The Labourer.

BY WM. D. GALLAGHER.

Stand up—erect! Thou hast the form
And likeness of thy God!—whom more?
A soul as dauntless 'mid the storm
Of daily life, a heart as warm
And pure, as breast e'er wore.

What then?—Thou art as true a MAN
As moves the human mass along,
As much a part of the Great Plan
That with Creation's dawn began,
As any of the throng.

Who is thine enemy?—the high,
In station, or in wealth the chief?
The great, who coldly pass thee by,
With proud step and averted eye?
Nay! nurse not such belief.

If true unto thyself thou wast,
What were the proud one's scorn to thee?
A feather, which thou mightest cast
Aside, as idle as the blast
The light leaf from the tree.

No;—uncurb'd passions—low desires—
Absence of noble self-respect—
Death, in the breast's consuming fires,
To that high nature which aspires
Forever, till thus checked.

These are thine enemies—thy worst:
They chain thee to thy lowly lot—
Thy labour and thy life accrue.
Oh, stand erect! and from them burst!
And longer suffer not!

Thou art thyself thine enemy!
The great!—what better thee than thou?
As theirs, is not thy will as free?
As God with equal favors thee
Neglected to endow.

True, wealth thou hast not; 'tis but dust;
Nor place: uncertain as the wind!
But that thou hast, which, with thy crust
And water, may dispense the lust
Of both—a noble mind.

With this, and passions under ban,
True faith, and holy trust in God,
Thou art the peer of any man.
Look up, then—that thy little span
Of life may well be trod!

Our Country.

BY W. J. PARODIE.

Our country!—'tis a glorious land—
With broad arms stretched from shore to shore,
The proud Pacific chafes her strand,
She hears the dark Atlantic roar;
And nurtured on her ample breast,
How many a goodly prospect lies
In Nature's wildest grandeur drest,
Enamelled with her loveliest dyes.

Rich prairies, deck'd with flowers of gold
Like sunlit oceans roll afar;
Broad lakes her azure heavens behold,
Reflecting clear each trembling star,
And mighty rivers, mountain-born,
Go weeping onward, dark and deep,
Through forests where the bounding fawn
Beneath their sheltering branches leap.

And cradled 'mid her clustering-hills,
Sweet vales in dreamlike beauty hide,
Where love the air with music fills,
And calm content a peace abide;
For plenty here her fulness pours,
In rich profusion o'er the land,
And, sent to cheer her generous stores,
There prowls no tyrant's hireling band.

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITION.—A letter received from Captain Franklin's squadron, on the east coast of Greenland, and dated July 11th, says: "We have the sun all the twenty-four hours, and the middle of the day is really very warm, notwithstanding that from the top you can count a thousand ice-bergs." There seems to be something *bullish* in this letter, in speaking of the middle of the day, where the day is continuous, and especially in his statement that the letter was written by the light of the "mid-night sun."

SIXTY YEARS AGO.—The Portsmouth Journal says, the mail between Boston and Portsmouth, N. H., was carried on horseback, by Deacon John Noble, in a tin box, four inches wide and ten inches long. He usually left Portsmouth on Monday morning, and arrived in Boston on Tuesday night; remained in Boston till Friday morning, and then returned to Portsmouth, where he arrived on Saturday night. Now the mail passes between these places three times a day, and the papers and letters carried in it, amount to twenty or thirty bushels a week.

PROPRIETY.—Speaking of the execution of Greene at Troy last week, one of the city papers says—"Every thing was conducted with order and propriety. We never could see much propriety in hanging a live man up by the neck, when there are so many more convenient modes of killing him."

PLAIN BUT HONEST.—Mr. Webster, in closing an argument recently in Bristol County, Mass., declared that "if the rule of common sense was not to govern Courts in their deliberations, they might be looked upon as *nusances*, rather than the exponents of justice."

The Art of Painting.

(Continued from No. 4.)

