THE CHESS BOUQUET: OR, THE BOOK OF THE BRITISH COMPOSERS OF CHESS PROBLEMS

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The Chess Bouquet: Or, The Book of the British Composers of Chess Problems by F. R. Gittins

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F. R. GITTINS

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Trieste

THE CHESS BOUQUET.

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FRONTISPIECE.



Chess Bouquet;

the abook of the

British Composers of Chess Problems.

With Portraits, Biographical Sketches, Essays on Composing and Solving, and over Six Hundred Problems, being chiefly Selected Masterpieces.

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TO WHICH IS ADDED PORTRAITS AND SKETCHES OF

The Chief Chess Editors of the United Kingdom.

COMPILED BY F. R. GITTINS.

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E. N. FRANKENSTEIN, Esg.,

THIS VOLUME IS GRATEFULLY DEDICATED, NOT ONLY AS A MEMORIAL OF HIS SERVICES TO

CHESS

GENERALLY, BUT OF HIS VALUABLE CO-OPERATION IN

THIS WORK.

SPECIALLY, AND FINALLY, AS A SINCERE TOKEN OF FRIENDSHIP AND

ESTEEM FROM

THE AUTHOR.

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On this Book.

E ACH age brings forth its geniuses; each age Sees the old order change, and others born, And, as in everything, in Chess a sage To-day may live, and all the world adorn With his own genius, but the morrow's morn May see his soul, aspiring, leave its cage, And though in memory he still may live, mankind Has been bercaved of a great master mind.

Great writers live; their course fulfill'd, they die, And yet they live in Memory 'til she spurns To give respect to those whose ancient cry Has been o'er-reached; from them one no more learns, Though to them old Affection still returns, Since the true paths to Knowledge they did first descry And, as in everything, in Chess our leading minds Are not one man's alone, but all mankind's.

Perhaps this volume in some future year Will be some pleasure to our leaders new, And too, perchance, the heart-ache and the tear For some dear friend, whose memory strikes in yow Some chord responsive of affection true, Whose self and memory you alike hold dear. But this must be ! In nature it is best To emulate the good in those at rest !

Maybe this book, though not without its faults, Its worthy object will in time fulfil: Perhaps the critics, in their word-assaults Will scorn our labours; but we ask them still To pardon much, and recognise the will; If the Chess world whose progress never halts Will but approve, because our best we've tried, We shall be paid, and so feel satisfied.

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ARTHUR G. FELLOWS.

PREFACE.

IRSTLY, we must crave the reader's kind indulgence for the extent of this work. Our original plan was the compilation of an interesting treatise of the work of our own special chess circle. We were, one and all, enthusiastic composers, players, and solvers; so it came about that, as each one knew another composer of greater ability than himself, it occurred to us that we might as well collect, in a single volume, the full strength of THE BRITISH COMPOSERS OF CHESS PROBLEMS.

From the start, our idea was hailed with the utmost enthusiasm ; from Devon to Aberdeen the cry was taken up, the result being that now we place before our readers the cream of the workmanship of the most eminent living composers in the British problem world. Naturally, the labour and the responsibility have been enormous, and should our success in pleasing the chess public be at all commensurate, we shall have to publish a second edition at a very early date.

The scope of this work speaks for itself in the pages which follow. The portrait of each composer and editor is represented herein in a threefold manner. Firstly-there is the portrait absolute from the latest photograph, showing the present living aspect. Secondly-the portrait by words as given in the biographies, the matter for which has been collected from sources the most reliable and authentic. Thirdly-the portrait of the mind, as illustrated by the problems and other evidences of talent.

To make the work more complete and attractive, we have added Biographical Sketches of the prominent BRITISH CHESS EDITORS.

In addition to this, much of interest and instruction will be found in the essays on composing and solving chess problems. Each of these contributions is signed by its author, whose names will inspire confidence in the readers of their articles.

In conclusion, the compiler begs to tender his sincere and heartfelt thanks to all those who have so nobly and loyally combined to make the work. And if this volume should be the means of disseminating the charms of chess, of revealing the glorious possibilities still open to those whose physical endowments are not commensurate with their lofty ambition to excel in traditional British pastimes, then will our highest aspirations have been realised.

F. R. GITTINS.

BIRMINGHAM, 1897.