

father the story, and after being deservedly rated ventures to suggest the sale of a few acres to Buswell, the builder, as a convenient way of providing the money. This is too much for the old gentleman. He declares his determination to make Gilbert his heir. Next day he goes to London, and executes a new will, by which everything is given to the younger son. He thinks he has done right, but he feels decidedly uncomfortable. Sometimes he has misgivings about Gilbert—a half doubt whether he is after all so thoroughly straightforward as Brian. He returns home with all the anger gone out of him, and already sorry for what he has done. Brian takes his punishment bravely. "Gilbert is to be Segrave Major in future," he said, "and I'm Segrave Minor." But his cheerful, good humoured acquiescence in the new order of things gives no comfort to Sir Brian. He would prefer to be abused. He does not know that in a very few hours he will regard what he has done not as a painful duty conscientiously performed but as an act of expediency, condemned by his own conscience. The very next evening, impressed by a sermon he hears in the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, and still further influenced by a subsequent conversation with the Vicar, he resolves to undo what he has done. He announces his intention to his sons, who understand that their positions are to be again reversed. In pursuance of a well-meant but unfortunate suggestion of the Vicar's the journey to London is put off for a few days. In the meantime Sir Brian is accidentally killed. The last will is the legal will, though the earlier one expresses the testator's last intentions. To the surprise of every one, except the old family lawyer, Gilbert clings to his legal rights, and Brian goes forth to earn his living. All this is but introductory to the story, which tells of the loves and fortunes and misfortunes of these two brothers, who are so utterly unlike each other both in appearance and character. Although not a very exciting story it is one full of interest. The characters are not too numerous, and they are all clearly and distinctly drawn. There is an occasional suggestion of Trollope, as, for example, in Lord Stapleford's courtship of Beatrice Huntly; but we prefer our author's style to that of Trollope. It is lighter and more correct, and his men and women are not so rude, stubborn and selfish. The good they do is done from higher motives.

THE *Magazine of American History* for December is as fresh, varied, and attractive as usual. This is one of the very best periodicals that comes to our table.

THE *Swiss Cross*, the magazine of the Agasiz Association, is an interesting and useful periodical for all lovers and students of nature. In the December number are many entertaining and instructive articles, some of which are attractively illustrated.

THE December number of *Harper's Magazine* has a great deal of fiction and too much poetry. There are five complete stories; nearly all the poetry is narrative or dramatic, and Mr. W. D. Howells' farce, *A Five o'Clock Tea*, is itself a clever and amusing story.

THE *American Magazine* will publish in an early number an article entitled, *The Inland Ocean of the North*, by J. Macdonald Oxley. It will be a full account of the Hudson Bay Expeditions conducted by the Marine Department of Canada, and will be profusely illustrated.

THE Christmas number of *Scribner's Magazine*, in its golden holiday cover, contains a rich collection of choice Christmas reading in prose and verse. The principal poetical contribution, *Ticonderoga*, is by Mr. Robert Louis Stevenson, illustrated by Messrs. Hole and Low. The fiction is by Bret Harte, H. C. Bunner, Miss Jewett, and T. R. Sullivan. In *Florence with Romola* has a great many very beautiful illustrations.

THE December *Wide Awake* has a very tastefully designed holiday cover, and much of the reading matter has a distinctly Christmas character. The first attraction is a Christmas poem, by Edmund C. Stedman, entitled *The Star Dreamer*, with frontispiece and text illustrations. Mr. Andrew Lang contributes a short but amusing *Bullad of a Bad Boy*, and Mr. C. S. Pratt, *The Drummer Boy of Kent*. In prose fiction the great feature is Rider Haggard's complete African story, *A Tale of Three Lions*, with three full-page illustrations.

