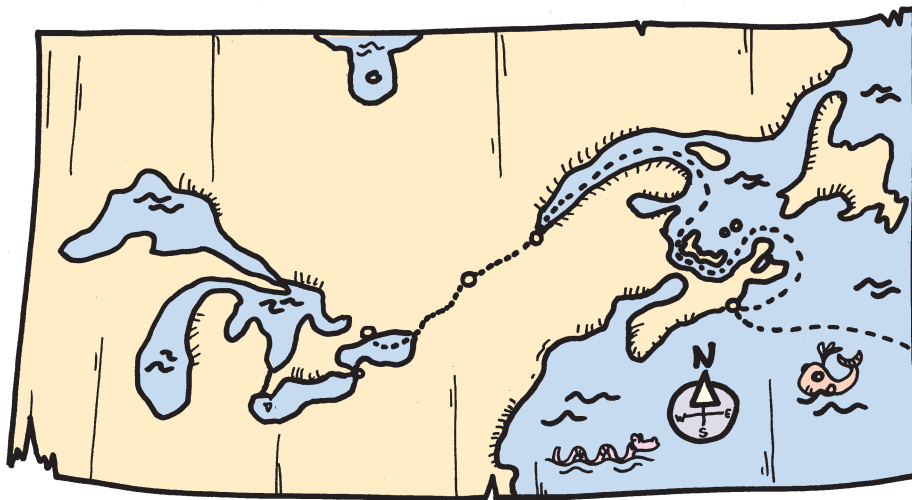# THE PUZZLING SIDE OF CHESS

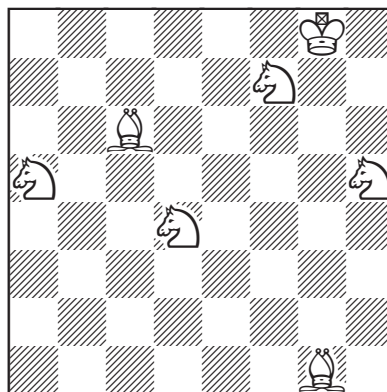## Jeff Coakley

SEASON 6
number 201

Weathering the Storm
July 27, 2021

As life returns to something like normal, the *Puzzling Side of Chess* optimistically sets sail on a new season with smorgasbord XXXII.


Triple Loyd 86

Place the black king on the board so that:

- A. Black is in checkmate.
- B. Black is in stalemate.
- C. White has mate in 1.

Season 6

For the time being, columns will be posted near the end of each month. The format will revert to the style of season 1: usually three problems per column, with a few drawings and not much text. Proof games and rebuses will be a regular feature.

Longer Proof Game 86   (5.0 moves)
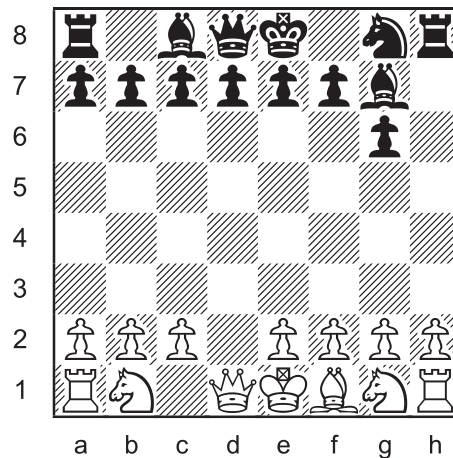
This position was reached in a game
after each player made exactly five moves.
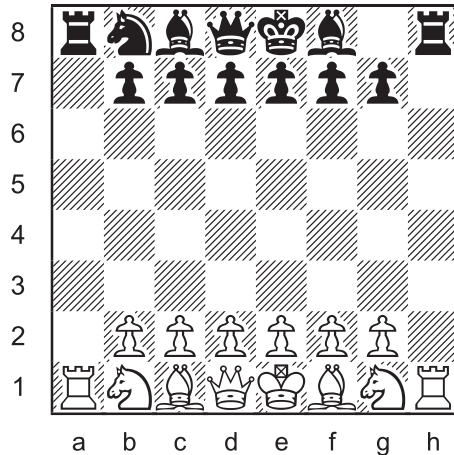What were the moves?

HMS Puzzling Side   *Launch Party*

"All proofs rest on premises."