PLAIN PAINTING IN OIL COLOURS.—The beauty of this kind of painting depends principally on the uniformity and smoothness of its finish; and this is effected by distributing the paint equally on every part of the work, and finishing by drawing the brush lightly and steadily over the work, in the direction of the grain of the wood. Care is required to avoid leaving a superfluous quantity of paint in the quirls and corners; all such accumulation must be brushed out. In painting houses outside, the workman should be particularly careful to paint the edges of the clapboards and all the hollow corners; and for this purpose, the brush must be held with the handle inclining downward, that the brush part may work upward, filling the edges and corners. Paint, for inside work, usually requires an ingredient more drying than raw linseed oil; and for this purpose, an article called litharge, being finely ground, is added to the paint, in the proportion of one ounce to each pound of paint;—more or less, according to circumstances. This litharge is evidently the best dryer for floor paint that is known; paints tempered with this, dry harder, and wear better, than any other: but painters have in general use a fluid article, called *drying japan*, which is very convenient as a dryer, and is excellent for carriage and ornamental work, but is in more general use than it should be, in house painting. This japan consists of oil, gum shellac, litharge, and red lead, united by being boiled together. Red lead is, of itself, a good dryer, in such colours as are not injured by its use; but when a delicate white is required, a sulphate of zinc, known as *white vitriol*, must be used. It is a general custom with painters, however, to prepare a thin oil, by boiling it, that it may be more readily dry, even without any other dryer. The usual mode of boiling the oil, is to place several gallons in an iron kettle over a slow fire, and when it begins to boil, add four ounces of litharge and an equal quantity of red lead, to each gallon of oil: the oil is continued boiling, being almost constantly stirred about with a stick, for about half an hour, or until it boils clear, without frothing; it is then taken off to cool. This oil can be always procured ready boiled, at the paint shops; but paints mixed with this, will not prove so durable when exposed to the weather or to wear, as those ground in raw oil, and having good opportunity to dry. Raw oil, with litharge for a dryer, is best for floors or other inside work, in warm, dry weather. In giving the work a second or third coat, however, it is requisite to mix spirits of turpentine with the oil, to prevent too sharp a gloss, and render the paint more firm and hard. The paint is first mixed with oil, and the spirits of turpentine is added, in the proportion of a pint to two quarts of oil; the proportion varying, however, according to circumstances. If the paint is required to be left *flat*, or without any gloss, the spirits may be used in the proportion of one half, or even two to one: but such paint will not wear so well. Alcohol is sometimes used instead of spirits of turpentine; but neither of these should be used in any considerable quantity in outside work or warm weather: in cold weather they are convenient to make the paint flow more freely. As a general rule, after the first coat of paint is dry, and when the second is to be applied, the work must be examined, and all the cracks, seams, and holes, filled up smoothly with putty, (a simple mixture of oil and Spanish whiting,) and all the rough parts smoothed with sand-paper or glass-paper: and after smoothing, the dust must be carefully removed with a dry brush. A general but improper custom which prevails with most painters, is to apply the putty with the fingers merely, in filling the cavities of nails and brads; but instead of this, the putty should be always smoothed with a chisel-shaped piece of wood. When any uneven parts of the surface is to be smoothed, the putty should have a little white lead paint mixed with it, to make it adhere better. If an old room is to be painted, such parts of the surface as have been discoloured with smoke, or have been exposed to wear, should be washed over with a dilute mixture of lime and water, and allowed to dry before the paint is applied: and such parts of a floor as have become bare, or from which the paint is worn off, should be first painted with very thin or dilute paint, and become dry before the whole is painted: as the same paint cannot be suitable for the painted and the unpainted parts. We shall next proceed to instructions in producing and compounding various colours.

