

strongest player who ever lived was Paul Morphy, the American. He was born in 1837 at New Orleans, began to play at the age of ten, could contend with success against masters at twelve, and, when not quite thirteen, played three games with Loewenthal, one of the greatest experts of the time, winning 3 and drawing 1. He played in Europe in 1858, and carried all before him, returning to America in 1859, when his interest in the game gradually ceased, so that after 1866 he totally abandoned it and never played afterwards.

In Phillidor's time it was considered an almost incredible wonder that he should be able to play three simultaneous games without sight of board or men, but Paulsen, Blackburne, Zukertort and others have often played 10 or 12 simultaneous blindfold games, while even so many as 14 and 15 have been so played.

It is interesting to note that the first book printed in England by Caxton was *The Game and Playe of the Chess* (1474).

A Visit to Winchester College.

Two summer ago, on my way from London to the Isle of Wight, I visited Winchester, and the ACTA committee has asked me to write some account of the College.

There are many interesting things to be seen in the city of Winchester. Among others there are the massive cathedral, with its tombs of the ancient Saxon kings, and St. Stephen's Hall, which contains King Arthur's "Round Table." But the most interesting, I think, to a school-boy at any rate, is Winchester College.

It was founded in 1393 by William of Wykeham, the great Bishop of Winchester, as the College of St. Mary's, and is in many respects the same as it was in his time.

The College is entered directly from the street by a fine old gateway which takes one directly into the first courtyard, in which there is nothing of particular interest except that over the gate leading from it to the chamber or inner court there stands a statue of the Virgin Mary, to whom this chamber court is dedicated, and from the founding of the school to the present day every boy entering this court takes off his hat and remains bare-headed while he is there. There is no rule about it, the boys just keep the custom up themselves. At one side of the court are a number of taps under which there used to be a trough, and where in olden

times the boys used to wash in the morning. In winter a fag was sent down first to thaw off the ice with a candle. [Imagine a Ridleian doing this.]

Opposite the entrance gate is the College chapel, one of the oldest and most beautiful of its kind, perhaps, in England.



On the wall of a passage leading to the kitchens is painted the famous picture of the "Trusty Servant," underneath which is the explanation in old English verse as follows:

A trusty servant's portrait would you see?
This emblematic figure well survey;
The porker's snout not nice in diet shows;
The padlock shut no secret he'll disclose;
Patient, the ass his master's wrath will bear;
Swift in errand the stag's feet declare;
Loaded his left hand—apt to labor saith;
The vest; his neatness; open hand his faith;
Girt with his sword, his shield upon his arm,
Himself and master he'll protect from harm.

We are told that when Henry VIII visited the College the picture was repainted and was then considered very old. It probably dates almost from the founding of the school.

In the rear of the chapel is the old school-room, which, although not so old as many parts of the building, has traditions more than two centuries old. Over the entrance is a statue of the founder in his bishop's robes, with mitre and crozier. On the western wall with the emblems: firstly, the mitre and crozier, the rewards of learning; secondly, the sword and ink-horn representing the military and civil professions, and thirdly, a scourge—are painted admonitions, "Aut Disce, Aut Discede," "Manet Sors Tertia Caedi," or, as the Win.