

**CHESS OPENINGS,
PP. 1-63**

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**CHESS OPENINGS,
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P R E F A C E.

It is generally admitted that a knowledge of the chief Openings is necessary to all who desire to attain any degree of excellence in Chess, but yet nothing is more common than to find amateurs destitute of even the rudiments of such knowledge, to whom the words 'Evans Gambit,' 'Muzio,' &c. are meaningless names. The cause of this widely-spread ignorance is, I believe, to be found in the nature of the existing books on the subject. There are many excellent works which may be profitably studied by all whose leisure and inclination permits; but the tyro is too often repelled by their apparent confusion, and by the formidable array of variations which crowd their pages and distract his mind.

Bearing this in mind, I have endeavoured to present the subject in a simpler and more attractive shape, by pruning with no sparing hand the