COLOURS.—There are but three primary colours;—red, yellow and blue. Blue and red combined, constitute purple. Blue and yellow combined, constitute all the variety of greens. Yellow and red combined constitute the average colour. Red, qualified by yellow and white, constitute scarlet. Olive colour is produced by mixing blue, red and yellow. Lilac and violet are produced by red and blue in different proportions. White is composed of all the different colours united, and black is the absence of all colour. When red, yellow and blue are perfect, and perfectly blended, the compound proves white. (This is proved by the appearance of a wheel, which being painted with the three colours, is put in rapid motion, so as to blend apparently the colours: the more perfect the colours the more perfect the white.) Black is uniformly produced by fire, which, is a powerful destroyer of all colours.

New Inventions.

A PRAIRIE STEAM-CAR.—A gentleman in Alton Ill. is constructing a car to be propelled by steam power on the prairies, independent of railways. The size of the car is 15 by 20 feet; and in the place of wheels, he will use cylinders, four feet long and six feet in diameter. It is thought that by running this car a few times over the ground, the track will become smooth and hard, so that he may carry forty or fifty tons on a load, and travel ten miles per hour. We have long advocated the practicability of running carriages on the prairies without railroads. We shall write for further intelligence on the subject.

Aerial Navigation.

The article on this subject in our last number would naturally tend to produce enquiry in the minds of many with regard to particular modes of management under various circumstances, admitting the practicability of elevation and propulsion of the aerial ship: we shall therefore proceed with explanations on this subject, prior to presenting mathematical demonstrations on the subject of velocity. Supposing, then, the balloon to be constructed and inflated with hydrogen, it must be held with a strong rope, made fast to some permanent object fixed in the earth, to prevent its going adrift and flying away. For this purpose we shall use a stout iron spiral rod, in the form of a cork-screw, with a hand-spike attached, whereby two men may screw it into the earth to a sufficient depth to be permanent, answering the purpose of an anchor. But that the draught on the halser may not be too strong, the saloon-car will be supplied with a quantity of stone-ballast, nearly equal in weight to the buoyant force. The saloon will have a long double door in the floor thereof, from which a receiving-car will descend occasionally to the ground. This car is to be surrounded with railing and seats; being about ten feet in length by five in breadth, and suspended from the saloon by four ropes, connected to a windlass at the top. This windlass is to be connected occasionally to the steam-engine, so that the passengers will be elevated to the saloon by steam-power; but a wheel is mounted on one end of the windlass, and from its periphery a small rope descends to the car, so that by means of this, a single person may ascend or descend by their own management of this wheel-rope. When passengers or freight are received, an equal weight of the ballast is deposited; and whenever passengers are landed, an equal weight of stone or lead must be taken on board. For the purpose of ascertaining the weight, the four corner ropes will be connected to the receiving-car by four spiral springs, with indices, which will at all times indicate the weight of whatever the car contains. When the balloon is moored, it will invariably head to the wind; and when ready for moving, the engine is put in gentle motion, sufficient to propel the balloon forward to a point directly over the anchor-screw, when a man below will detach the screw from the earth, and it is hauled up, (and the man with it, if he belongs on board,) while the balloon moves ahead. The balloon will not ascend more than four or five hundred feet from the earth, unless it be to secure a more favourable atmospheric current, which will not often occur. We have already explained (see No. 4) the method of steering the balloon, both with regard to its horizontal and vertical directions: if it is required to ascend or descend gradually when under head-way, or turned to the right or left, it is done by means of the *vertical-horizontal rudder*. But when it is required to descend to a point, the volume of the gas is compressed by means of the interior rigging of the balloon; the longitudinal rods being drawn towards the centre, so as to cause the balloon to descend sufficiently rapid. In whatever direction the wind may blow, it will be to the passengers apparently ahead: for though the wind was blowing a gale in the direction of the course of the balloon, yet the latter will move so much the faster, and the wind will still appear to be ahead. If the balloon should encounter a severe gale, directly ahead,—a gale sufficient to prostrate trees and unroof houses,—it will descend perpendicularly (still heading the wind and having the wheels in motion) to within a few feet of the earth, and grappling irons or a small anchor will be thrown out, and will take to the trees or bushes, or to the earth; or a man may descend and make fast an anchor-screw. If the compressing apparatus should fail to operate, a part of the gas may be readily liberated by a valve for the purpose. And on the other hand, if at any time the balloon should fail to ascend sufficiently rapid, a part of the ballast may be thrown over. The saloon will be furnished with water-tight tanks, arranged under the seats, on the life-boat principle, so as to be safe, if any accident should occasion a descent into the water. And in case of the worst imaginable immergency,—that of the balloon taking fire,—the saloon itself will descend gently to the water; and if over land, each passenger will have a parachute at hand, by which they can descend safely to land. (To be continued.)