Aristotle (384-322 BC)

The premise in these puzzles is that the position is legal, that it could be reached in a normal game following the standard rules of play.

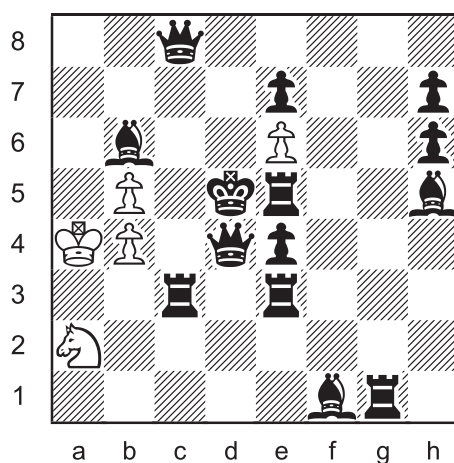### Longer Proof Game 87   (6.0 moves)

This position was reached in a game
after each player made exactly six moves.
What were the moves?

North

Multi-Wham 51

series-mate in 27

White plays twenty-seven moves
in a row to mate Black.

Only the last move may give check. Captures are allowed. White may not place their own king in check. Black does not get a turn.
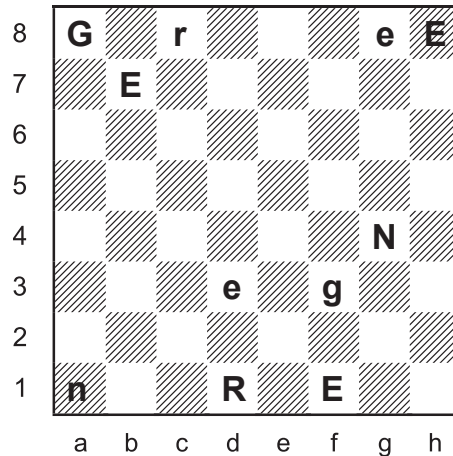

St. Peters Lake: goose haven

For a trove of trivia on Canadian geese, see column 159. To search for anything else in past columns, including problem types, themes, and composers, check out the index on the archive page.

Do you like green eggs and ham? Would you like them in a puzzle?
Would you like them with a muzzle?

Rebus 68

"green egg"

Each letter represents a different type of piece.
Uppercase is one colour, lowercase is the other.
Determine the position and, if possible, the last move.

When the ocean stands still.

Our final puzzle is a special kind of rebus called a "multicoder". Each letter represents one type of piece. But the same type of piece can be represented by more than one letter. Maybe N and S are both knights.
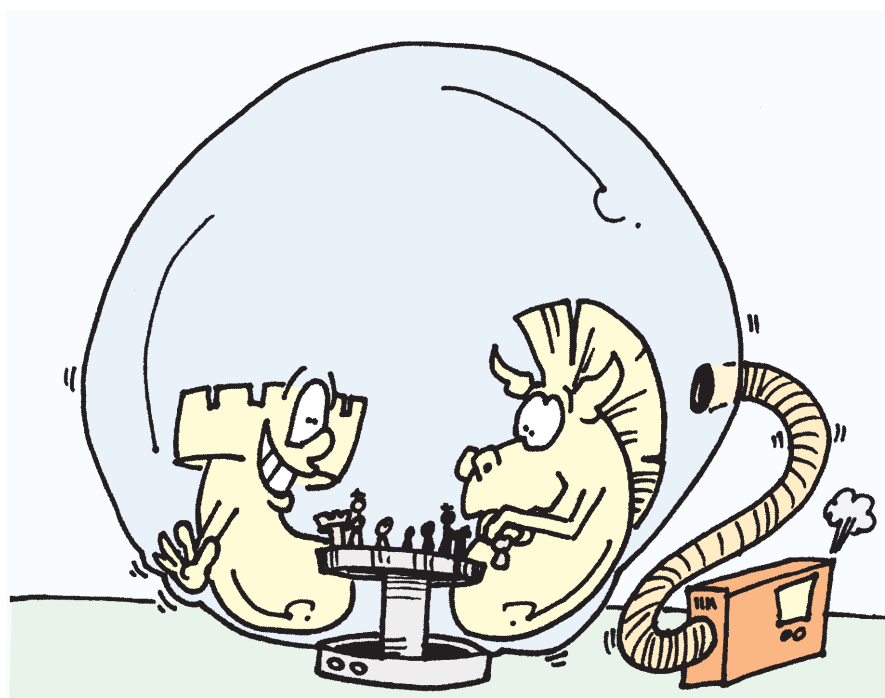
Rebus 69

