

CORRESPONDENCE.

MUSICAL CRITICISM.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

SIR,—It seems to me time that some one, for the cause of art and truth, should speak on the above subject. The utterances of a newspaper have a kind of mysterious power; people feel almost bound to believe newspaper criticisms, especially when impersonal, as though dictated by some unseen but potent spirit; and it is for this very reason the critic should be at once capable and conscientious. Who are the critics that write the articles on concerts, the theatre, &c., &c., in our Montreal journals? I have no hesitation in saying that as a rule they are utterly incapable of the task they assume. It would be far better to confine the notices to a mere statement of facts than attempt what they evidently, from the contradictory character of such criticisms, are either unable or unwilling to perform. A comparatively worthless entertainment is sometimes criticised, (if indiscriminate "puffing" may be called criticism at all), in the most favorable manner; while a really good one is stabbed to death; for such writing has, through the mysterious power of the press with the public alluded to above, an injurious influence in many ways, and often blights in part the prospects of many a troupe of really fine artists.

I may illustrate the position here taken by cases of recent occurrence though they are only illustrations of what is constantly transpiring. The *Witniss*, in a recent notice of Mr. Harrison's concert, spoke of the orchestra especially in the severest terms. Now most musicians will agree that Mr. Gruenwald as leader did himself credit; and that the players under him, considering that they were (of necessity) brought especially for this concert and not an old organization, performed the arduous duty of accompanying such music &c., at least very respectably. This is a case of criticism, unfair because extreme and losing sight of the *circumstances*. All criticism in which the state of the country, stage of civilization of the people &c., are left out of account, must be injurious.

As a second illustration take the criticism of the second Titiens' concert by the *Star*. Why such a change in the tone of the critic's remarks between Wednesday and Thursday? Who is the critic of the *Star* that so confidently dictates to an artist of Mr. Sauret's standing? He must "take Herr Joachim as his model rather than Wieniawski." Herr Joachim is a grand player, but who ever hears of his compositions? Of what "tricks" was M. Sauret guilty? He is singularly careful and conscientious. Some, in consequence, consider him cold. It would be well had we more such careful playing in young artists—and he sets a good example to many a confident amateur. We never heard the delicate, rich and also grand music of Wieniawski decried before. Fear not, Mons. Sauret, follow your careful, studious ways and your career will be a bright one in spite of carping critics. Besides, Mons. S. does play classic music; and he renders in noble style the music of the best composer for the violin of the present day, the illustrious Vieuxtemps, whose appreciation of his own reception in Canada (Toronto) I am prepared to tell the public is most cordial. Speaking of classical music, we are reminded of the audacious criticisms of Mons. Couture in the *Minerve*. They have one merit—they are clever; and though displaying all the faults a young man is likely to run into as a critic, they are unlike the criticisms appearing in the other daily papers in that they are *discriminating*. One does know the position Mons. Couture takes and maintains. For a young musician he deals altogether too freely with names. He runs over a long list of musicians and treats them as one of the great masters might be authorized to do. If M. Couture were as discreet as he is clever, and his criticisms took into account our circumstances more fully, we should like them much. We join issue with him on one question. He would banish from all performances of the higher class all or almost all but classic music. Now is all the world of musical thought filled by classic music? We think not. If it were would people in their present stage of culture listen to it? Musicians might do so; but then music must be suited to those who hear it or it fails in its purpose. This principle if applied to literature would soon deplete our shelves. We would not be satisfied with Shakespeare, Bacon, Milton, Chaucer, Spenser and a few more—nor with all those usually called classic—though we placed them first. No. The various kinds of music now written have their counterpart in nature and the mistake consists in not giving them their *proper* position. Let classic music rank first, and as fast as possible educate people up to the appreciation of it.

A street organ may do something for the culture of those who never hear better music than it furnishes; and who would silence them? Certain it is that the best audience that can be gathered together in Canada at the present time would weary and surfeit of a long performance of purely classical music—much more of a succession of such. We must say that we think the style of criticism of the *Canadian Monthly* much better suited to this country than either the indiscreet and hypercritical productions of M. Couture or the *stuff* of the daily papers.

Yours &c.,

REASON IN CRITICISM.

Montreal, Nov. 13th 1875.

LITERARY NOTICES.