THE *Century* for December has nothing to distinguish it as a Christmas number, unless perhaps a very attractively illustrated article on *The Sea of Galilee* can be considered pertinent to the season. The reading matter is somewhat heavier than usual. The paper by Mr. Kennan on the *Prison Life of Russian Revolutionists* is a valuable one, and throws a powerful light on the prison treatment of political and other offenders in the Empire of the Czar. Mr. Brander Matthews' account of Paris journals and journalists is very interesting and cleverly illustrated. Readers who have been concerned about the fate of *Mrs. Lecks* and *Mrs. Aleshine*, will be glad to learn that Mr. Stockton has commenced a record of their further adventures in *The Dusanter*.

*St. Nicholas* is always good, and it would be hard to tell what is best in the Christmas number. *St. Nicholas*, though intended for young people, is often read, we know, by those who get it ostensibly for their children, and these maturer readers will perhaps turn to Mrs. Burnett's new serial story, *Sara Crewe*. Mr. Frank R. Stockton's quaintly illustrated *Clocks of Rondaine* is full of humour, some of it perhaps a little too subtle for juvenile readers. *Three Miles High in a Balloon* is a very good piece of descriptive writing, and will be read with interest by young and old. *Child and Poet*, by Edith M. Thomas, is an exquisite piece of simple verse. We do not remember having read anything of the kind so good for many years.

## LITERARY GOSSIP.

THE December number of the *Political Science Quarterly* completes the second year of this useful periodical.

PROF. CHARLES G. D. ROBERTS, King's College, Windsor, N.S., has in course of preparation a work entitled *The Life and Times of Joseph Howe*.

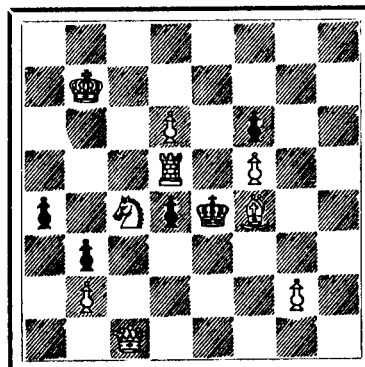
MR. WM. HOUSTON, in the *Educational Journal*, says he knows of only one great English prose writer who never blunders, and that is Mr. Goldwin Smith.

THE *Expulsion of the Acadians* is the most important paper in the last volume of the *Collections of the Nova Scotia Historical Society*. It was read before the society by Sir Adams G. Archibald.

MRS. HARRISON'S *Canadian Birthday Book* has evoked many complimentary tributes; and a few days ago the *Mail* published the very flattering letters which Mrs. Harrison ("Seranus") received from Earl Dufferin, the Marquis of Lorne, and the Marquis of Lansdowne.

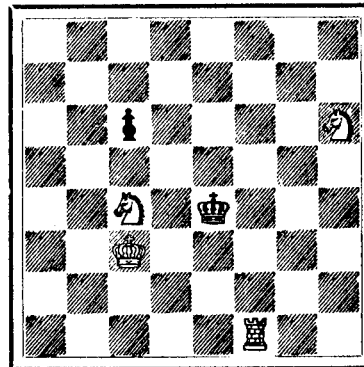
## CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 213.



White to play and mate in two moves.

PROBLEM No. 214.



White to play and mate in three moves.

Solution of Problem No. 209.—Key B—B 8 (S—S 3) S—K 7, and S or B mates. No. 210. Key R—K 5 ch. (K—S 3) Q x P ch., and Q x P mate. (K x R) Q—S 5 ch. and S—Q 6 mate.

