

....The July number of *The American Art Review* is the ninth of its first year, and its continued high character leads us to hope that its permanence is secured. W. J. Linton continues his series, very valuable and interesting, on the history of Wood Engraving in America. We notice that he gives the highest praise to the engravings in Appleton's "Picturesque America," in which, as other books, he designates the most artistic work. The picture of the "Ascent of Whiteface," either by Morse or Quartley, he calls the most delicate in the two volumes, and the "Walls of the Grand Cañon," by Annin, the best and most careful in the whole series. We also notice Signor Castellani's letter from Rome, with admirable illustrations of the recent important mural paintings found in a villa on the banks of the Tiber. The etchings this month are one of Durham, by Coleman; and one of Schreyer's "Wallachian Team," by Unger, extremely good.——The August number of *Scribner's Monthly* is the "Holiday Number," and we saw two persons try to turn over the apparently folded corner of the engraved cover. We sometimes fear that the enterprising publishers are putting too much comparative strength on the illustrations, which do not fall behind the high standard of the magazine, either in number or quality. The frontispiece engraving of Savonarola is admirable. Mr. Cable's excellent story of "The Grandissimes" is continued, as also Eugene Schuyler's "Peter the Great." The articles are not too heavy, nor is the space wasted in worthless stories. We especially value R. H. Dana's "Sketch of American Diplomacy."——*St. Nicholas* for August is good enough to send all over the world and we are glad to hear of the large French and German editions.——*Harper's Magazine* for August shows the continued effort to make the art worthy of the popularity of this monthly. The improvement in the last year or two is marvelous. It opens with a poem on "Robert Burns," by Longfellow, which does not disappoint us. Stories are fewer than usual, but large space is given to Blackmore's "Mary Anerley," and the usual descriptions of seaside and mountain must be expected for August.——After all, what magazine gives such satisfaction in the reading as *The Atlantic*, though in its editing it knows neither months nor seasons? O. W. Holmes's poem, "The Archbishop and Gil Blas," is delightfully and comically good, and other excellent articles are by Susan Coolidge, Susan E. Wallace, F. D. Millet (on "Mr. Hunt's Teaching"), Mark Twain, T. W. Higginson, R. G. White, and T. B. Aldrich. It is not strange that *The Atlantic* maintains its place. But after reading the magazines, we always question whether *THE INDEPENDENT* is not a weekly magazine quite as much as a newspaper.