Late Foreign News.

THE ROYAL MAIL steam-ship Britannia arrived at Boston on Friday last, with 101 passengers, among whom were Hon. Edward Everett, his lady and daughter. The news by this arrival is generally favourable, but not important. A terrific whirlwind or tornado had occurred in France and Germany, destroying many houses. Sixty persons are reported to have been killed by falling buildings, and one hundred and twenty wounded.—The Russian army is said to have gained some small advantage over the Circassians; and the French at Algiers had again defeated the Arabians: but neither movement is considered important.—The wolves had become troublesome in France; two hundred sheep in one fold had been destroyed in one night.—A drought prevailed at Constantinople to such an extent that water was sold in small measures in the streets.—Queen Victoria is travelling in Germany, and frolicking with the children.—The latest news from China gives account of a destructive conflagration of a theatre, in Canton, by which twelve hundred and fifty-seven lives were destroyed, including fifty-two actors and actresses, and 2,100 more were wounded. On the day after the fire, thirty persons were killed by the falling of the walls.

WONDERFUL SPRING.—One of the State boundary Commissioners of Missouri describes a remarkable spring about 50 miles from Bateville. The spring rises in a basin about 500 feet in diameter, and discharges from twenty to thirty thousand gallons per minute at all seasons. The spring has been sounded to the depth of 500 feet, but as yet no bottom can be found.

POSTMASTERS and others to whom this paper may be sent, are respectfully solicited to exhibit the same to others, that its patronage may be thus extended.

Mammoth Cave.

(Continued from No. 3.)

The ceiling is about seventy feet from the floor and is perfectly black, but gemmed with crystals, that, reflecting the torch-light, have the appearance of stars, while the back ground in which they are set, appears like the dark sky of night. The walls are white limestone, and slope gradually until they meet the ceiling, thus looking like overhanging precipices, while the loose rocks, lying confusedly in the bottom of the cave, give the appearance of the bed of some mountain stream, whose waters are dried. Look upwards, and you can see between the ragged precipices, the dark sky, gemmed with a myriad of stars, and calm and beautiful as it is of a summer's eve. The illusion is perfect; and this one dash of the pencil of nature challenges the imitation of human art. The imagination of a Raphael would drop, pinionless, in the attempt to soar to such daring sublimity of design, and his pencil would fall from his hand, its magic gone, in the execution! We remained here some time wrapt in admiration of this beautiful exhibition of nature's painting; then, reluctantly leaving the spot, we turned from the main cave into the "Deserted Chambers." The first of these, is called the "Wooden Bowl," from its shape. In it is a clear spring from which we drank. We then passed through the "Archway," a narrow passage, to "Side-saddle Pit," sixty-five feet deep. Near this, is the "Bottomless pit," which we crossed on a wooden bridge. This pit is so called from its great depth, which is between three and four hundred feet. Leaving the main cave again, at this point we reached "Gordon's Dome" after ascending and descending one or two ladders. This is considered the "grandest" thing in the cave, being a perpendicular shaft measuring three hundred feet from top to bottom. Its walls are decorated with beautiful formations of crystallized limestone, reflecting the powerful light with an intensity which renders it almost painful to look upon them. Human architecture could not produce as a monument of its own perfection any work that could compare with this splendid dome,—so majestic in its proportions, and so perfect and exquisite in the ornaments which decorate its walls. I remember the expression of an Englishman, who on seeing it, said that the sight of it alone, repaid him for his voyage across the broad Atlantic.

