

THE
FIFTH AMERICAN
CHESS CONGRESS.

CONTAINING A FULL REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
CONVENTION OF CHESS PLAYERS, HELD IN NEW YORK,
IN THE YEAR 1880; TOGETHER WITH AN ACCOUNT
OF THE PRECEDING CHESS CONGRESSES,
HELD IN THE UNITED STATES, AND
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF
NOTED EARLY CHESS
PLAYERS.

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1881.

became more rare, and in the Spring of 1868 he passed forever from the bustling world of toil and cless, to that peaceful repose which was here denied to him.

THEODORE LICHTENHEIN

Was born in 1829, at Königsberg, Prussia, where he was educated for the medical profession, but yielding to a stronger passion for military pursuits, he abandoned his studies and accepted a commission in the Prussian army. A two years' experience of a soldier's life served to satisfy his ambition for a warrior's renown, and about the year 1852 he embarked for New York, where he chose the more peaceful vocation of a merchant. He acquired the elements of Chess at an early age, and under the guidance of able instructors attained such rapid eminence as a player, that at the age of eighteen he was elected President of the Königsberg Chess Club, in compliment to his rare abilities. In the Spring of 1856 he became a member of the New York Club, where, after the rust of a four years' cessation from practice had been worn off, he steadily fought his way to the prominent rank of the club's champion, and in the Congress of the following year, with a necessarily brief and inadequate preparation, acquitted himself by winning the third prize in the grand tournament. After the Congress he contested seven games with Mr. Morphy, but succeeded only in drawing three of the number; and two years later, on Mr. Morphy's return from his brilliant European campaign, he again met the youthful conqueror over the board, who then conceded to our subject the heavy odds of a Knight. Eleven games were played at various sittings, of which Mr. Morphy won six, Mr. Lichtenhein four, and one was drawn. In January, 1861, he fought

his celebrated match with Mr. H. P. Montgomery, at that time the acknowledged chief of the Philadelphia players, and won a decisive victory over a very skillful, but too impetuously rash and brilliant, opponent—the final score standing Lichtenhein seven, Montgomery two, drawn one. Mr. Lichtenhein possessed, in an eminent degree, the mental and physical characteristics essential to the formation of a successful match player, combining, with a sound judgment and large analytical powers, a steady nervous poise, and a cold, impassive, imperturbable temperament, which neither victory nor defeat could ruffle in the least. Cautiously and solidly he would meet his adversary with an impregnable front, and in sinuous, passionless advances aim to overwhelm him with the combined strength of his whole army; yet, where positions admitted of brilliant sacrifices, he would sometimes apply the keen and lightning flashes of his puissant sabre, but with sound generalship he rarely ventured upon a spirited or dashing charge without a thorough conviction of its success. Although somewhat taciturn, and not easily moved to an exhibition of friendship, he was courteous, affable and polished in his deportment, and when the bonds of reserve could be loosened he was a most entertaining and enlightened companion. In May, 1858, he was elected President of the New York Club—holding that office for one year—and in the matches by telegraph against Philadelphia and Boston, he was chosen as the leading representative of the New York committees. He was the editor of the only weekly newspaper devoted wholly to Chess that has been published in this country, the first issue of which appeared under the title of *The Gambit*, on the 22d of October, 1859, and the fifth and last on the 19th of the following month. He

also edited during the same year a Chess column in a German weekly called the *New Yorker Humorist und Illustrierte Novellenzeitung*, and was a frequent contributor to other publications. Attracted by the rich promises of our Western metropolis, he removed some years later to Chicago, where he was greeted with the warmest welcome by the amateurs of that city; but a close devotion to business pursuits afforded him little time for Chess-playing, and after a short residence there he was stricken down by a malady from which he lingered, a hopeless invalid for nearly five years, until the 19th of May, 1874, when he passed peacefully away.

NAPOLEON MARACHE

Was born in Meaux, Department of Seine-et-Marne, France, on the 15th of June, 1815, but came to this country when thirteen years of age. His introduction to the game of chess occurred about the year 1844, when he became at once so enraptured with its mystic charms that, procuring a few books, he applied himself eagerly to its study, and it is related of him that he made such astonishing progress that within three weeks from his first lesson he gave to his tutor the odds of a Rook. In the Winter of 1855-56 he won the championship cup of the New York Chess Club, in a match between eight of the strongest players of that day, and subsequently, during the same Winter, he again distinguished himself by winning the first prize—a set of Staunton chessmen—in a tournament of sixteen players. At the period of the Congress he was laboring from indisposition, which compelled him for some time to absent himself from play; and on his return he was too weak to endure the mental strain, and was defeated, after a close contest, in the sec-