ending approaching, the king should have been kept closer to the centre. He recommended 28...b5.

29 Ng5 Bxe5 30 Qxe5+ Qxe5 31 Rxe5 Nf5 32 g4 Nd6 33 Re7 h6 34 Rh7+ Kg8 35 Rxh6 Kg7 36 Rh4

Steinitz considered Black had sufficient play for the pawn. Not 36 Rh7+ Kf6 37

h4 Bxg4.

36...Rf4 37 Kg2 Kf6 38 Nh7+ Kg7 39 Kg3 Re4 40 Ng5 Re2 41 Kf4 Rxb2 42 Ke5 Ne8 43 Rh7+ Kg8 44 Kf4

44 c4 would have been stronger; Black now stops it.

44...Rd2 45 Re7

If 45 c4, Steinitz suggested the exchange sacrifice for three pawns: 45... Rxd4+ 46 Ke5 Rxc4!?.

Instead perhaps best is 45 Ke3 followed by c3-c4 with good chances of winning thanks to White's active pieces.

45...Kf8 46 Re3 Rf2+ 47 Nf3 Nd6 48 h4 Ne4 49 c4 dxc4 50 Bxc4

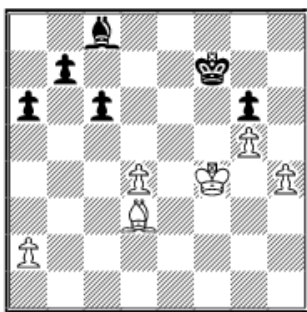
50 Rxe4 cxb3 51 axb3 might be stronger, but is not mentioned in the contemporary notes.

50...Nd2 51 Bd3?! Rxf3+?

'Too early. As the piece was already fixed, and he was sure of effecting the desired exchange, he might first have played 51...g5+ with the view of holding the king back after the exchange, or else 51...Kf7.'

Maybe 51...Be6 is best, though.

52 Rxf3 Nxf3 53 Kxf3 Kg7 54 Kf4 Kf6 55 g5+ Kf7



56 Bc4+?

56 Ke5 would give good winning chances.

56...Kf8?

As Steinitz wrote, White's last move was a loss of time, and Black might have now taken advantage of it to secure a draw at least, by interposing the B. After

56...Be6 57 Bxe6+ Kxe6, White must find his only move 58 Kg4, after which it's a draw with correct play: 58...Kf7 (or 58...b5 59 h5 gxh5+ 60 Kxh5 Kf7 61 Kh6 Kg8 62 Kg6 a5 etc) 59 h5 gxh5+ 60 Kxh5 Kg7 61 Kg4 b5 62 Kf4 a5 63 Ke5 b4 64 d5 cxd5 65 Kxd5 a4 forcing a total liquidation.

57 Bd3 Kf7 58 Ke5 Bg4 59 Kd6 Bf3 60 Kc7 a5 61 Kb6 a4 62 a3 Bd5 63 Bc2 Bb3 64 Be4

'The last part of the ending is well played by White, who now wins easily.'

64...Bd5 65 Bxd5+ cxd5 66 Kxb7 Ke6 67 Kc6 1-0

To finish, here is a game by Staunton, from 1841, at his favourite odds of pawn and two moves. This is one of several games published in the magazine, not all won by Staunton, against a 'Mr B---N'. Was this J. Brown, as stated in the OECG? If so, which Brown, and what is the evidence? It cannot have been the J. Brown known as the problemist 'J. B. of Bridport' since at this date he was only thirteen or fourteen years old. Perhaps it was the Norfolk clergyman, and pioneering problem composer, Rev. Horatio Bolton? It is known they played a correspondence match of which the result was never published. While this game could be from that, it is more likely that the game was played over the board since odds were rarely offered in correspondence games. It is also possible that somebody else matching the partial name below, not Brown or Bolton, could have been the opponent.

J. Brown or Rev. Horatio Bolton (?) – Howard Staunton
CPC ii pp. 97-8

'Game CLXXXI... between Messrs B---n and St---n; the latter giving the Pawn and two moves.'

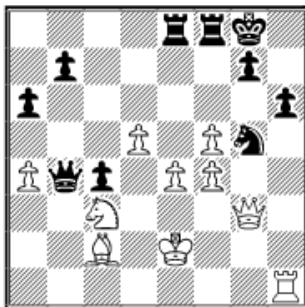
1 e4/d4 e6 2 Bd3 c5 3 d5 d6 4 c4 exd5 5 cxd5 Nf6 6 Nc3 Bg4 7 f3 Bh5 8
g4 Bf7 9 Bf4 a6 10 a4 Be7 11 Nge2 0-0 12 Qd2 Nbd7 13 Ng3 Bg6 14
Nf5 Ne8 15 Ke2 Ne5 16 Bxe5 dxe5 17 h4



Black might have gained the rook's pawn by taking the knight, but in doing so at this point he would have strengthened the enemy's position.

18 h5 would have been better play.

18...Rc8 19 Bc2 Bxf5 20 gxf5 Bxh4 21 Rag1 Nf7 22 Rg4 Bg5 23 Qe1
h6 24 Qg3 c4 25 b4 Qb6 26 Rxc5 Nxc5 27 Qxe5 Rce8 28 Qg3 Qxb4 29
f4



This move was certainly stronger than playing the knight.

'After a few moves White abandoned the game'.

There are a few areas where readers with access to other libraries' holdings of Victorian periodicals may be able to help with some of these queries. In particular:

1. The February and March 1841 issues of the original *British Miscellany* are not available at the British Library, which only has Part 3 for April 1841. Does anybody know where the earlier issues may be? If so, copies of the chess content would be most welcome. Also, do they give any indication of the editor? Also, literary contributors to it included Mrs. Gore, Agnes Strickland, Major Calder Campbell, Leigh Hunt. If anybody reading this is an expert on their careers, maybe they can throw some light on this matter.
2. Can anybody find out more about the Staunton vs. Bolton (or Brown) games?
3. In many cases, bound volumes (including most volumes available through Google Books and Moravian) lack the covers, which include sometimes interesting extra information, such as chess club lists, 'answers to correspondents', announcements and advertisements. So anybody who has access to such volumes (or loose issues) covering 1859-62 may be able to throw some light on issues, though this is by no means certain.
4. Does anybody know what Brien did, when not playing chess? If he is known from other contexts, that could throw light on the mysteries surrounding him in 1856-62. (There is some information in *Sergeant's Century*, but I never accept what he writes without confirmation, and anyway he is none too helpful about this.)
5. What more can be discovered about the Morgans? Did they edit the

later series of the *Chronicle* themselves or was somebody else involved?

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