

C H E S S .

THE NOTATION.

To the uninitiated the columns of capital letters and figures in the answer to a chess problem, or the larger ones of a chess game, have a mysterious and very difficult appearance. It is hoped that after the following lucid though dry-looking explanation from the *Champion Hand-book of Chess*, every reader of this page will understand the notation fully. If he does not understand it at the first reading he should go over it again, for unless it is mastered, he may throw aside all hopes of attaining any proficiency in the higher branches of Chess, or be able to follow the simplest written games.

In the English system of notation, the various squares of the board take their denomination from the several pieces, as follows :—The square occupied by the King at the commencement of the game is called the King's square ; the square immediately in front of the King is called the King's "second square ;" the one in front of that the King's "third square ;" and so on, until his *eighth* square is reached at the further extremity of the board. Similarly the square originally occupied by the Queen is termed the Queen's square ; the square immediately in front of the Queen, Queen's "second ;" and so on, to Queen's eighth. Again, the pieces on the King's side are designated the King's pieces : thus we have the King's Bishop, King's Knight, and King's Rook—so called in contradistinction to the three pieces on the Queen's side, viz., the Queen's Bishop, Queen's Knight, and Queen's Rook, which, in turn, give their names to the squares they occupy, and those in front of them—*e.g.*, the square on which the King's Bishop stands is the King's Bishop's square ; the one immediately in front of it, King's Bishop's second, &c. Similarly we have King's Knight's square, King's Knight's second, King's Knight's third ;—King's Rook's

square, King's Rook's second, King's Rook's third ; and on the other side, Queen's Bishop's square, Queen's Bishop's second, third, fourth, fifth, &c. ;—Queen's Knight's square, Queen's Knight's second, third, fourth, fifth, &c. The Pawns are similarly described, each Pawn bearing the name of the piece on whose file it stands ; thus, the Pawn in front of the King is called the King's Pawn, the one in front of the King's Bishop, the King's Bishop's Pawn ; that in front of the Queen's Knight, the Queen's Knight's Pawn and so on. There is, however, one striking anomaly in the English system of notation to which it is necessary to call the student's attention, as it is often extremely embarrassing to the beginner. As each of the two players reckons the squares from his own side, it follows that each square bears two distinct denominations, varying with the end of the board from which it is viewed. Thus White King's eighth is Black King's square ; White King's seventh is Black King's second ; White King's sixth is Black King's third, &c., and *vice versa*. In the other files, each square similarly has two different denominations, as will be seen at a glance from the accompanying diagram :—

FROM BLACK'S SIDE.							
Q. R. 8.	Q. Kt. 8.	Q. B. 8.	Q. 8.	K. 8.	K. B. 8.	K. Kt. 8.	K. R. 8.
Q. R. 7.	Q. Kt. 7.	Q. B. 7.	Q. 7.	K. 7.	K. B. 7.	K. Kt. 7.	K. R. 7.
Q. R. 6.	Q. Kt. 6.	Q. B. 6.	Q. 6.	K. 6.	K. B. 6.	K. Kt. 6.	K. R. 6.
Q. R. 5.	Q. Kt. 5.	Q. B. 5.	Q. 5.	K. 5.	K. B. 5.	K. Kt. 5.	K. R. 5.
Q. R. 4.	Q. Kt. 4.	Q. B. 4.	Q. 4.	K. 4.	K. B. 4.	K. Kt. 4.	K. R. 4.
Q. R. 3.	Q. Kt. 3.	Q. B. 3.	Q. 3.	K. 3.	K. B. 3.	K. Kt. 3.	K. R. 3.
Q. R. 2.	Q. Kt. 2.	Q. B. 2.	Q. 2.	K. 2.	K. B. 2.	K. Kt. 2.	K. R. 2.
Q. R. 1.	Q. Kt. 1.	Q. B. 1.	Q. 1.	K. 1.	K. B. 1.	K. Kt. 1.	K. R. 1.
Q. R. 8.	Q. Kt. 8.	Q. B. 8.	Q. 8.	K. 8.	K. B. 8.	K. Kt. 8.	K. R. 8.

FROM WHITE'S SIDE.