

**THE CHESS PRIMER: A STEPPING-STONE  
FOR BEGINNERS, TEACHING THE  
PRELIMINARY DETAILS, SUPPLEMENTED  
BY A SERIES OF ILLUSTRATIVE GAMES,  
WITH REASONS FOR EVERY MORE  
APPENDED AND THE LAWS OF THE GAME**

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The chess primer: a stepping-stone for beginners, teaching the preliminary details, supplemented by a series of illustrative games, with reasons for every move appended and the laws of the game by William Cook

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**WILLIAM COOK**

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# THE CHESS PRIMER :

*A Stepping-Stone for Beginners,*

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*REASONS FOR EVERY MOVE APPENDED,*

AND

THE LAWS OF THE GAME.

By WILLIAM COOK,

AUTHOR OF THE "SYNOPSIS OF THE CHESS GAME."



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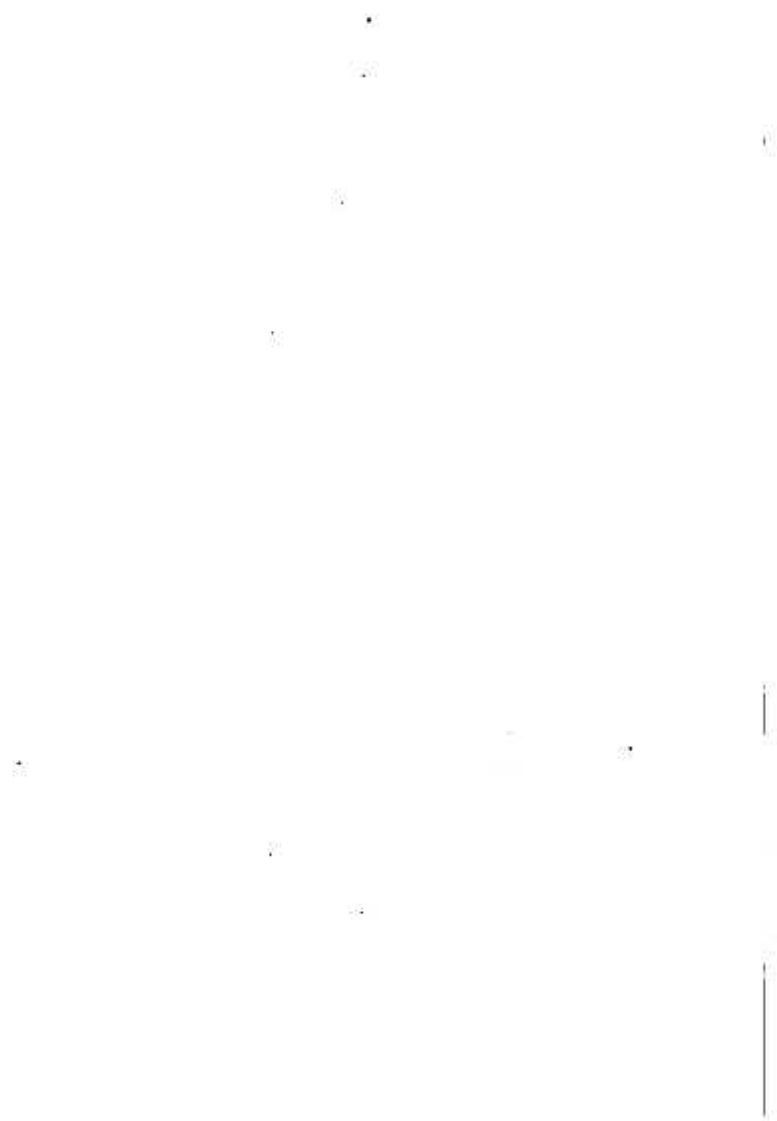
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## INTRODUCTION.

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Among all the sedentary amusements invented by the *Sages of Antiquity*, for the recreation of the industrious or the entertainment of the unemployed, the "Royal Game" has the pre-eminence, on account of its intellectual character and its infinite variety. The history of Chess is enveloped in obscurity, and has been a subject of diligent research. From the writings of Professor Forbes and Dr. Linde, the most modern and reliable of Oriental Chess Historians, we learn that it had its origin in India, where a similar game, called "Chaturanga," had been practised for ages. Early in the sixth century this ancient pastime was known to the Persians, but its designation had been changed to "Shatranj," and the method of playing materially altered. The Mohammedan Arabs probably acquired the new Medieval system, when they overthrew the Persian Empire, in the seventh century, and carried it along on their tide of conquest to Western Europe. The Spanish Courts of these victorious Moslems were the centres of literature and science. Learned men, from all parts of the Continent, visited these Eastern schools, where, according to Arabian and Spanish manuscripts, Chess was very popular. Thus the knowledge of the game was diffused to surrounding nations.

Tradition relates that it was introduced into England about the tenth century. Canute the Great was a Chess player, and numerous are the crowned



heads and leading statesmen whose names are enrolled on the list of Caissa's votaries.

The literature of the game is more extensive than is generally supposed. Nearly a thousand volumes have been published, exclusively devoted to its study and practice. Several of our leading journals insert Chess columns, edited by the "best talent," and excellent monthly periodicals are issued both in our own and in foreign languages. Such is a brief epitome of the history of this most interesting pastime.

## CHAPTER I.

**The nature of the Game. Description of the Board and Men. Their arrangement and various movements. Relative value. Method of capturing, &c.**

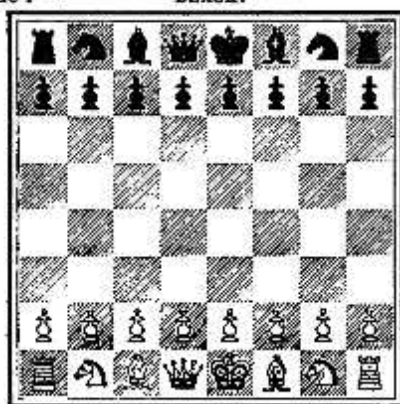
THE Game of Chess is a battle between two fictitious combatants, who seek to imprison the adverse King in a position from which he cannot be extricated; this is termed "Check-mate" (see definition 6). The field of battle is a chequered board of sixty-four squares. The lines of squares running upward are termed *files*, those from left to right *ranks*, and the rows of squares running obliquely are called *diagonals*.

Each player is possessed of sixteen men; eight pieces, with their respective Pawns, viz.,

One KING	...	...		
One QUEEN	...	...		
Two ROOKS (OR CASTLES)				
Two BISHOPS	...	...		
Two KNIGHTS	...	...		
Eight PAWNS	...	...		

The following diagram represents the Board with men arranged in proper order for the commencement of a game :—

BLACK.



WHITE.

The board must be placed with a white square to the right hand of each player.

### THE MOVES.

These are difficult to teach by definitions. Our system will principally consist of diagrams or pictures; but the movements could be more easily acquired by practical illustration from a friend acquainted with Chess. All the pieces can either move backwards, forwards, or sideways, over as many squares as may be vacant within their line of action. The Pawn, which is not classed as a piece, can only move forwards. The Knight is the only piece that can leap over any other man. All the other pieces, if debarred by any obstacle, are prevented from pursuing their course.