

The Magazines.

Sketches of travel, accompanied with illustrations, have always formed the distinctive feature of *Harper's Magazine*. The present number is no exception to this rule. There are "The Water Ways of New York," "Around Lake Lemau," "Northern California," and "South Coast Saunterings in England." The most interesting of these are "Around Lake Lemau." It contains medallions of Voltaire, Madame de Staël, Madame du Châtelet and Bonivard, with views of the Castle of Chillon, Villa Grisi, Voltaire's house at Ferney, Villa of the Empress Josephine, Villa of Prince Napoleon, Byron's Villa at Diodati, and D'Aubigne's Country Seat. The "Poetry and Philosophy of Indian Summer," with map, is a novel and useful article. "A Chapter of Gossip" is also replete with pleasant information concerning many of the literary and political celebrities of the day. We are glad to hail the return of Mr. Curtis to the Editor's Easy Chair, where the indications of his presence are agreeably visible. The Literary, Scientific, and Historical Records are well filled, while the Drawer contains the usual allowance of sayings and stories, a few good, several antiquated and many indifferent.

The *Atlantic Monthly* closes the year in a style befitting its reputation. The papers are of sufficient variety, and a few of them are excellent. The essay on Disraeli is hearty and just, though by no means exhaustive. We fancy this singular man affords subject for keener and more searching analysis. "On the Ridge" is a disappointment. It promises much and yields little at the end. The poetry, speaking generally, is not up to the *Atlantic* standard. "John Underhill" will be read because Whittier wrote it, but for no other reason. "Helen at the Loom," on the other hand, is a poem which displays some powers of fancy and an instinct of the perspective. "Gunnar" is closed in this number. It is a pleasing, but not a great story. There is much information in "Roman Neighbourhoods" and the "Externals of Washington." We do not admire the sentimentality which pervades "Israel Bethel Church." That subject has been overdone, and is apt to pall. The magazine has devoted a large space to critical notices on literature, art and science, forming a capital digest of current events in those departments. For the ensuing year, the *Atlantic* promises a rich programme, and we know it sufficiently well to be sure that it will redeem all its promises.

Scribner's has two gems in this number—a sketch entitled "Black Rock and Lake," a poem by Bret Harte. The little story promises much for the author; the name, however, is not sufficiently indicative of its scope. Bret Harte's poem is not particularly felicitous in conception, which is somewhat strained, but its details are excellent. "Eyes that Kin Snap like a Cap," and "A Rifle Smoke Blown Through the Woods, a Moment, but Never to Stay," are striking and picturesque similes that will be often quoted. The papers on "The Great South" are beautifully illustrated, but the text lacks clearness, and its language is often stilted. The second instalment of "Annals of an English Abbey," by Froude, is as disappointing as the first. These papers lack the quality of discerning criticism which alone could make them useful. There are several other articles of much interest in the present number. The editor, in "Topics of the Time," writes with much warmth against his ecclesiastical critics, but it strikes us he is not severe enough by half. He has a rare occasion to show up the hypocrisy and cant of his detractors, who, to judge from the extract given, are the most intolerant of men. The number closes with a clever list of etchings in five scenes, entitled, "An Episode of Central Park."

The December number of *Old and New* hardly comes up to the mark established by its predecessors. The serious articles are characterized by a certain amount of heaviness, and the readable chatty papers one is accustomed to look for in the pages of this magazine are nowhere to be found. Of the former class the list contains the usual opening editorial remarks—this month on the coming session of Congress—and a paper by J. P. Quincy, advocating the exemption of charities from taxation. The lighter literature also inclines somewhat to the grave, and comprises a translation from George Sand; a dull article on a very interesting subject, ferus; a paper seasonable enough, but otherwise of no particular interest, on "Some Beautiful Old Carols"; another of Miss Hincley's articles on "Country Lights and Sounds," and a short narrative of adventure among the Apaches. Liberal instalments of the two serials—both of which are really good—and an indifferent poem on the "Polaris," complete the number.

