

would be P to K 4th, when judge of my amazement to see his hand hovering over the King's rook, and suddenly taking hold of the *King's Knight's Pawn*, deliberately played—

2. P to Kt 4th ! !

and all the while most seriously intent on the position. I of course immediately played—

3. Q to K R 5, saying "checkmate."

My visitor did not take his eyes from the board for a minute and looking up said :

"Ah, yes—I see—quite overlooked ; fact is I was trying a new style of variation to our somewhat unpopular King's gambit—the King's Knight's Pawn defence to the King's gambit—am almost positive it would have been a success had it not been for this checkmate."

"Yes," I replied, humoring the absurdity of my visitor's reasoning ; "it might have proved very strong eventually had it not been for this unforeseen catastrophe, which certainly is a bar to the nature of this opening."

My visitor smiled sententiously. "Oh," said he, "pray don't take me for a mere tyro, in allowing this fool's mate ; pardon me, but I was merely 'trying it on' with you. This is no sample of my play—come, let us try another."

"At what odds ?" I asked.

"Odds ! nonsense, you can't give me odds ; it is a presumption, sir, for any chess player to offer odds to another."

"No, it certainly is not a presumption, after such a simplicity in chess. You really must allow me to give some odds ; shall it be a rook ?"

"A rook ! absurdity !"

"A Knight ?"

"A Knight !—no sir—my dignity will not allow it."

"Well, then, it must be at least Pawn and two moves."

"Agreed," cried my visitor.

"We re-set the men, my visitor playing first—

WHITE (myself) BLACK (my visitor)
remove White's K B P.

1. ———

1. P to K 4.

2. ———

2. P to Q 4.

He played his two first and legitimate moves for the opening quite readily—evidently understanding the opening of the game much better than the last. I replied.

3. P to Q 3, and the game continued thus :

3. K B to Q 3.

4. P to K 4.

4. P takes P.

5. P takes P.

The moment I played this last move I saw the fearful check with Black's Queen ; but I fortified myself with the hope that either he might not see it, or if he did, I could easily stand the fire of such a marksman ; but I underrated my opponent. He did see the check, and very soon I found my position terribly exposed and very critical.

5. Q to R 5 (ch) .

6. K to Q 2. A pretty position for the King to be in at the sixth move ! I was actually stifling with mortification at my own carelessness.

6. Q takes Kings P.

7. Q to Q 4 (ch).

7. K Kt to B 3.

8. K B to Q 3.

I was determined to bring out my pieces at all hazards.

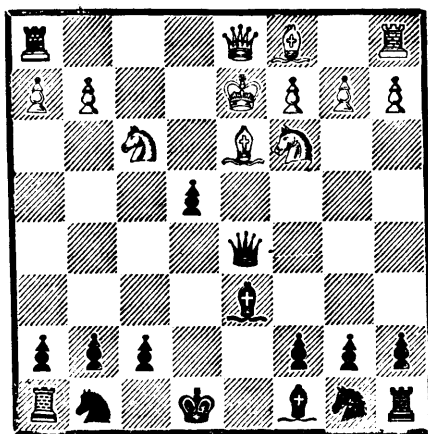
8. P to K 5.

Black's eighth move was just as anticipated, but I was prepared in this fashion—

9. Q. Kt. to B. 3.

How happy I felt that my Queen's Knight had made her *debut* on the checkered stage, though it was rather amidst red fire and thunder. The position now stood

WHITE.



BLACK.

and the game now went on thus :

9. K. B. to B. 5 (ch.)

10. K. to K. sq.

10. Q. to K. 3.

11. K. B takes K. P.

11. K. B takes B.

12. R. takes B.

I certainly now breathed freer, but my position was still teeming with danger. I looked forward tremblingly to the impulsive march of Black's King's Bishop's Pawn. Had he done so, my counter attack of King's Knight to Q 4th or K.