Returning to the main cave, we passed through the "Humble Shoot," the "Winding Way," the "River Hall," and "Bacon's Chamber," to the "Dead Sea," quite a large body of water, and very deep. Passing along the side of this, we then crossed the river "Styx" by a passage through an upper cave above. We then crossed "Lake Lethe" in a boat, but little better or larger than the bowl in which the "three wise men of Gotham" went to sea. Then climbing over a pile of rocks and sand, we embarked in another boat, scarcely larger than the first, and descended the river "Jordan," the distance of three fourths of a mile. We thus found ourselves, after navigating one mile under ground, on the other side of "Purgatory," (which we passed unscathed,) cut off from the rest of the world by the oblivious waters of Lethe, the ferriage of the Styx, the sea of the Dead, and last of all, by "Jordan's ever-rolling flood."

Our guide sang several songs while crossing, to show the effect of the echo upon the music, which softened the trembling sounds and repeated them over and over, as they died away, rolling from cavern to cavern;—or rather, it seemed as if so many spirits, who were concealed in the impenetrable darkness of those subterranean avenues, took up the song by turns, and sung it over, but each one upon a lower key, and with a softer voice.

Landing in "Silliman's Avenue," we again pursued our route, over heaps of rock until we reached "Cascade Hall," in which is a cascade falling down one of its sides. A short distance beyond, we entered the "Milky Way Side cut," that takes its name from the incrustations on the ceiling, giving it an appearance, similar to that of the Milky Way. We pursued this branch until we entered "Shelby's Avenue," in which are large beds of fibrous gypsum upon the bottom and sides, five or six feet in depth. These, at first sight, look like snow banks. At the end of Shelby's Avenue we turned a point or angle, formed by a ledge of rock, twenty feet high, resembling the stem and hull of a ship. The model is almost perfect. It is called the "Great Western." We here entered the "Pass of Algore," two miles in length, having traversed which, we came to "Corinna's Dome,"—one of the most beautiful apartments in the cave. It is circular, its height being twenty feet, and is entirely composed of crystallized limestone, and fibrous crystallized gypsum. After passing into "Boon's Avenue," and thence into the "Spring Side Cut," where is "Hebe's Spring," (a fountain strongly impregnated with sulphur,) we entered "Cleveland's Cabinet," the distance of nine miles from the mouth of the cave. This cabinet is about three miles in length, and abounds in crystallizations of various kinds. Upon the floor, in several places, are huge heaps of sulphate of magnesia (Glauber's Salts) and sulphate of soda, (Epsom Salts,) which are said to be more powerful than those sold at the Apothecaries. Near the entrance of Cleveland's Cabinet, is "Mary's Vineyard," so called from the beautiful circular crystals of limestone, hanging in clusters from the rock, and exactly resembling grapes. These "grapes" cover the wall for some distance, giving the appearance of a thriving vineyard. "Spar Hall," through which we next passed, is so designated from the numerous formations of spar found in it. Next to this is the "Snow ball room," the ceiling of which is covered with formations of sulphate of lime, which resembles snow balls. In the remote end of this chamber is "Mary's Bower," a small dome, with a fretted ceiling of rosettes of gypsum formation. These rosettes are as natural as if sculptured from marble, in imitation of the natural rose. There are several grottoes in this portion of the cave, whose walls are covered with innumerable formations of gypsum. (To be continued.)

The Great Commandment.