THE ATLANTIC for December presents many attractive papers.—Henry James, Jr., brings his capital story of "Roderick Hudson" to a close, and W. D. Howells gives two more chapters of his new novel, "Private Theatricals." Charles Francis Adams, Jr., contributes a second chapter on "Railroad Accidents," and Mrs. Frances Anne Kemble continues her entertaining "Old Woman's Gossip." H. H. describes Colorado scenery under the title of "A Symphony in Yellow and Red;" F. B. Sanborn narrates the closing scenes at Harper's Ferry in "The Virginia Campaign of John Brown;" H. H. Boyesen writes of "The Romantic School of Literature in Germany;" and Louise Stockton contributes an excellent short story, entitled "Kirby's Coals of Fire." The Poetry of the number is by C. P. Cranch, John Boyle O'Reilly, Edgar Fawcett, and others. The department of Recent Literature contains reviews of Whitier's "Mabel Martin," Russell's "Library Notes," Mark Twain's "Sketches," and other recent books; and those of Art and Music are well filled, the latter being devoted to Dr. Hans von Bulow's first concert in the United States.

THE POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY for December is a splendid number.—The contents are Martineau and Materialism, by John Tyndal, F.R.S., L.L.D.; Opossums and their Young, by Prof. W. S. Barnard, (Illustrated); Idol-Worship and Fetish-Worship, by Herbert Spencer; On a Piece of Limestone, by William B. Carpenter, L.L.D., F.R.S.; Strange Mental Faculties in Disease, by Hezekiah Butterworth; Progression and Retrogression, by Prof. W. D. Gunning, (Illustrated); Geography and Evolution, by "Lieut.-General R. Strachey, F.R.S.; Diamond-Cutting, by Dr. A. C. Hamlin, Illustrated; Reading as an Intellectual Process, by E. O. Vaile; The Deeper Harmonies of Science and Religion; Sketch of Principal Dawson, (Portrait); Editor's Table: The Nation on German Darwinism; Literary Notices: Smithsonian Report for 1874, Bacteria and their Influence on the Septic Complications of Wounds, Fire-Burial among our Germanic Forefathers, Report of the Curators of the Missouri State University, Nature and Culture, etc. Miscellany: United States Board for testing Iron and Steel, Stanley's Expedition, Putrefaction arrested by Pressure, Meeting of the French Association for the Advancement of Science, St. Louis Academy of Science, Is Consumption contagious? Continuity of the Guano-Deposits, Resuscitation of the Drowned, Intensity of Solar Radiation, etc. Notes.

The December issue of LIPPINCOTT'S MAGAZINE, closes the sixteenth volume of this excellent Monthly. The number before us opens with a handsomely illustrated article on "Up the Thames," the second of a series on this interesting river, by Edward C. Bruce. "Sahara" is the suggestive title of another illustrated article. Frances Anne Kemble adds "Notes on the Characters of Queen Katharine and Cardinal Wolsey in Shakespeare's Henry VIII." the scenes of which the writer has so often illustrated by the magic of her voice and genius. "The Comrades" is concluded in this number. "Carmela" is an exquisite poem by Emma Lazarus. "Betrayal" is also a fine specimen of an American poem by Sidney Lanier. "Medical Education in the United States," by H. C. Wood, Jr., M.D., is an able article on a subject of deepest importance to the whole community. "The Atonement of Leam Dundas," the serial of this Magazine, increases in interest. "A Night of Adventures," by Fitzedward Hall, is a very interesting descriptive article on travel in India, the writer having passed some years in that country in an official capacity. "Our Monthly Gossip" contains a variety of short articles of interest, while the "Literature of the Day" embraces the usual reviews of new books. The January number will begin the new volume of this Magazine, which we commend to our readers as one of the most attractive published.

The December number of the GALAXY contains the opening chapters of a promising story by Annie Howells. The first part is also given of an interesting review of Walter Savage Landor, evidently drawn from his writings and published biography. Albert Rhodes treats of the Marriage Question in his lively manner. The paper on Balzac is not as satisfactory as the writings of Henry James, Jr., generally are. There is lack of clearness and precision in the critical reflections and the author assumes too much knowledge of his subject on the part of the general reader. Richard Grant White has another of his queer articles—Cynicism, which is an egotistical dissertation concerning dogs' tails. Dear Lady Disdain, Justice McCarth's novel, is continued through four chapters. The poetry of the number is good, including the contributions of Willie Winter, Paul Hayne, Esmeralda Bayle, Lillie Blake and Rose Lathrop. Driftwood, Scientific Miscellany, Current Literature and Nebulae contain the usual quantity of interesting and useful reading.

