

## THE GAME IN SAN FRANCISCO.

It is good news to learn that the San Francisco "Chronicle" is again printing a weekly chess department. E. J. Clarke and A. J. Fink, both too well known to need any introduction, are jointly in charge of the department. It will mean much to the advancement of the game on the Pacific coast.

San Francisco players mourn the recent death of George Hallwegen, who was a native of New York City, where he was born in 1859. He learned to play chess at about the age of 21. As a "natural" player, he scorned books and regarded book players as using "dead men's brains," as he picturesquely phrased it. His was a rugged and strong personality, his boast having been that he was never defeated by masters in simultaneous exhibitions. He claimed victories over Zukertort, Pillsbury, Lasker, Max Judd and others.

The following obituary notice is taken from the San Francisco "Chronicle" of January 16:

### Passing of Veteran Chess Player.

George Hallwegen, who died in this city January 7, aged 68 years, had been a member of the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club for more than forty years and was probably the best known player on the coast. Visiting masters, from Zukertort down to Lasker, carried away a distinct impression of George's personality as expressed by his manipulation of the wooden symbols we call chess pieces, and thus his fame as a decidedly original chess player and stubborn fighter spread to the east and gave him a national reputation. In the Mechanics' Institute telegraphic matches, Hallwegen's board was sure to

be a center of interest, as spectators knew he could be depended upon to get such a tied-up game that only his remarkable ingenuity would be able to unravel it. Herein lay George's strength. Invariably his opponent would endeavor to "end it quickly," but somehow George's game was just a little stronger than it appeared, and time and again, in his matches against the masters, he would emerge from a "lost game" with flying colors. Hallwegen's pet defense was the King's Fianchetto ("Grass Valley"). His watchword and cautionary advice to beginners was: "Beware the passed pawn!" Farewell, old friend!

### Overheard at the Club.

(To G. H., Who Dislikes Annotations.)

The table was circled by devotees true—  
They were playing a game from the K. C.  
"Bazoo,"  
"Bishop to rook six," "rook to king one"—  
The battle waxed furious, with Black on the run.

"Pawn to B four;" Black leaves his bishop en prise—  
White scorns the gift—plays pawn to knight three.

(Note a): "If rook to B three, Black easily beats."  
("Go on with the game! It's near time for the eats!")

"Pawn to rook three," "queen to B eight."  
(Note b): "White threatened to win by Philidor's mate."  
("Never mind what he threatens!" cries the veteran G.,  
"Let's see what DID happen; cut out the maybe!")

"Knight to K four;" Black doubles his rooks;  
"B to B six, check" (White a mate overlooks).  
(Note c): "In the St. Louis tourney, during the fair,  
Dr. Bovee here castled; then king to rook square."

With a snort of disgust G. jumps up angrilee:  
"Play the game as it really went—to hell with Bovee!"  
—San Francisco Call, February 23, 1913.