The first and greatest commandment—"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, with all thy strength, and all thy mind," may be truly considered as the greatest and most important and precious promise that is recorded in the Old Testament. The Jews considered it to be a mere command, and evading its simple, plain and pointed import, construed it in a manner to suit their capacity and convenience: and many pretended to observe and obey it, who probably never experienced the least sentiment of pure, sincere love and adoration towards that Being who had so repeatedly evinced his love to them. Not finding in their hearts that sublime and holy affection which was intended, as expressed in the commandment, they, like a great majority of professors among us, construed it to mean merely the attentive observance of all those ceremonies, hospitalities, and acts of common hospitality, which were specified in the Mosaic laws. But very few of them were aware, that this great command was calculated to convince them, (through their inability to comply therewith,) of the depravity of their hearts, and their need of the divine and special influences of the Spirit of God, to enable them to love him in reality. Reason itself shows perfectly plain that the great Author of nature is more lovely and more worthy of pure and ardent love, than any thing or all things that are created. Nevertheless, the human heart, as every man can testify, is incapable of exercising that rational, fervent love to God, without the special aid of Him who gave the commandment: and many have probably concluded that it is wholly impossible, and vain, to hope or expect that man should ever be able to love God according to the full import of this great command. Nevertheless, it has been happily proved, by the experience of many, that this command, "Thou shalt love," &c., is, and was evidently intended as a most precious promise, and is more fully expressive of the immense joy and happiness which is prepared for the faithful and obedient saints, than can be found comprised in any one sentence in the sacred writings. Let an experienced Christian, or even a penitent sinner, read this as a promise, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God," &c., and he will find it to contribute much joy and consolation;—an assurance of the very consummation, which of all things he most desires, and which is only needed to make him perfectly happy forever.

An attractive Speculation.

It is usual with those who would induce others to engage in any special enterprise, to present a statement of facts—or what purports to be such,—explanatory of the circumstances, the advantages to be gained, and the requisites for securing them. In accordance with this custom, we shall give a plain statement of the circumstances, in as brief and concise form, as the nature and importance of the subject will admit.

A nobleman, several years ago, purchased an immense estate, and made arrangements for the construction of many splendid palaces, gardens, and arbours, with beautiful groves, vines and lakes, far superior to any thing hitherto known on the earth.—While this work was progressing, the proprietor retired from the country, promising to return at about the time that these elegant works should be completed. He left a proposition in writing, and which has recently been extensively published, in which he generously offers a permanent and perpetual inheritance and joint possession of this beautiful and excellent estate, to every person who will accept of it, and make due arrangements to enter on the possession of this new inheritance, as soon as the proprietor returns. He has, moreover, given a solemn pledge, that he will see that all those who accept of his invitation, shall ever after be well provided for and made happy in all things; and has left abundant and substantial evidence of his sincerity and of the genuineness of his proposition, which he invites all people to examine for themselves. He merely requires that those who are disposed to accept of his generous offer, should disencumber themselves of all things which are vain and useless, and manifest confidence in the integrity of the donor, by marching towards the new inheritance, to meet him on his return. This liberal proposition is to extend only to the time of the proprietor's return; and will be withdrawn forever from all but those who may be found prepared to enter on the possession immediately on his return, which is looked for daily till he comes.

SCIENTIFIC.—A correspondent of the New York Farmer and Mechanic, describes an experiment made with the Steam Electrical Machine, in which a wooden ball is held suspended by a jet of steam, even when the jet is made to vary several degrees from a perpendicular; and enquires if any of the readers of the F. & M. will tell why the ball does not fall. Being a constant reader of that paper, we shall venture to answer in our own columns. When the jet of steam leaves the pipe, its expansive force expands the column notwithstanding the tendency of inertia to confine the steam to its original direction: these two forces counteracting each other, very naturally compress the steam more at the surface of the column than in its centre. The ball then occupying this partial vacuum in the centre of the jet or column, being subject to the action of gravity, naturally seeks and retains the position which is least exposed to any influence in opposition to the force of gravity; and its descent being prevented by the force of the more compressed steam below, it remains in equilibrium. Is that clear?

The American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions have unanimously adopted a report, the import of which is, that it is the business of the institution to *save souls*, rather than *oppose sin*.