The ST. NICHOLAS for December contains a number of rare articles and illustrations. We may particularly refer to the Memoir of Hans Christian Andersen, with portrait and autograph; the Legend of St. Nicholas, and St. Nicholas Day in Germany. We take this occasion also to announce that the January number will be the Holiday Number, and will be filled with good things. It will contain the beginning of Bayard Taylor's serial, "Jon of Iceland;" a Hoosier Fairy Tale by Eggleston; Stories and Poems of Christmas in the Arctic regions, in the far East, and in our own clime. There will be stories by Louisa Alcott, Susan Coolidge and Mrs. Diaz,

with poems by H. H. and Celia Thaxter. Christmas pictures, riddles and games will also constitute a feature.

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

Solutions to Problems sent in by Correspondents will be duly acknowledged.

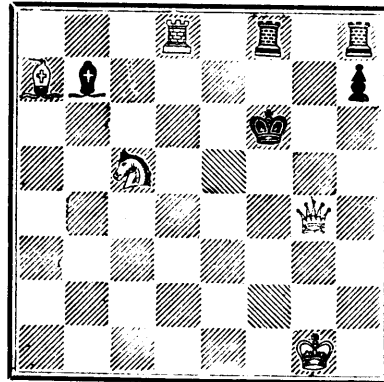
TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. A. C. F. Montreal. Solution of Problem No. 45 received. In reply to your first move, suppose Black should play Kt to K 3rd, how could mate be accomplished in the required number of moves?

PROBLEM No. 46.

By M. J. MURPHY.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

GAME 53RD.

Played at Glasgow for the Champion Cup of the Counties Chess Association. It is an interesting game; the play on the part of Black being very spirited.

(Two Knights' Opening.)

WHITE.

(Rev. C. E. Ranken.)

1. P to K 4th

2. Kt to K B 3rd

3. Kt to Q B 3rd

4. Kt takes K P (b)

5. K takes B

6. P to Q 4th

7. K to K sq (c)

8. B to K 3rd

9. B to Q B 4th

10. P to Q 5th (d)

11. P takes B

12. P takes P (ch)

13. B to Q 4th

14. B to K B 2nd

15. P to Q Kt 3rd

16. B to K Kt 3rd

17. Q to K 2nd

18. Q to K Kt 4th

19. Q to K R 3rd

20. B to K B 2nd

21. K to Q 2nd

22. K to Q 3rd

23. K R to K B sq

24. Kt takes Q P

25. B to K R 4th

26. K to Q B 3rd

27. K to Kt 2nd

28. K to Kt sq

29. P to Q R 4th

30. K to R 2nd

31. B to K 7th

32. B takes Kt

33. Q to Q B 3rd

34. Q takes Q

35. B to K Kt 3rd

36. K to R 3rd

37. R to K B 7th

38. R to Q B 7th (ch)

39. Q R to B sq

40. K R to Q B 8th (ch)

BLACK.

(Mr. Jenkins.)

P to K 4th

Kt to Q B 3rd

B to B 4th (a)

B takes P (ch)

Kt takes Kt

Q to B 3rd (ch)

Kt to Q B 3rd

P to Q 3rd

B to K 3rd

Kt to K 4th

Kt takes B

Q takes P

P to Q B 4th

Castles

Q R to K B sq

Kt to K 6th (e)

Kt to K B 4th

Kt to R 3rd

Q to K B 3rd

R to K sq

Q to Kt 4th (ch)

Kt to K Kt 5th

P to Q 4th

Kt to Q 3rd

Q to K Kt 3rd

Q takes K P

Q to Q 5th (ch)

Kt to Kt 4th

K R to K B sq

Kt to Q 3rd

R to K B 4th

R to K 7th

R takes Kt

P takes Q

R takes B P (ch)

R takes K Kt P

Kt to K 6th

K to Q sq

P to Q 6th

K to K 2nd

NOTES.

(a) 3 P to K Kt third is good play.

(b) This capture is sound, and ought to give White the better game.

(c) Very inferior to Kt to Kt sq. If in reply to the latter move, Black play Kt to Kt 5th, the answer is Q to Q second.

(d) This manoeuvre can only end in favour of Black.

(e) The game now becomes highly interesting, and from this point to the end, Black plays remarkably well.

GAME 54TH.