Lippincott's opens with the welcome "New Hyperion," with its chatty, sparkling letter-press and characteristic illustrations from the pen of Gustave Doré. An interesting illustrated description of Bangkok forms the continuation of the series of "Sketches of Eastern Travel," which is followed by a graphic description of social life and society at Washington in an article entitled "Life at the National Capital." S. C. Clarke contributes an interesting account of "A Day's Sport in East Florida," which will be read with pleasure by all who take any interest in field sports. Fiction is strongly represented by the continuation of William Black's charming serial, "The Princess of Thule," an amusing story entitled, "The Long Fellow of Th," by James McKay; and Miss S. W. Kellogg's delightful novelette, "The Live-lies," which is concluded in this number. "The History of the Crisis," by K. Cornwallis, is a timely and able article on the present financial difficulties in the States which cannot fail to attract attention, and is worthy of careful reading and consideration. A very interesting description of "Monaco," the great gambling resort of Europe, is contributed by R. Davey. Two charming poems, "Autumn Leaves" and "The Problem," with the usual variety of entertaining "Gossip," and Reviews of New Books, complete a very attractive number.

There is no lack whatever of pleasant reading matter in the December *Galaxy*. The number of good things is only so great as to make it difficult to make distinctions. Perhaps the papers that would best please the general reader are those on "The Future Czar," by Justin McCarthy; "Life on the Plains," by Gen. Custer; "Salvini's Othello," by Junius Henry Browne; and "What Became of Louis XVII?" In the department of fiction we find instalments of the serials, "The Wetherel Affair," and "Linley Rochford," a charming little tale entitled "Pill Lulu," which has already met with considerable success, if we may judge by the number of times it has been reproduced; and an odd story of Parisian life, under the attractive caption "A Droll Acquaintance." Richard Grant White's "Punishing the Pundit," and Gideon Welles' paper on "Lincoln and Seward," are both continued. The poetry in this number is more than usually attractive.

The two last numbers (November 15 and 22) of *Appleton's Journal* contain, in addition to the usual attractive features, of which the Miscellany and Editor's Table are by no means the least, instalments of the current serial, "A Daughter of Bohemia," by Christian Reid, and several very readable tales and sketches. Notable among the latter are "A Mad World, My Masters," "Paper Money in Japan," "Art Patronage in Cuba," "The Duke and Duchess de Berri," "A Summer Tour in High Latitudes," and a paper on Jules Janin, accompanied by a portrait of the veteran critic. *Appleton's Journal* has always borne a high reputation for the quality as well as quantity of the literary pasture offered in its pages, and recent numbers are far from showing any falling off.

Chess.

It is impossible for us to answer letters by mail. Games, Problems, Solutions, &c., forwarded are always welcome, and receive due attention, but we trust that our correspondents will consider the various demands upon our time, and accept as answers the necessarily brief replies through our "column."

CHESSE NOTATION.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS:

CHAR OTTATOWN, P. E. Island, Nov. 11 1873.

SIR,—I beg leave through the medium of your Chess Column to offer what I believe to be an improvement on the common system of Notation which, for simplicity and clearness, leaves nothing to be desired. The principal pieces and their files, reckoning from the Queen's Rook side, are expressed by the first eight capitals of the alphabet, and their Pawns respectively by the corresponding small letters. The ranks being numbered by the usual way, commencing from the player's side of the board, thus combining the principles of the various systems used here, and in different parts, but simplified in this respect: that each move requires but three characters to express it; the first standing for the Pawn or piece moved, the second and third for the file and rank of the square on which it is to be placed, and whether a game or a position is to be recorded, thus e 4 is read King's Pawn to (or at) King's 4th square. Castling is expressed by E H 0, or E A 0, according as it is done with the King's Rook or the Queen's. When a Pawn, on being advanced to the opposite side of the board, is exchanged for a Queen or other piece, the letter expressing the piece claimed is put in place of the S, which is necessarily implied; thus b B D is read as "Queen's Knight's Pawn to Queen's Knight's 5th becoming a Queen." When a piece is taken, it may be expressed by placing after the move the letter representing the piece captured, thus G D 4, B, signifies King's Knight to Queen's 4th square, taking Queen's Knight; e P D, H, is King's Pawn to King's Bishop's 5th square, taking King's Rook and becoming a Queen; x is added when check is given, and if desired xx may be put for double check, xl for double check, m for mate, s for stalemate, &c., but these abbreviations are not by any means necessary.

