

**MORPHY'S MATCH GAMES; BEING A
FULL AND ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF HIS
MOST ASTOUNDING
SUCCESSSES ABROAD, DEFEATING, IN
ALMOST EVERY INSTANCE, THE CHESS
CELEBRITIES OF EUROPE**

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Morphy's Match Games; Being a Full and Accurate Account of His Most Astounding Successes Abroad, Defeating, in Almost Every Instance, the Chess Celebrities of Europe by Charles Henry Stanley & Paul Morphy

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CHARLES HENRY STANLEY & PAUL MORPHY

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Paul Morphy.

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OF HIS MOST

ASTOUNDING SUCCESSES ABROAD,

DEFEATING, IN ALMOST EVERY INSTANCE, TEN

CHESS CELEBRITIES OF EUROPE.

EDITED, WITH COPIOUS AND VALUABLE NOTES,

BY CHARLES HENRY STANLEY,

AUTHOR OF

"THE CHESS PLAYER'S INSTRUCTOR."

EMBELLISHED WITH A SUPERB STEEL PORTRAIT OF

PAUL MORPHY,

FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY READY.

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P R E F A C E .



ON presenting to the American public, in a compact form, a full account of the principal achievements of their young countryman, Paul Morphy, whilst abroad, it is fit that we should give, in as few words as may be, a brief sketch of his antecedents prior to his late sudden and *meteor*-like appearance among the less brilliant luminaries of the Chess sphere.

Mr. Paul Morphy, on the paternal side, is descended from a Spanish family—one of his ancestors having emigrated from the land which lent its aid to Columbia's first discoverer, and his father having been born at Charleston, South Carolina. This gentleman having contracted marriage with a lady of French origin, named Le Carpentier, resident in Louisiana, Mr. Morphy *père* appears subsequently to have settled in that State, and, on the 22d June, 1837, at New Orleans, our hero, Paul Morphy, doubtless the most extraor-

dinary chess player of the present, and in all probability of any former age, first saw the light.

It does not appear that in his early infancy any unusual precocity was evinced by young Paul; but it so happened that, when not yet nine years old, a celebrated chess match was contested at New Orleans, between Mr. Eugene Rousseau, of that city, and Mr. C. H. Stanley, of New York, the result of which was to decide the then chess championship of the United States. On this occasion, it so happened that Mr. Ernest Morphy, Paul's uncle, acted in the capacity of second to the former gentleman, and being a frequent visitor to the house of his brother (Mr. Paul Morphy's father), with whom, likewise, he was in the frequent habit of playing chess, young Paul, seeing and hearing so much of that game, became so far interested in the subject as to form and express a wish to be taught *the moves*. This initiatory step once taken, the rapid advances made by the child-student toward proficiency in the theory and practice of the game, must have been positively astounding; as some two years afterward, we find him contending, on even terms, with his uncle, Mr. Ernest Morphy, and Mr. Eugene Rousseau, and but a few months subsequently, beating both those gentlemen at the rate of nine games to one! About this time, Mr. Lowenthal, the great Hungarian player, on passing through New Orleans, encountered our youthful chess Hercules, and likewise suffered at his hands, having lost two and drawn one out of a total of three games. In December of the same year, Mr.

Morphy appears to have entered college at Spring Hill, Alabama, and having graduated with some *éclat*, left that institution in 1835.

From this time, notwithstanding that he at once entered upon his studies for the bar, our hero must have devoted himself heart and soul to the cultivation of those talents which, already developed in so marked a manner, have since made for him a name which will descend to posterity for all time.

After having, in the meanwhile, met and conquered all those chess notabilities in the South and West, with whom opportunity offered him the means to break a lance, the grand tournament of the American Chess Congress, held at New York in the autumn of 1857, afforded an occasion whereby to test his powers against the assembled representatives of the game from a majority of the States in the entire Union. To chronicle the result of his numerous encounters, on the occasion of his visit to New York, would be simply to recount successes scarcely varied by a reverse. Suffice it, therefore, to say, that he carried off the first prize at the American Chess Congress, and that during his stay here he appears to have played some ninety odd games, of which he lost no more than four or five.

Among the players who thus succumbed to Paul Morphy's superior prowess, there are many whose names are familiar to all chess readers, alike in Europe and America, including those of Louis Paulsen (the celebrated blindfold player),

Theodore Lichtenhein, J. Thompson, H. P. Montgomery, of Philadelphia, George Hammond, of Boston, and C. H. Stanley, for many years accounted the first chess player in the United States; but of whom Paul Morphy succeeded in winning four games and drawing one, in a match at the *Pawn and Move*, at which odds Mr. Morphy likewise offered to contest a match against any other player in the Union.

From this period, Mr. Morphy appears to have devoted his attention, to a considerable extent, and with the most marked success, to the practice of blindfold chess; as a specimen of which, we would refer the reader to the ensuing pages, wherein are recorded eight games, simultaneously played by him in Paris, without sight of board or men, against a similar number of well-known amateurs. Out of these eight games, Mr. Morphy won six, the remaining two being drawn. A similar feat was likewise performed by Mr. Morphy at Birmingham, before the British Chess Association, wherein he again scored six, lost one, and drew one.

Independently of the three set matches, the particulars of which, *in extenso*, we are about to record, Mr. Morphy's successes in Europe, against all comers, have been quite as complete as those already referred to as obtained in this country. In support of this assertion, we would state that we have before us a list of all contests in which, up to a given time, he had taken part in Paris. This list embraces a total of one hundred and two games, and the net result we find to be as follows: Won by Mr. Morphy 79, lost 8, drawn 15.