New Orleans has a club containing a membership of about six hundred. An \$120 trophy will be contested at Quebec, 16th January prox. Monck, of Dublin, wins "Vienna Opening" in the British Correspondence Tourney, viz.:

W. H. S. Monck.	R. Pilkington.	W. H. S. Monck.	R. Pilkington.
1. P—K 4	P—K 4	15. P—K 5	B—Q B 3
2. S—Q B 3	S—K B 3	16. B—Q S 5	S—Q 2
3. P—Q 4	P x P	17. B x B	P x B
4. Q x P	S—Q B 3	18. P x P	Q x P (bad)
5. Q—K 3	B—Q S 5	19. S—Q S 5 (good)	P x S
6. B—Q 2	Q—K 2	20. Q x R ch.	K—K 2
7. Castles.	P—Q 3	21. R—K 1 ch.	K—B 3
8. P—K R 3	P—K R 3	22. Q—K 4	B—Q 5
9. B—Q 3	S—K 4	23. P—K S 4	S (S 3) K 4
10. B—K 2	B—Q 2	24. P x S ch.	S x P
11. P—K B 4	B—Q B 4	25. S—K B 3	R—Q 1
12. Q—K S 3	S—K S 3	26. Q—K B 5 ch.	K—K 2
13. B—Q 3	S—K R 4	27. S x B	P—K B 3
14. Q—K B 3	S—K B 3	28. Q x S ch.	Resigns.

An invitation is extended to chess players who wish to participate with compositions and exchanges. Address the CHESSE EDITOR. Solutions next week.

"ERMINIE" COMING.—The appearance of Mr. Rudolph Aronson's comic opera company at the Grand Opera House in the week of December 19, in the great New York Casino success, "Erminie," will be an event of far more passing interest to the theatre patrons of this city, for a more successful opera than "Erminie" has never been given at the Casino, while the company of favourites which is announced will insure a perfect production of the celebrated work. The fact that this opera succeeded in entertaining crowded houses at the New York Casino for more than 500 nights is sufficient evidence of its perfect adaptability to the public taste of to-day. Mr. Rudolph Aronson deserves the warmest commendation for the admirable manner in which he has sustained this run by keeping the parts always in the hands of the most capable artists attainable. The temptation which would have been listened to by the great majority of his fellow managers, to cheapen the performance and grasp greater gains by the reduction of his enormous expenses, never won a place in his policy. Rather has he strengthened it, for the present representation is certainly far superior to the one given the public two years ago. The resources of Mr. Aronson's place at the head of the only real house of comic opera in America put him in a position to present in that branch of amusement the very best possible productions, and certainly all his energies have been diligently bent on making "Erminie" the greatest comic opera entertainment that America has ever had. There can be no doubt of the character of the reception that awaits the appearance of this model company in this city. The sale of reserved seats will begin Friday next, December 16.

"On the Rio Grande" made an unqualified hit at Havlin's Theatre yesterday afternoon and evening. If genuinely hearty and spontaneous applause counts for anything, it will play to a crowded house all week. This was the initial production in this city, and all the "first nighters" were out in full force to have the pleasure of a new dramatic sensation and to criticise. They had all the expected pleasure without the alloy of criticism. The performance, taken both in detail and as a whole, was too perfect for that. In fact, it is the most powerful and absorbing romantic play that has ever been witnessed on the stage of this house. The above is said without the least reservation or a single exception. The thread of the story is of absorbing interest, and the play is crowded with a number of thrilling scenes, situations and incidents, which follow each other in such rapid succession that the intense action almost takes one's breath. The scenery and costumes are appropriate and brilliant. M. J. Jordan appeared as Harold Rapley, and made a popular impression with his brilliant rendering of the role. He is one of the stars of the company. Mark Price, the author of "On the Rio Grande," was seen in the impersonation of Del Paso. This gentleman has always borne the reputation of being a talented fellow, but yesterday he outshone all previous efforts as a romantic, as the sun outshines the stars. Miss Clara Flagg's Dora Rapley was appreciated very much. Will S. Marion was the coldblooded villain, calculating and full of dark thoughts and sinister plans. Florence Roberts has a winsome face and figure, and made a charming and refined Kate Shelby, while Harry Hawk, as Daniel Webster Byall, and Miss Lizzie Tugles, as Priscilla Muffins, furnished the comedy element for the entertainment.—*The Cincinnati Evening Telegram*.