

PENELOPE.

The darting needles flash and fly,
The web flows downward to her knee;
Kings, princes, thronging round her cry;
"Oh, love and youth so soon go by;
The morning's dew by noon is dry,
Then choose among us now, Penelope!"

She shows no sign of her heart's pain;
Her lips smile on in feigned glee;
Only her blue eyes still disdain
Shows how they ill may hope to gain
What she will keep; they cry in vain:
"Oh, choose among us now, Penelope!"

The wondrous web more lovely grows;
"She weaves the blueness of her eye";
They say,—"She weaves her cheeks' soft rose";
The golden of her hair here flows,
The warmth of her lips' crimson glows
In living colours that shall never die."

The days pass on, and every day
(Though well she works and faithfully)
The standing sunbeams seem to play
On the same length of colours gay,
And still the eager suitors pray:
"Oh, choose among us now, Penelope."

Fredericton, N.B.

BETH.

REVIEW AND CRITICISM.

Charles Warner's "My Winter on the Nile," comes out in a new edition uniform with "In the Levant." In spite of all that has been written of the East, both before and since Mr. Warner, these books will always have a charm of their own, as records of the personal impressions of a acute observer and withal a singularly pleasant writer, who went to the Nile with no special object, and who invites us to follow him and see the country just as he saw it. The social and financial state of Egypt has changed since the book was first written, but Mr. Warner has, wisely we think, left what he has said unaltered. The re-issue comes at an opportune time to meet the increasing demand for information about the East.—(Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston.)

ON THE THRESHOLD.—It would be well if we had more books like this little volume; better yet if we could persuade our young men to read them. In the form of lectures addressed to the "many men that stumble at the threshold." Mr. T. T. Munger has put into a clear and concise form the difficulties which beset our young men at the opening of their lives, and the principles which should be their guide in overcoming them. With an evident wish to impress upon his readers the desirability of using to the utmost the talents God has bestowed upon them, and neglecting no chance of honest advancement, Mr. Munger is yet most emphatic as to the importance, if not indeed the absolute necessity of special training, for success in any walk of life. It is true, no doubt, that many men, especially in a new country, have succeeded in life without this special training, but it is none the less true, that as the country grows older, it is becoming more essential every day, and that who neglect it will surely suffer. In other points Mr. Munger's views are no less sound. His doctrine as to amusements may be summed up in a single sentence. "They are free to you, but you have other business on hand." In a word, the work is thoroughly practical, and should be productive of real good.—(Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston.)

THE FEBRUARY MAGAZINES.—Harper's new number is noticeable for an exhaustive paper on "The Gospel History in Italian painting," by the Rev. Henry Van Dyke, jr. Mr. Conway's series of papers on the English Lakes is concluded in this number, and the illustrations of the picturesque scenery are really charming. The paper which will probably be best appreciated by ordinary magazine readers, however, is that on "Literary and Social Boston," by G. P. Lathrop, full as it is of entertaining gossip about contemporary literateurs, and containing besides portraits of many men of note, some interiors which make us envious of the possessors of such cosy retreats. The easy chair has a capital review of "Endymion."

Lippincott's Magazine for February contains an interesting sketch of a trip through Manitoba, by Alice Ilgenfritz, which is capably illustrated, and should interest readers in this country. It contains also a criticism of Sarah Bernhardt; a discussion of the various types of journals; an analytical description of Welch women and two or three fair stories.

The Atlantic Monthly opens with two chapters of Miss Phelps' admirable serial story "Friends. A Duet." William M. Rossetti, in his second paper on "Wives of the Poets," tells briefly the story of the wives of La Fontaine, Molière, Racine, Lessing, Bürger, Goethe, Schiller, and Heine. Major Ben. Perley Poore continues his authentic and entertaining "Reminiscences of Washington" with a capital paper on the Taylor Administration. Richard Grant White returns to his English tour with an article entitled "In London Again." These essays are admirably written, and are both entertaining and full of acute observations. Other essays, poems, stories, reviews of new books, a well-filled "Contributors' Club," and a running account of the books of the month, conclude an excellent number of this sterling magazine.

The Midwinter number of Scribner's Magazine is fully equal to what we have been accustomed to expect from this favorite publication. The illustrations are of a very high order, notably those of "An Old Virginia Town." We are glad

to hear that the success of Scribner in England, where it has lately been introduced is so pronounced that the English publishers of the magazine have telegraphed for seventeen thousand copies of the present number, a respectable little circulation in itself.