Between the late Mr. Staunton and an Amateur: the former giving his Q Kt.

A companion game to this appeared in our Chess Column a few months ago.

(Remove Black's Q Kt from the board.)

WHITE.—(Mr. Staunton.)

1. P to K 4th

2. P to K B 4th

3. K Kt to B 3rd

4. K B to Q B 4th

5. P to Q 4th

6. Castles

7. B takes K B P (ch)

8. R takes P (ch)

9. P to K 5th

10. Q to K R 5th (ch)

11. P takes Kt

12. R to K Kt 4th (ch)

13. B to K R 6th (ch)

14. Q R to K sq (ch)

BLACK.—(Amateur.)

P to K 4th

P takes P

P to K Kt 4th

P to K Kt 5th

P takes Kt

P takes K Kt P

K takes B

K Kt to B 3rd

B to K 2nd

K to K Kt sq

B takes P

K to K B

K to K 2nd.

SOLUTIONS.

Solution of Problem No. 45.

WHITE.

1. Q to Q 6th

2. R takes Q B P

3. R to Q B 8th (double ch) 3. K takes R

4. Kt takes Q R P mate.

BLACK.

1. Kt to K 3rd

Black has several ways of defending the game, but none better than this.

2. Q to K 4th

3. K takes R

Solution of Problem for Young Players, No. 44.

WHITE.

1. R to K Kt sq (ch)

2. Kt to Q 7th (ch)

3. R to K 8th (ch)

4. R to K Kt 8th mate

BLACK.

1. K to B sq

2. R takes Kt

3. K takes R

PROBLEMS FOR YOUNG PLAYERS.

No. 45.

WHITE.

K to K 4th

Q at K B 4th

B at K 7th

Kt at K B 8th

BLACK.

K at K Kt 2nd

Q at Q 4th

R at Q R 2nd

P at K R 2nd

K B 2nd and K Kt 3rd

White to play and mate in three moves.

A FEW WORDS TO FEEBLE AND DELICATE WOMEN.

By R. V. PIERCE, M. D., of the World's Dispensary, Buffalo, N. Y., Author of "The People's Common Sense Medical Adviser," etc., etc.

Knowing that you are subject to a great amount of suffering, that delicacy on your part has a strong tendency to prolong it, and the longer it is neglected the more you have to endure and the more difficult of cure your case becomes, I, as a physician, who am daily consulted by scores of your sex, desire to say to you, that I am constantly meeting with those who have been treated for their ailments for months without being benefited in the least, until they have become perfectly discouraged and have almost made up their mind never to take another dose of medicine, or be tortured by any further treatment. They had rather die and have their sufferings ended than to live and suffer as they have. They say they are worn out by suffering, and are only made worse by treatment. Of any thing more discouraging we certainly cannot conceive, and were there no more successful mode of treating such difficulties than that, the principles of which teach the reducing and depleting of the vital forces of the system, when the indications dictate a treatment directly the reverse of the one adopted for them, their case would be deplorable indeed. But, lady sufferers, there is a better and far more successful plan of treatment for you; one more in harmony with the laws and requirements of your system. A harsh, irritating caustic treatment and strong medicines will never cure you. If you would use rational means, such as common-sense should dictate to every intelligent lady, take such medicines as embody the very best invigorating tonics and nervines, compounded with special reference to your delicate system. Such a happy combination you will find in my Favorite Prescription, which has received the highest praise from thousands of your sex. Those languid, tiresome sensations, causing you to feel scarcely able to be on your feet or ascend a flight of stairs; that continual drain that is sapping from your system all your former elasticity, and driving the bloom from your cheeks; that continual strain upon your vital forces that renders you irritable and fretful,—may all be overcome and subdued by a persevering use of that marvelous remedy. Irregularities and obstructions to the proper working of your system are relieved by this mild and safe means, while periodical pains, the existence of which is a sure indication of serious disease that should not be neglected, readily yield to it, and if its use be kept up for a reasonable length of time, the special cause of these pains is permanently removed. Further light on these subjects may be obtained from "The People's Common Sense Medical Adviser," in which I have devoted a large space to the consideration of all forms of diseases peculiar to your sex. This work will be sent (post-paid) to any address on receipt of \$1.50. My Favorite Prescription is sold by druggists.

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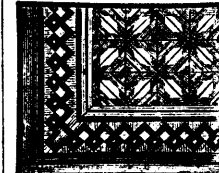
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