

## C H E S S .

## CHAPTER II.—THE HISTORY OF THE GAME.

Several writers, distinguished in literature and criticism, have given to the world many erroneous and fabulous accounts of the invention of this game, and to support their favorite theory have written many learned disquisitions as to its origin, &c. Certain, however, it is, that a game somewhat similar to our "Royal game of Chess" was practiced in ancient times. It is clear that chess was not known to the Greeks or Romans: indeed, it is commonly supposed not to have been introduced into Europe till the time of the Crusades; but this supposition is incorrect.

The first western authors who have spoken of this noble game, are the old writers of romance; these represent the Saracens to be very expert at this mimic warfare. Sir William Jones and Dr. Hyde favor the claim of the Brahmins of India, and adduce the testimony of certain ancient writers on chess in the Sanscrit. The elephant, which holds a place in the game (the Rook now occupying its place) is also a proof of its Indian origin. The Chinese call chess the game of the Elephant, and say that they had it from the Indians.

It is said that a philosopher, who lived during the reign of a very able but despotic and cruel sovereign, invented this game in order to show him that if a people were disabled by the loss of their king, a sovereign is equally unable to do so without his subjects. The reasoning had its desired effect, and from that time the monarch became as gentle as he was just, and as magnanimous as he was powerful.

It is supposed to have been first brought into Persia from the west of India, during the sixth century; and its progress from Persia into Arabia plainly appears from the number of Persian words only used by the Arabs in this game. With the Arabians it came into Spain, and, in the eleventh century it was brought into England by the French.

It appears to have been immemorially known in Hindostan under the name of *Chaturanga*, that is, the four *angas*, or members of an army. Through a variety of corruptions, this significant term was changed in the Brahminical dialect into *axedraz*, *sacchi*, *echecs*, *chess*; and by a strange concurrence of circumstances, has given rise to the English word *check*, and even a name to the *Exchequer* of Great Britain; the chequers of a chess-board being called in the phraseology of the scientific, the *Exchequer* or *Field of Battle*.

However, as our diminutive chapters are not intended for those antiquarians who delight in

conjecture and find amusement in dry detail, we will now leave the question of its invention to those authors who have more pages to spare, and greater abilities for following out the inquiry.

Our next chapter we will devote to a short account of the principal chess authors, ancient and modern.

## ENIGMAS.

No. 10. *By Mr. Grimshaw.*

WHITE—K at Q Kt sq.; B at K B sq.; Kts at K B 4th and Q 4th.

BLACK—K at Q 8th; Ps at Q 6th and 7th.

*White to play and mate in three moves.*

No. 11. *By R. B. W.*

WHITE—K at Q R 6th; Q at her sq.; R at K R 7th; B at Q R 2d; Kt at K 8th; Ps at Q 5th and Q B 3d.

BLACK—K at Q B 4th; Q at K B 7th; B at K B sq.; Ps at K B 5th, K 2d, Q 3d, and Q Kt 4th.

*White to play and mate in three moves.*

No. 12. *By Mr. J. Walker.*

WHITE—K at K R 5th; B at Q Kt 6th; Kts at K Kt 5th and Q 4th; Ps at K 3d and 5th, and Q Kt 3d.

BLACK—K at Q 4th.

*White to play and mate in three moves.*

No. 13. *By C. M. J.*

WHITE—K at Q Kt 2d; R at Q sq.; B at Q R 4th; Ps at K 2d and Q R 3d.

BLACK—K at Q B 5th; Ps at K 4th, Q B 4th, and Q R 2d.

*White to play and mate in four moves.*

No. 14. *By Judy.*

WHITE—K at K 4th; R at K 3d; B at K 8th; Kt at K B 5th; P at K R 4th.

BLACK—K at K 3d; Ps at K R 3d, K 2d, and Q 3d.

*White to play and mate in four moves.*

The following game was published a few years since as being the briefest on record, and occurred in actual play at the Café de la Regence in Paris between M. M. X. and Y.:—

WHITE (M. X.)

1. K P two.
2. Q to K R 5th.

BLACK (M. Y.)

K P two.  
K B P one. (*This being what is called an "impossible move," because it exposes his K to the Ch. of his adverse Q, he is obliged to play his K.*)  
K to his 2d.

3. Q tks K P mate!

The intoxication of anger, like that of the grape, shows us to others, but hides us from ourselves.

That charity is bad which takes from independence its proper pride, from mendicancy its salutary shame.

Wholesome sentiment is like rain, which makes the daily fields of life fresh and odorous.