In playing a game by correspondence there is no occasion to express the taking of pieces or the giving of check, as these contingencies of the game are necessarily implied as the result of the moves themselves, but it would be requisite to express the Pawns by numbers instead of letters, there being no distinction between smalls and capitals in the telegraphic code.

By way of illustration, I here transcribe, in the proposed Notation, the game won by Mr. Blackburne, and published in your last number (Nov. 5th), so that the advantages of the system will be readily seen and acknowledged on comparison.

White.—Mr. —	Black.—Mr. B. White.—Mr. —	Black.—M. B.
1. e. E. 4	1. e. E. 4	12. A. D. 2
2. f. F. 3	2. B. C. 3	13. G. H. 2
3. F. C. 4	3. F. C. 4	14. C. B. 6, F.
4. E. H. 0	4. G. F. 3	15. E. G. 2, C.
5. d. D. 3	5. d. D. 3	16. E. H. 1
6. h. H. 3	6. B. E. 2	17. f. F. 3
7. C. G. 5	7. e. C. 3	18. H. F. 2
8. C. E. 3	8. F. B. 3	19. E. G. 1
9. B. C. 3	9. B. G. 3	20. d. D. 4
10. D. D. 2	10. C. E. 3	21. H. G. 2, D.
11. F. B. 3	11. E. H. 0	21. BH 6 mate

* The cypher is added for the sake of uniformity, and also to show that no other number has been inadvertently omitted.

T. J. LEEMING.

REVIEW OF CHOICE GAMES.

In the following game White gives the odds of his Queen's Rook. (Remove White's Queen's Rook.)

White.—Mr. Selkirk.	Black.—Mr. J. C. R.
1. P to K 4th	1. P to K 4th
2. Kt to K B 3rd	2. Kt to Q B 3rd
3. B to Q B 4th	3. Kt to K B 3rd
4. Castles	4. Kt to K B 3rd
5. P to Q 4th	5. P takes P (a)
6. P to E 5th	6. P to Q 4th
7. P takes Kt	7. P takes B
8. R to K sq ch	8. B to K 3rd
9. Kt to K Kt 5th	9. Q to Q 4th
10. Kt to Q B 3rd	10. Q to K 4th
11. P to K Kt 4th	11. Q takes doubled P
12. Kt to Q 5th	12. Q to Q sq
13. R takes B ch	13. P takes R
14. K Kt takes K P	14. Q to Q 2nd
15. Q to K 2nd	15. B to K 2nd
16. Q Kt takes P ch	16. K to B 2nd
17. Q takes Q B P	17. K to K 4th
18. Q to Q Kt 3rd	18. K to B 3rd
19. P to K Kt 5th ch	19. K to Kt 3rd
20. P to K B 4th	20. Kt to Q B 3rd
21. P to K B 5th ch (b)	21. K takes P
22. Q to Q 3rd ch	22. K to Kt 5th
23. Q to K 4th ch (c)	23. K to R 4th
24. P to K R 4th	24. P to K R 4th
25. Q to K B 3rd ch	25. K to Kt 3rd
26. P to K B 5th ch	26. K to K 2nd
27. P to K Kt 6th ch	27. K to Kt sq
28. Q to K B 7th mate.	