"How It Unscrambled"

Multicoded Rebus

Each letter represents a type of piece.
Uppercase is one colour, lowercase is the other.
Different letters can encode the same type of piece.
For example, perhaps R, T, and L are all rooks.
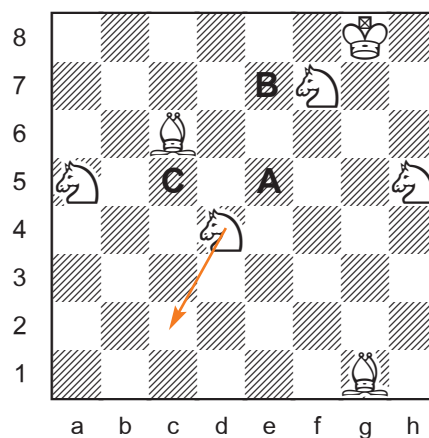Determine the position and the last move.

Life in a Bubble

SOLUTIONS

PDF hyperlinks. You can advance to the solution of any puzzle by clicking on the underlined title above the diagram. To return to the puzzle, click on the title above the solution diagram.

Archives. Past columns are available in the *Puzzling Side* archives.
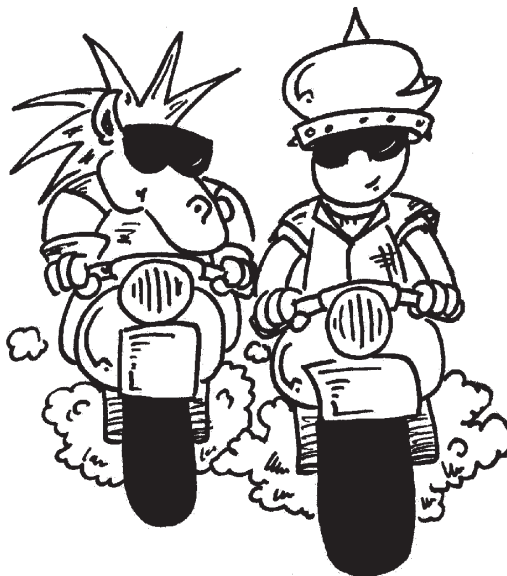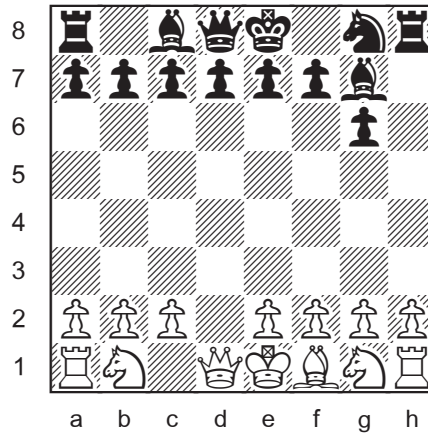
Triple Loyd 86

A. Ke5#
B. Ke7 =
C. Kc5 (Nc2#)

Minor piece of mind.

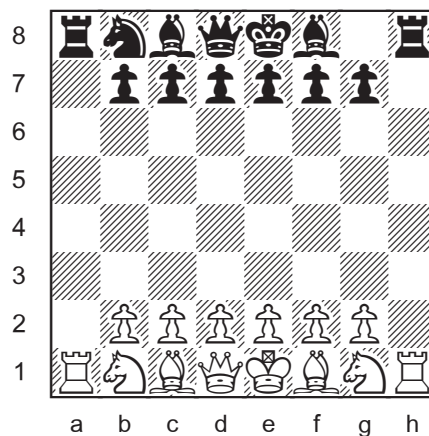## Longer Proof Game 86   (5.0 moves)

1.d4 h6 2.Bxh6 Nc6 3.Be3 Nxd4 4.Bxd4 g6 5.Bg7 Bxg7

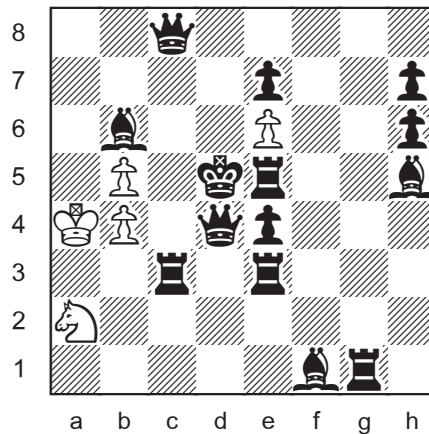Roundabout B.

