Sowing and Reaping

“Everything comes to him who hustles while he waits ~ Thomas A. Edison

This position comes from the game Napoleon Bonaparte vs Madame De Remusat, Chateau de Malmaison (1804), and was featured on the post 10 Most Amazing Chess Combinations Ever, by Yury Markushin, which you can read here: http://thechessworld.com/learn-chess/18-general-information/409-10-most-beautiful-chess-combinations-ever

In the position on the right it is White to move.

Answer below.

Today I would like to share an excerpt from the excellent book The Inexplicable Laws of Success: Discover the Hidden Truths that Separate the 'Best' from the 'Rest' (Classic Edition) that I really liked.

For its first four years, the Chinese bamboo plant doesn't show any visible evidence of growth. Imagine that, FOUR FULL YEARS! But then, in the fifth year, in a six-week period, the plant grows a staggering 30 meters! In that first four years, unseen, and hidden from the world, the plant was putting down stabilizing roots; roots that will sustain the enormous upward growth that is to come. The World Book Encyclopedia records that a bamboo plant can grow one meter in a single 24 hour period.

Our results in life often resemble that of the Chinese bamboo plant. There is a critical time period between starting something and enjoying the returns that come from that endeavor. During this period, many people become impatient because, despite their efforts, they cannot see progress. They lose faith, give up and say, 'It didn't work for me.' They are experiencing the law of sowing and reaping in action.

To succeed in any endeavor, there is a period of working and waiting. We cannot simply plant a seed and expect to reap the rewards immediately. There is a natural progression of events from seeding to harvest and this is how it works:
1. We will reap if we sow.
2. We reap what we sow.
3. We reap after we sow.
4. We reap more than we sow.
5. We must nurture what we have sown.
6. The most significant harvest usually requires the longest time to reach its reaping season.
7. We must be patient.

I have seen many chess players who are like the Bamboo plant. It doesn’t look like they are making progress, but they keep "planting seeds" by studying, reviewing their losses, and learning from mistakes. Eventually they shoot up very quickly, just like the bamboo plant.

Here is the complete game:

[Event "Chateau de Malmaison"]
[Site "Rueil-Malmaison, France"]
[Date "1804.03.20"]
[EventDate ""]
[Round ""]
[Result "1-0"]
[White "Napoleon Bonaparte"]
[Black "Madame De Remusat"]
[ECO "A00"]
[WhiteElo ""]
[BlackElo ""]
[PlyCount "27"]


You can play through this game here: [http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1250611](http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1250611)

**Answer:**

White has a very beautiful checkmate with 12. Bc4+ Kxc4 13. Qb3+ Kd4 14. Qd3#

Happy Tactics!

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