
CHECKMATE!

ADOLPHUS O'GAMBIT, an enthusiast in Chess, and never happy except when over the board, finds himself at a soirée, where the only available opponent is an angular spinster of an uncertain age, who, though she knows many "moves," has never yet effected a "mate." Adolphus approaches her, and enquires if she will try a game of Chess. "Oh, delighted!" she exclaims. They sit down, and the game proceeds until a position occurs where, by a capture, checkmate can be effected by the next move of the lady's; but she fails to see her opportunity, and moves another piece. Adolphus draws an inspiration of relief (interpreted by her for a sigh), and mutters below his breath, "Why does she not mate?" As she evidently hears him, he adds, impressively, "You know you can if you wish—take me!" "I—I—have no objection really" the fair one replies, affecting a pretty confusion, "and see, here is papa coming this way—I'll introduce you." *Tableaux!*