Longer Proof Game 87   (6.0 moves)

1.h4 Nf6 2.h5 Nxh5 3.Rxh5 a5 4.Rxa5 h5 5.Rxh5 Rxa2 6.Rh1 Ra8

Open rook files and a missing knight.

Multi-Wham 51

series-mate in 27

In order to mate, White must promote a pawn. The white knight cannot capture the blockaders on b6 or e7 because he would give check on those squares. So it's up to the white king to free a pawn. However, his path around the board is seriously hindered by black rooks. For the king to reach e7, the white knight must assist by building four bridges and capturing three pieces.
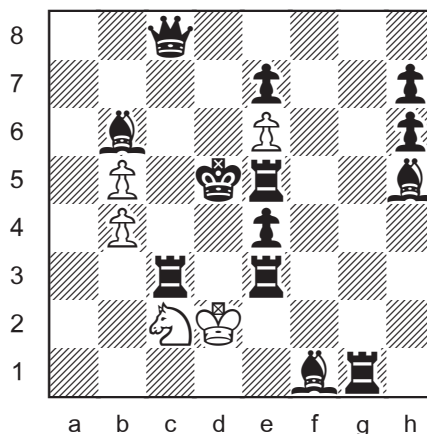
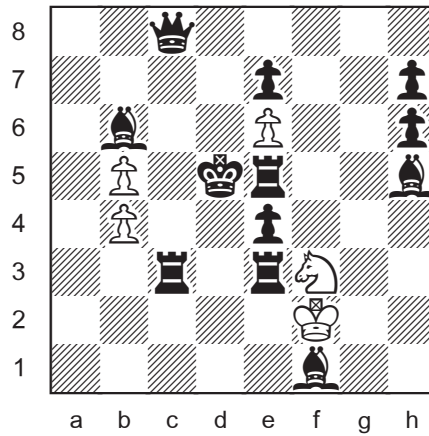|	
1.Nc1 2.Nb3	Bridge 1, crossing the 3rd rank.
3.Ka3 4.Kb2 5.Nxd4	Eliminating the guard of d2.
6.Nc2	Bridge 2, across the c-file.
7.Kc1 8.Kd2	

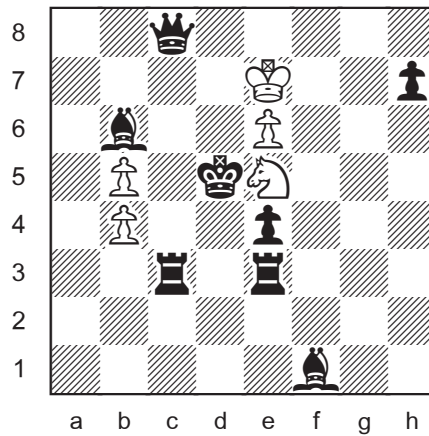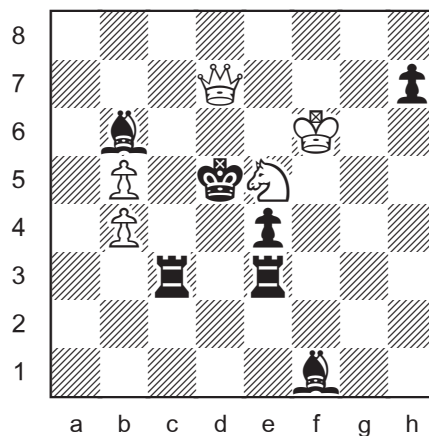|	
9.Nd4 10.Ne2	Bridge 3, spanning the e-file.
11.Ke1 12.Kf2 13.Nxg1	Destroying the g-file defender.
14.Nf3	Bridge 4, back across the 3rd rank.