(a) B takes P leads to a much safer line of defence. The move made gives White a very powerful attack.

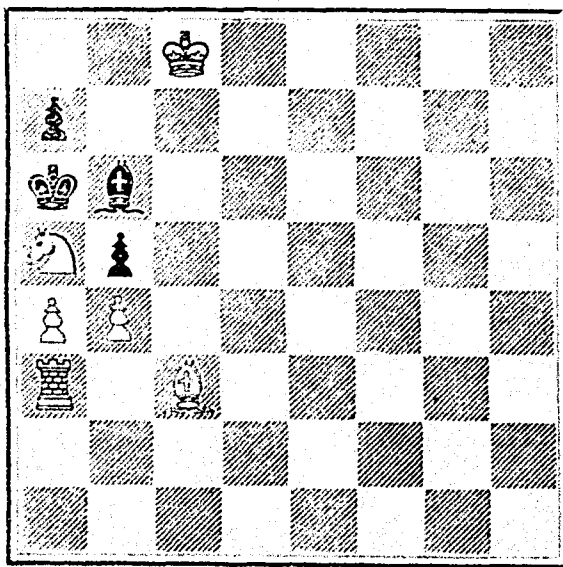
(b) The attack is well sustained by Mr. Selkirk.

(c) Overlooking, apparently, the obvious mate on the move with the Knight.

PROBLEM No. 107.

By Mr. Chas. H. Wheeler, Chicago.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 105.

White.	Black.
1. Q to K Kt 5th ch	1. K to Q 5th
2. B takes Kt	2. K takes B
3. Q to Q B 5th mate	
3. Q. to B 4th mate.	2. K. takes Kt
3. Q. to B 5th mate.	2. Any other move.

Art and Literature.

Ernest Feytaud, the French *littérateur*, is dead. Mr. Edmund Yates is about to write a new tale, "The Impending Sword," for a comic weekly. The United States alone has 5,871 journals and periodicals, while all the rest of the world has but 7,842.

A work has just been published, from the pen of Mrs. Anna Wilkes, under the title of "Ireland, Ur of the Chaldees."

General Garibaldi is said to be writing an epic poem, "The Thousand of Marsala." It is to be published by subscription.

M. Gustave Doré has commenced to illustrate Shakespeare, first choosing for his pencil "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Macbeth."

The author of "John Halifax, Gentleman," who has not for some time appeared before the public as a novelist, has just completed a new domestic love story, entitled "My Mother and I," which will appear immediately in *Good Words*.

The posthumous work of the German dramatist Benedix, *Shakespearean*, which is directed against the admiration for Shakespeare prevalent in Germany, is announced for publication.

The Viennese seem doomed to misfortune. It has just been discovered that the street frontage over the doors of the splendid cathedral of St. Stephen's is entirely crumbling away. The tower is already on permanent crutches, and decay seems now to be spreading over the whole church.

Mr. Hepworth Dixon has enrolled himself in the noble order of lecturers, and will embark for America in January to tell us from the platform what his notions are about "German Imperialism" and "Spanish Republicanism." Colonel John Hay has a few short contracts out on the latter, which he is taking in as rapidly as the panic will permit.

A fragment of the Vendôme Column, weighing about 75 lb., has been on exhibition at No. 581, Broadway, New York, for some time. An attaché of the French general consulate recently demanded that the *débri* be returned to the French Government, to whom it belonged. The request was complied with, and the Vendôme fragment promptly delivered to the claimant.

The *Jewish Chronicle* believes that the Assyrian Expedition undertaken last year at the expense of the *Daily Telegraph*, and under the direction of Mr. George Smith, is to be resumed by the British Museum authorities. The expedition was to have started in a few days. Mr. Smith will again direct the movements, and Mr. Joseph Pauck, the Eastern traveller, will again accompany him as dragoman.

