

CHESS

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Chess by Robert Frederick Green

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P R E F A C E .

THE Author's aim, in these pages, has been to provide a thoroughly complete and practical series of lessons in Chess. The reader is assumed at the outset to be without any knowledge whatever of the game, and the attempt is made to teach him how to play, and to leave him in a position to profit by the most advanced treatise. The Rules, the Index to the Openings, and the section on Current Chess Literature, while of special service to young players, will, it is hoped, render the volume useful as a work of reference to more advanced students. Free use has, necessarily, been made of standard works on the game. For the Rules, the "Praxis" and the book of the London Tournay; for the Openings, "Chess Openings"; and for end games, Salvioli and the "Handbook" have mainly been consulted. The Author desires also to record his obligations to Mr. Burn, the Rev. C. E. Ranken, and Mr. Steinitz, for friendly advice and assistance.

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C H E S S .

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

- o THE game of Chess has of late years become so popular among all classes in this country, that any statement of its attractions is almost superfluous. Coming to us as it has, invested with every dignity and importance that antiquity can give, it has kept pace for more than five centuries with the most rapidly advancing civilization. Never forgotten in any country where it has once set foot, it has only been neglected when art, science, and every intellectual pursuit have been neglected also. It has been for centuries the favourite recreation of the greatest minds; it has emancipated itself from every social restriction and surmounted every national custom and prejudice; it has survived every political change and every distraction of fashion, and is, to-day, more widely known and practised than any other game in the world. Who, in view of these facts, and making the slightest claim to culture, can afford to neglect it?

That it is an exceedingly difficult game, and that its study involves no small expenditure of time, must be admitted; but these cannot be regarded as drawbacks. No knowledge or proficiency, easily acquired, could be held in such high and general esteem; and the time involved may, especially in the case of young students, be looked upon as well spent. It constitutes a mental training of the greatest