WE have received from Messrs. A. & S. Nordheimer, a copy of Sullivan and Gilbert's amusing opera "The Pirates of Penzance," just published by them. Many of those who laughed so heartily over the funny situations and enjoyed the lively music of the piece when represented here, will be glad to possess an authentic copy.

AYER'S ALMANAC for 1881 appears in a wonderful polyglot form; no less than nine different languages being laid under contributions in its production.

DR. SOUTHALL, OF RICHMOND, (VA.) ON PLIOCENE MAN.

VICTORIA (PHILOSOPHICAL) INSTITUTE OF ENGLAND.—A meeting of this Society took place on the 17th of January, at 7 Adelphi Terrace, London, when a paper on "Pliocene Man in America," by Dr. Southall, of Virginia, United States, was read; after which the results of all recent researches on the subject were described in a paper by Dr. Dawson, F.R.S., of McGill College, Montreal. The Duke of Argyll, K.G., and Professor McKenny Hughes (Woodwardian Professor of Geology at Cambridge) followed with communications, in which they agreed with the two previous authors, and showed that there was no reason for considering any of the hitherto discovered remains of so-called ancient man, whether in America, or Europe, to be other than modern. Mr. Mello, F.G.S., and other geologists, followed in considering the subject. About twenty new members were elected, and it was announced that the lists for the year were now open for home and foreign members. The object of the Society is to investigate impartially all questions of philosophy and science said to militate against the truth of Revelation. Many leading American prelates, clergy, and laymen have already joined it.

CHRISTIAN ART IN MOSAICS.

Transplanted in the fifth century to the full daylight of the great basilicas, Christian art blossomed out into the strange, rich splendor of mosaic. This was the painting of the Middle Ages; "the painting for eternity," as Ghirlandajo called it. In the spacious churches which began to spring up as if by magic all over Christendom, apace and triumphal arch glowed with blue and purple and gold; rhythmic groups of majestic figures and splendid symbols gleamed down upon the worshippers. The subjects chosen for these mosaics were mystical rather than historical. Christ seated in solemn light in the midst of the four-and-twenty elders; Christ coming in glory on the clouds of sunset greeted by saints and evangelists; the Lamb on the hill of Zion, at whose foot flow the four rivers of Paradise, while the twelve sheep issue from the gates of Bethlehem and Jerusalem on either hand; mystic palm-trees, sparkling with gold, and jewels, and the immortal phoenix, and Jordan with shining waves—these were the themes chosen by the Christians to give light and magnificence to their first temples. But among the earliest mosaics there are also some historical scenes, although the material limitations of the art prevented anything more than an imperfect and suggestive style of treatment. In the baptistry of S. Giovanni in Fonte, at Ravenna, there is a mosaic of the baptism of Jesus, in which the river Jordan is personified as an old man with urn and reed.

The most interesting group of old Christian mosaics is in the noble basilica of S. Maria Maggiore, at Rome. They are almost as brilliant to-day as when they were made. A frieze of vivid Old Testament pictures surmounts the pillars of the nave, increasing in splendor until they reach the chancel arch. Here is the great mosaic of the Lamb seated on the throne of the Apocalypse, and on either side smaller scenes from the New Testament. They represent the Annunciation (one of the earliest pictures of this subject), the Angel appearing to Zacharias, the Massacre of the Innocents, the Presentation, the Adoration of the Magi, and Herod receiving the head of John the Baptist.

The picture of the Adoration is especially interesting for the light which it throws upon the position of the early Church in regard to Mariolatry. In the mosaic as it was originally made, the Christ-child alone occupied a throne or seat of honour. In another chair, opposite to his, was seated a man with a long blue mantle veiling his head. This was meant to be the oldest of the Wise Men. The two others, in Oriental dress, were seen approaching from the same side, and behind the seat of the Child stood his mother. In the last century Pope Benedict caused the upright figure to be erased, and a halo to be put around the head of the seated figure, transforming it into the Virgin Mary. This illustrates very beautifully the great change which has taken place in the Roman Church in regard to the dignity assigned to the mother of Christ.