The M. de Rothschild have just made to the Administration of the Fine Arts, Paris, a valuable present, consisting of columns, statues, and bas-reliefs coming from the ruins of a temple dedicated to Apollo Didymus, discovered in the neighbourhood of Miletus (Anatolia), in the course of excavations made for some years past at the cost of these gentlemen. These relics of antiquity will be placed in the Musée des Antiques at the Louvre.

Music and the Drama.

Janatschek is in the West. Patti has left Paris for Vienna. Nilsson returns to London in May. "L'Oncle Sam" was given at the Paris Vaudeville on the 18th inst.

Marie Monbelli, the singer, is about to be married to the French General Bataille.

Miss Bateman has been acting in England in a new play by Tom Taylor, called "Bitter Fruit."

A new prima donna, Madlle. Wilhelmina Raab, has made her debut successfully at St. Petersburg.

Mr. Edwin Adams appeared on Monday at the Olympic Theatre, New York, as Enoch Arden.

"Grissola," Miss Bradburn's new play, will be produced at the Princess's, London, on the 13th prox.

A resuscitation of one of the great dramas of the Barrière, Plouvier is spoken of for the Odéon—*L'Ange de Minuit*.

Edwin Booth made his appearance as Othello at Booth's Theatre on Monday last. He appears at New Haven on Monday next.

Salvini opened at the Boston Theatre on Monday, and acted during the week Samson, Sullivan, Othello, Conrad, and Hamlet.

It is reported that both Mme Lemmens-Sherrington and Miss Edith Wynne will retire from professional life after the next season.

Mr. Jefferson will act in the old comedies, when he plays in Baltimore, early in December. He will be seen as Dr. Pangloss and as Bob Acres.

At the Olympic, a novelty, likely to be very popular, is to be produced. It is a translation of *Le Mariage de Figaro*, of Beaumarchais, by Mr. James Mortimer.

It is a curious fact that the piece performed at the last representation at the Opera House—that of Monday—was the *Prophète*, which ends with a conflagration.

It is rumoured that Madlle. Patti intends singing at the "Lothengrin" during her American tour, and that she has been studying the part of Elsa from the original German.

M. Charles Lecocq, the composer of "La Fille de Madame Angot," is writing a new opera-bouffe, "Giroflé-Girofla," to be produced this winter at the Brussels Fantaisies-Parisiennes.

"The School for Scandal" has been withdrawn from the Vaudeville Theatre, London, after a run of 104 nights. At the Haymarket Mr. Buckstone opens the season with the same play.

Mr. Charles Reade has taken the Queen's Theatre, London, and will there produce his "Wandering Heir." This piece has been done at Liverpool, with Mrs. John Wood in an important part.

Madlle. Albani made her debut at St. Petersburg on October 15th (the Grand Duke Constantine being among the audience), in Bellini's "La Sonnambula," and being in splendid voice she won a most enthusiastic welcome.

The *Musical Standard* gives currency to a statement that the late Louis Drouet, the flute player, was the real composer of "Partant pour la Syrie," which is usually attributed to Queen Hortense, in whose employ he was.

Mme Ristori has commenced a short season at the Alexandra Theatre, Liverpool, previous to her departure for Italy, and plays in succession Marie Antoinette, Lucrezia Borgia, Mary Stuart, René of France, and Medea. She will also play the sleep-walking scene (in English) from "Macbeth."

Miss Emma Abbott, formerly the soprano of Rev. Dr. Chapin's choir, is in Europe pursuing her musical studies, and has received an offer from Patti to sing in Mr. Mapleson's London season. The success of Miss Abbott has been predicted by Kellox, Nilsson, Parepa-Ross, Santley, and others.

A novel and interesting drama will shortly be produced at the Paris Renaissance Theatre. It is entitled "The Curé of Santa Cruz, or the Spanish Insurrection," and is written by the Spanish correspondent of the *Patrie*, who was made prisoner by the renowned curé. On events of which he was an eye-witness during imprisonment, he has founded a highly sensational piece.