

Mr. Harte and the proprietors of the *Atlantic Monthly*; but it is now understood that any such engagement supposed to exist is cancelled.*

In appearance Bret Harte is rather good-looking. He wears side whiskers and moustache, and his hair is kept of the medium length. His nose is quite handsomely formed, and in stature he is slightly above the usual height.

Col. John Hay is another gentleman who has distinguished himself in a very short time, and more wonderful still, by only two poems; but these have been so good and so felicitous in their whole arrangement, that it would be a matter for speculation if they were not successful. Mr. Hay is quite young, having just turned thirty years of age. The state of Indiana has the honour of being his birth-place, and the earlier portion of his life was spent in the wilds of Illinois. In 1858 he graduated with high class honours from that rare repository of learning, Brown University, in Rhode Island. He then went to Springfield, studied law for some years and finally was admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of Illinois. In 1861 he accompanied the late President Lincoln to Washington, and shortly afterwards became Assistant Private Secretary of the Executive Office. He entered the army during the late civil war and served with distinction on the staff of General Hunter during the spring of 1863, as volunteer aid, and in the following winter had conferred upon him the appointment of Assistant Adjutant General and ranked as Major. He then joined General Gillmore, who commanded the Department of the South, and accompanied the expedition which occupied the line of the St. John's River. This being accomplished he was ordered to duty in Washington, on the personal staff of the President. Major Hay was made Colonel in 1865, and in 1869 he resigned from the army.

The year 1865 saw him *en route* for Heroic Paris,—fair and fickle no longer—as Secretary of Legation, the same position he filled at respective intervals at the courts of Vienna and Madrid, whence he returned to the United States a few months ago. He is now engaged on the regular staff of the *New York Tribune*. His series of papers entitled “Castilian Days,” now running through “The Atlantic Monthly,” have been very justly admired for the elegance and conciseness with which they are written. The descriptive portions are really eloquent. Col. Hay is therefore only beginning his literary and journalistic career. But two poems have come from his pen “Jim Bludso,” the Engineer’s poem, and “Little Breeches.” Of course Col. Hay will throw off a few more such original poems as he has given us.

“Little Breeches” has been thought by some persons, to be a very close imitation of Harte’s “Cicely”; but any one who reads both poems carefully and critically will at once notice some very material differences. There are let us admit, several of the phrases—as used by Mr. Harte in “Cicely”; but they show or prove nothing. If the poem is a faithful description of a certain class of human beings, and both writers having adopted characters of that ilk for their heroes, is it any wonder that there should

* NOTE.—Since this article was written positive information to this tenor has reached us. Mr. Harte has cancelled all engagements and has decided to remain in Boston and write exclusively for the house of James R. Osgood & Co. His productions will appear mainly in “Every Saturday,” and in the “Atlantic Monthly.”