In these mosaics of the earlier and Western school we see a striving after individual character and personality in the expression of face and

figure. The artist is no longer content with the symbolic representation of Christ as the Good Shepherd. He wishes to invent a noble countenance, a sublime form, which shall be worthy to embody the redeemer of the world before his worshippers. This tendency finds its climax in the great mosaic of SS. Cosmo e Damiano, in Rome (526-530). The mighty Christ, who looks down from the dark blue apse into the poor, dingy little church, is clothed with majesty; his head, with its dark beard and flowing hair, is strong and solemn as that of a youthful Jupiter Capitolinus, yet lighted with a mild benignity which befits the all-merciful Saviour of men.—HENRY J. VAN DYKE, Jr., in Harper's Magazine.

ECHOES FROM PARIS.

It is stated that the memorable minister of the Empire, M. Emile Ollivier, intends founding a new political paper in Paris.

A SPECIAL portion of the Louvre has been set apart under the title "La Musée Thiers," for the reception of the art collection of that illustrious statesman.

A STATUE of Denis Papin, who is regarded by Frenchmen, but by no one else, as the inventor of the steam engine, was unveiled last week in the Conservatoire des Arts-et-Métiers. A lecture on this eminent Huguenot was delivered in this former monastery by M. Dide, an eloquent Protestant pastor.

GREAT indignation is being expressed in Paris at the discovery that some miscreant has been placing vitriol, or other corrosive liquid, into the receptacles for holy water in one of the churches. Many persons are stated to have had their fingers and faces burnt on the evening of Christmas day when crossing themselves with the water on entering the church in question.

The following is the list of the writers, all born in Paris, who are to have their statues outside the new Hotel de Ville: D'Alembert, Arnault, D'Argenson, Bailly, Beaumarchais, Béranger, Boileau, Budé, Burnouf, Cavaignac, Courier, Estienne, l'Estoile, Frère, La Bruyère, La Rochefoucauld, Malebranche, Marivaux, Michelet, Molière, Musset, Pasquier, Perrault, Picart, Quinault, Regnard, Mme. Roland, Rollin, Saint-Simon, Georges Sand, Sauval, Scribe, Sedaine, Mme. de Sévigné, Sylvestre de Sacy, Mme. de Staël, de Thou, Turgot, Voltaire.

A CURIOUS trial has just been concluded before a Parisian tribunal. An actor, M. Loir, complained that having paid three hundred francs, on account of a nose, to one Monsieur Vivière, over two years had elapsed without the said nose being forthcoming. In proof of payment the plaintiff produced the following receipt: "Reçu de M. Loir, la somme de 300 francs à valoir sur son nez.—Vivière." (Received of M. Loir, the sum of three hundred francs on account of his nose.) The court considered that unreasonable time had already been taken by the defendant, and adjudged M. Loir the repayment of the money, with the further sum of eighty-six francs for removal of a portion of the original organ, the plaintiff having been forced to employ a surgical instrument to make good the deficiency.

VARIETIES.

A VERY curious and interesting letter has just been found among the papers of the late Cardinal Antonelli, written by Victor Emanuel to Pius IX. at the time of the occupation of Rome by the Italian troops. The King says in it that he thought he was rendering a service to the Church by occupying the city in a regular manner, instead of leaving it a prey to the revolution. On this passage there is a marginal note, in the hand of Pius IX., to the effect that he quite comprehends this reasoning, and is grateful to the King, but that before the world it is necessary for him to protest.

THE census enumerators in New York and Brooklyn have discovered that certain persons have been making a first-class article of Jamaica rum, by distilling refuse old shoes with cheap spirits, thereby acquiring both "body" and the requisite color, without the expense of using burnt sugar. This interesting product is purchased in quantity, and not only by the proprietors of "gin-mills" and corner grog-shops but by druggists.

EDWIN BOOTH says that the most genuine compliment he ever received was on the occasion of his playing Iago for the first time at Grass Valley, then a new mining camp. The audience, who had not seen a play for years, were so much incensed at his apparent villainy that they pulled out their "shooters" in the middle of the third act, and began blazing away at the stage. Othello had the tip of his nose shot off at the first volley, and Mr. Booth only escaped by rolling over and over up the stage and disappearing through a trap door.

AN habitant of Cabaceiras, City, Brazil, named Joaquim Marreiro, and his wife Juanita, aged respectively 103 and 97, contemplate ere long celebrating the eightieth anniversary of their junction in the bonds of holy matrimony. Of the twenty-three children born in wedlock to this aged pair, fourteen still survive, themselves

abnormally old men and women. Joaquim Marreiro's family at the present consists of 233 persons, including his venerable spouse and himself. A hundred and twenty-six grandchildren, and ninety-seven great-grandchildren will attend the ceremony, which, for want of a better name, might be described as the Compressed Steel Wedding.