15.Kg3 16.Kh4 17.Nxe5	Unprotecting the bishop on h5.
18.Kxh5 19.Kxh6	Clearing his own way forward.
20.Kg7 21.Kf7 22.Kxe7	Mission accomplished.

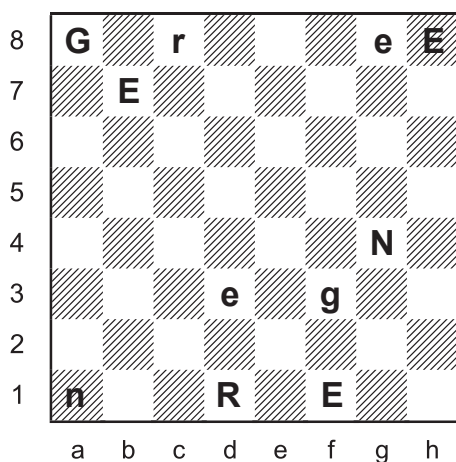| 23.Kf6 | Protecting the knight. |
| 24.e7 25.e8=Q | Crowning her majesty. |
| 26.Qxc8 27.Qd7# | |

Rebus 68

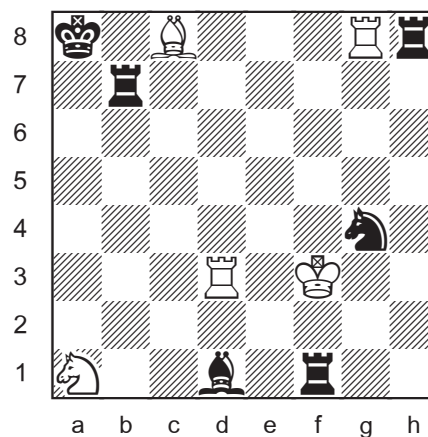Andrey Frolkin & Jeff Coakley 2021
Puzzling Side of Chess
"green egg"

(left diagram: letters on board)	G = king R = bishop E = rook N = knight caps = black last move: 1...e2xf1=R++	*(right diagram, chess position)*

(5 + 6)

♟ = Ø   There are no pawns. All letters appear on 1st or 8th rank.

♔ = (GRN)   Letters with one uppercase, one lowercase.

Each of the three king candidates (GRN) is attacked by each of the other three letters along a diagonal <u>and</u> along a rank or file.

♕ = Ø   There are no queens. If any letter is queen, there will be two queen checks, regardless of king assignment. Either both kings in check or an impossible double check.

GREN = (♔♖♗♘)

Regardless of which letter is king, there will be <u>two checks</u>: one by a rook and one by a bishop. The only piece assignment that allows a legal double check is the following.

G = ♔
R = ♗
E = ♖
N = ♘

last move: **1...e2xf1=R++**

The type of piece captured is indeducible.

caps = black

"Thank you, Sam-I-Am. I do like green eggs and ham."
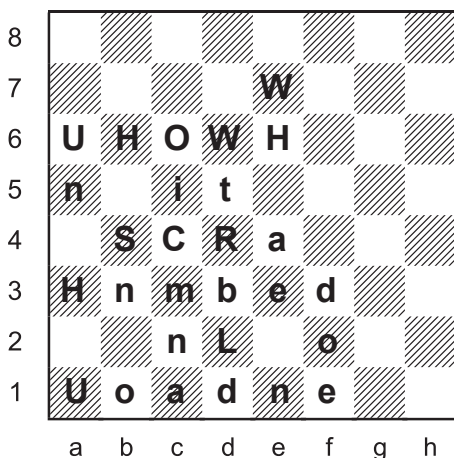
Dr. Seuss (Theodor Seuss Geisel)

Rebus 69

Andrey Frolkin & Jeff Coakley 2021
Puzzling Side of Chess
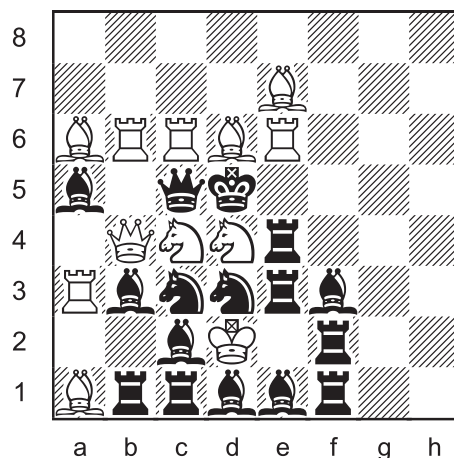*repair of* Frolkin-Coakley 2019
ChessProblems.ca Bulletin 16

