

Venice, makes his appearance, and hears of the humiliating defeat of his ancient comrades. He makes himself known to the pastor only, and, having during his travels picked up some knowledge of Chess, determines at all risk to encounter the formidable Baron. They are accordingly introduced; and the Baron, conceiving him to be one of the members of the village club, prepares himself for another easy victory. They cast lots for the move; the Viennese gains it, and forthwith begins his game thus:—

White (VIENNESE). *Black* (BARON).

1. Q Kt to Q B 3d.

Whereupon the Baron smiled significantly, and played—

1. P to K 4th.

2. K Kt to K B 3d.

At this move the Baron broke out, "My good young friend, what on earth are you going to do with those two Knights? Don't you see they must be attacked and driven back? and then your game will be lost before you dream of it. You should always play forward your Pawns first. There!"—

2. P to Q 3d.

"I thought," said the young man, very modestly, "I thought I should have time to play them afterwards." The game goes on.

3. P to Q 4th. Q Kt to Q B 3d.

4. P to Q 5th.

"Ah, that is all very good," remarked the Baron, "if you could support the Pawn; but you will never be able to do so, as you'll soon discover, for your two Knights are in the way."

4. Q Kt to K 2d.

5. P to K 4th. P to K B 4th.

6. Q B to K Kt 5th.

Baron: "That, again, is a very bad move. Don't you perceive you must now either exchange pieces, or retreat? Do which you will, my game becomes developed to the disadvantage of yours."

6. P to K R 3d.

7. Q B to K R 4th.

Baron: "Oh, if you play there, the Bishop's gone. You had better take back that move, my friend."

Viennese: "Thanks, sir, but I never retract a move once made."

Baron: "As you please. It sounds well, though it savours a little of pride to say, 'I never take back a move.' There then."

7. P to K Kt 4th.

8. K Kt takes K P.

Baron (after looking intently at the position for some time): "Well, that is the oddest piece of luck. Would you believe it? If I were now to take your Bishop, I should absolutely be mated—mated, sir, in three moves. I must take off the Knight."

8. Q P takes Kt.

Viennese: "Yes, if you had taken the Bishop, then the check of the Queen would have been obviously fatal."

Baron: "Egad, sir, you don't play so badly as I thought you did. But I can't at all see how you can save the game after the loss of your Knight."

Viennese: "At any rate I shall say 'check.'"

9. Q to K R 5th (ch). K to Q 2d.
10. Q B takes K Kt P. B to K Kt 2d.
11. K B to Q Kt 5th (ch). K to Q 3d.
12. Q B to K 3d.

Baron: "Back, sir; further back with that Bishop."

12. P to K B 5th.

13. B takes K B P.

Baron: "Eh! what; another piece? Who ever saw a player fling away his men in this fashion? I shall take it, of course."

13. P to B.

14. P to K 5th (ch).

Baron (after grave consideration): "Remarkable, indeed; you certainly have unaccountable luck. Do you know that if were goose enough to take this Pawn with my Bishop, you could win my Queen. Fact, I assure you. Look here; you would first give me check with your Kt, compelling me to capture your Queen's Pawn, and then you would play your Rook to Q sq, giving check. Do you see? Fortunately, however, I can go with my K to Q B 4th, and escape all further danger. There, sir."

14. K to Q B 4th.

15. Kt to Q R 4th (ch). K takes B.

16. Q to K 2d (ch).

Here the great man pondered long, and seemed a little discomposed. At length, with affected gaiety, he looked up, and said, "You don't, I hope delude yourself with the notion that you are going to mate me. Why, bless you, I can move my K to R 4th, or even take the Kt, without any danger. If you will give away all your men, the attack must come to an end shortly. I shall take the Kt, *coute qui coute.*"

16. K takes Kt.

17. Q to Q B 4th (ch). K to Q R 4th.

18. P to Q Kt 4th (ch). K to Q R 5th.

19. Q to Q Kt 3d (ch). K to Q Kt 4th.

20. P to Q R 4th (ch). K to Q Kt 3d.

21. P to Q R 5th (ch). K to Q Kt 4th.

22. P to Q B 4th (ch). K to Q R 3d.

23. P to Q Kt 5th.—Mate!

Baron: "Ha, ha! Amusing enough. Your game went swimmingly. It played itself; I might have saved it easily, if, instead of taking the Kt, I merely moved my King; I intended to do so, indeed, in the first instance.

Viennese: "I beg pardon, Baron, but I thought, when I examined the position at that time, it appeared as if you would have been mated in fewer moves if you had not taken the Kt. Shall we put up the men, and play out the game from that point?"

Baron: "No, no; I'll have no more of it. I'm heartily glad it's over. I've played too many games to-day, and have got a terrible headache."