WATER SPECTACLES.—Dr. Dudgeon describes an important invention he made some time ago in spectacles. These are called "diving spectacles," but this name does not exactly express their utility, as they may be used without diving. They are spectacles designed for seeing under water while the eye is in contact with the water as in ordinary free diving. The lenses of these spectacles are not glass lenses, but air lenses of sufficient magnifying power when immersed in water to restore the refractive power the eye loses when in contact with water. These lenses in no way affect vision in the air, but only in the water. They show the diver in clear water everything in the water as distinctly as if the objects were in the air and seen by the naked eye. When swimming, if the face be merely immersed below the surface of the water, these spectacles enable the wearer to see with perfect distinctness everything at the bottom of the water or in the water; under similar conditions the naked eye sees nothing distinctly.

THE EUROPEAN ELEMENT IN TOKIO.—Although Tokio is in the main still a Japanese city, exhibiting everywhere the life, the customs, and the costumes of the Japanese people, it bears many manifest and obtrusive evidence of European interposition. The railway, with European station and equipments, is the first great contrast with the native architecture and appliances which strikes one. Not far from it is the foreign settlement, where many of the houses are of European type; and in looking over the city from an eminence one sees bank buildings, schools, and occasional residences of foreign patterns rising up above the less elevated Japanese buildings—less elevated save as regards the temples alone, which here and there stand up high above all other Japanese constructions. Most of the great educational establishments, such as the University, the College of Engineering, the Military College, the Naval College, are of European style; as are also some of the barracks, and likewise some of the manufacturing establishments. In fact, buildings of this style, with which alone we are familiar at home, but which were perfectly unknown in Tokio a few years ago, are now very frequent and conspicuous objects in the bird's-eye view of the city.

OLD Maggie Dee had fully her own share of Scottish prudence and economy. One bonnet had served her turn for upwards of a dozen years, and some ladies who lived in her neighbourhood, in offering to make and present her with a new one, asked whether she would prefer silk or straw as material. "Weel, my leddies," said Maggie, after careful deliberation, "since ye insist on g'ing me a bonnet, I think I'll tak' a strae ane; it will maybe be a mouthfu' to the coo when I'm through wi't."

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

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

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. W. S., Montreal.—Papers to hand. Thanks.
E. H.—Correct solution received of Problem for Young Players No. 310.
E. D. W., Sherbrooke, P.Q.—In Problem No. 311 if the W B takes B (ch) the B K takes the B and gives check by discovery.
H. & J. McG., Cote des Neiges.—Correct solution received of Problem for Young Players No. 310.

We saw it stated recently, that Captain Mackenzie the Chess Champion of America, was residing in St. Louis, U.S., and that, should his prospects prove favourable, he would stay there permanently. It was, also, said that he was giving lessons in chess on reasonable terms.

We could not help thinking that the lovers of the game in St. Louis were in possession of an excellent opportunity to improve themselves, and we have no doubt many will take advantage of it.

Little is done, even among the most intelligent communities to give systematic instruction in a game which is universally acknowledged to be intellectually beneficial to all who may learn it; and this is but the second instance which we have had to notice during many years of what might be called chess classes.

The first was the very successful chess class at the Birkbeck Mechanics' Institution in London, Eng., where a master was engaged who gave instruction in the game, two or three hours a week, to about forty pupils.

We ought to say, however, that more than twenty years ago we saw in a Montreal paper an advertisement, from which we learnt that a gentleman recently from the mother country was desirous of giving lessons in the game at a reasonable rate; but inasmuch as we heard nothing respecting the results of his enterprise, we are led to conclude that he was obliged to go further to fare better, and that his endeavour to cultivate a love for chess in our midst, was very soon brought to an end. Indeed, many, we feel sure, will say that he was a very bold man to have made the attempt at all.

From observations occasionally dropped by some of our chess friends, it appears that a knowledge of the game is generally acquired through some accidental circumstance. A child watches two players engaged in a game, feels an interest in that which seems to absorb the attention of the antagonists, and from repeated observation and inquiry he learns some of the principles of the art, and at last becomes a chessplayer. It is on account of the few systematic endeavours that are made at the present time to instil into the minds of the young a taste for the noble art that so few good players are to be found, and that our clubs are so badly off for members.

The attempt of Captain Mackenzie to form a class at St. Louis will, we hope, be successful, and set an exam-