"How It Unscrambled"

Left grid (letters): row 7: W (at e7) row 6: U H O W H row 5: n · i · t row 4: · S C R a row 3: H n m b e d row 2: · · n L · o row 1: U o a d n e	LT = king IS = queen AEHO = rook BCMR = knight DNUW = bishop caps = black last move: 1...e2-e1=B#

(12 + 16)

♙ ≠ (ADENOU)   On 1st rank.

No letters have one uppercase, one lowercase.

There are 8 *singletons* (SCRL)(itmb). Two of them are kings.

CR ≠ ♔   All lowercase king candidates are adjacent to C and R.

S ≠ ♔   If S = ♔

    N ≠ ♘   Impossible check (c2+).

    N ≠ ♕♗   Impossible check (a5+)

    N = ♖   Check (b3+). This check could only happen
             by a <u>capture</u> on b3. That leaves <u>three</u> other
             missing pieces to explain the history of pawns.

There are no pawns on the gh files, which required at least <u>one</u> capture. There are no lowercase pawns on the ef files, which required at least <u>one</u> capture. There are no pawns on the a-file, which required at least <u>one</u> capture.

That exhausts the missing material. So no captures were made on or from the cd files. This is only possible if the c-and d- pawns are both still on the board, with the white pawns "below" the black.

The candidate pawns on the c-file are C (c4), m(c3), i(c5). If C is a white pawn, then I cannot be a black pawn because of an impossible double check (b3+ c5+). If C is a black pawn, then M cannot be a white pawn because of an impossible double check (b3+ c3+). So at least one pawn has left the c-file, which is impossible without a capture.

L = ♔   Only remaining uppercase singleton.

N ≠ ♘   Impossible check (b3+).

N ≠ ♕   Impossible double check (c2+ e1+).

N = (♖♗)   <u>Check</u> (Rc2+ or Be1+).

A ≠ ♘   Impossible double check (e4+).

A ≠ ♕♗   Impossible double check (c1+).

A = ♖

E ≠ ♘   Impossible double check (f1+).

E ≠ ♕♗   Impossible double check (e3+).

E = ♖

D ≠ ♘   Impossible double check (f3+).

D ≠ ♕♖   Impossible double check (d1+).

D = ♗

MB ≠ ♔   Adjacent to L.

♔ = (IT)

O ≠ ♘   Impossible double check (b1+).

O ≠ ♕   Both kings in check (c6+).

O = (♖♗)

Lowercase pieces: 4 rooks (aaee)
                          2 bishops (dd)
                          6 rooks or bishops (nnnnoo)

A total of 12 lowercase rooks and bishops requires <u>8 promotions</u>. Several important deductions can be made from this fact.

N ≠ ♖   A minimum of 4 captures are required for one side to promote all of their pawns. If N = ♖, the last move (check) was a capture on c2. That would leave only 3 missing pieces available for capture elsewhere, making 8 lowercase promotions impossible.

N = ♗   <u>Check</u> (e1+).

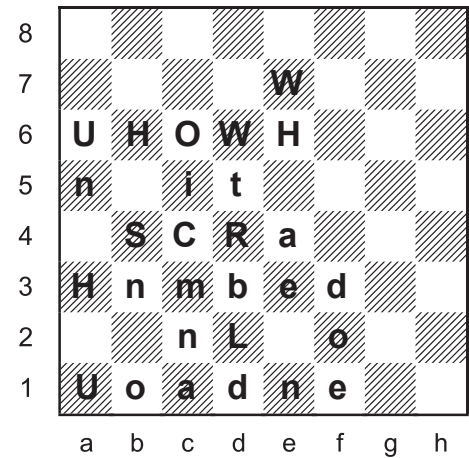last move   1...e2-e1=B#   Only way to explain the bishop check.

caps = white

There are 16 lowercase pieces, so the queen and both knights are on the board.

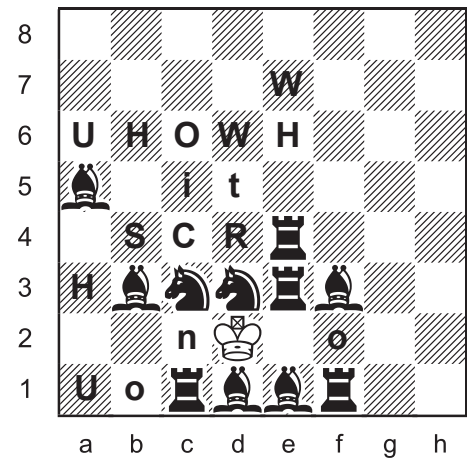MB ≠ ♕   Impossible double check (c3+ or d3+).

M = ♘

B = ♘

IT = (♔♕)

Finally the diagram can be updated.

The 4 missing white pieces must all be pawns to account for the 8 black promotions. Each 'pawn x pawn' capture can create 2 *pro-passers* for Black.

Therefore <u>all white officers are on the board</u>. This fact simplifies the task of assigning pieces to uppercase letters.

I ≠ ♔	If I = ♔	
	H ≠ ♕♗	Both kings in check (b6+).
	W ≠ ♕♗	Both kings in check (d6+).
	SCR ≠ ♕	Both kings in check (b4+, c4+, or d4+).
	U = ♕	White must have a queen on board.
	RS ≠ ♗	Both kings in check (d4+ or b4+).
	CO ≠ ♗	Impossible to assign a dark-square bishop to any uppercase letter. The squares c6 (O) and c4 (C) are light.

T = ♔

I = ♕

O ≠ ♗	Both kings in check (c6+).
O = ♖	Double check and mate (e1+ f2+).
C ≠ ♕♗	Both kings in check (c4+).
H ≠ ♕♗	Both kings in check (e6+).
U = ♗	Only option for a light-square bishop. The other remaining letters are on dark squares.

Rebus 69 *continued*

|	
R ≠ ♕	Both kings in check (d4+).
W ≠ ♕♖	Both kings in check (d6+).
S = ♕	Only option for the queen.
H ≠ ♘	Both kings in check (b6+).
W ≠ ♘	Both kings in check (e7+).
C = ♘	
R = ♘	C and R are the only options for the two white knights.
W ≠ ♙	If W = ♙ An extra capture is required because of inverted pawns on the e-file: white e7 and black e2 (before the last move).
W = ♗	
H = ♖	White must have at least two rooks. Only one was assigned so far (O).

How it unscrambled.
Sixteen letters multicode five types of pieces.
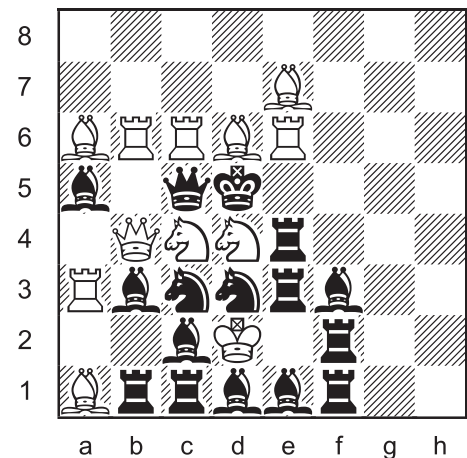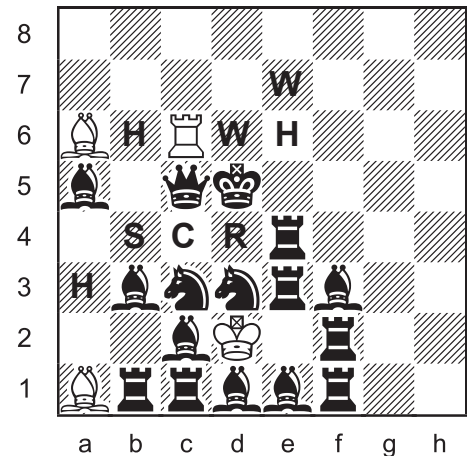
In the original version of this problem, the W on e7 was on f6 and the letter on a3 was U instead of H. In that case, the solved position with a bishop on a3 was illegal because of the bishop ratio. The promoted pieces included 3 white dark-square bishops and 3 black light-square bishops, which was impossible. Thanks to the mysterious "Kato Tefu" for pointing out the well-concealed cook.

Until next time!