

**The Father Deafant for his Child.**  
They shall not cross our threshold, Death;  
Here will I stand and bar thy way;  
Thou shall not still his little breath;  
Nor on our own sweet flow ret stay.  
These shall not strive with one so young,  
So weak, so tender, and so fair!  
The contest shall be with the strong—  
Thee to the combat here I dare!

A Gem in the River.

A young mother, with tears of bereavement in her eyes, stood over the river of death, gazing wistfully into its black and sluggish waters, as if she would fain rest her gaze upon some object away down, down in its fathomless depths. She gazed long and wistfully, and the black waves rolled sullenly, sluggishly onward.

And the mother laid her hands submissively on her bosom and wept, and said:

"My gem! my gem!"

And a celestial being, like an angel, stood near the hidden door of her heart, and whispered in a silvery voice like music:

"What seekest thou, mourning sister?"

"Alas!" said the mourner, "I once, even yesterday, wore a beautiful gem in my bosom. To me it was invaluable; it was no trivial gem; it was one that kings and monarchs might well have been proud of."

The riches of the East could not have purchased it from me. In an hour that was to me evil and miserable, the gem dropped from my bosom into the black night of this deep river. As I saw it floating away from me gently as the coming of an eastern shadow, I reached after it, but it was beyond my grasp, and my gem, my babe, smiled upon me, as it was riding on the waves further and further from me. It began to sink—to sink from my sight, and in a moment my gem was gone, and gone forever!"

And she turned sorrowfully away.

And the angel voice whispered again:

"Stay, my sister, grieve not; look again into the river."

She looked, as she was bid, and a cry of rapture joy burst from her lips.

"Thanks to the Father! I see my gem floating on a great black wave. O! may I not wear it in my bosom again?"

"Stay, my sister; thou art deceived; what thou seest in the river is not thy gem; it is the shadow of what was given thee in trust. Look, sister, heavenward, and rejoice."

She looked aloft, and away up in the dark clouded sky, she saw a single spot, pale and blue, and in it a bright star was gleaming, and its silvery rays came down and danced on the gloomy river, giving the black wave a brightness, as if silvered through and through; and away down many fathoms the bright reflection rested, and this, the mourner thought, was her lost gem. She gazed silently upon the scene, and the star from heaven was shining.

And the voice of the angel came again, like unto the sweet songs of many instruments of music, saying:

"Sister, the gloomy waves which thou seest, though cold, and dark, and terrible, roll ceaselessly onward up to the great gate of heaven, and thither they bore thy mourned-for gem, which the good Father lent thee; the waves have borne it back to Him, and it blooms and shines forever near the throne, like you brightly beaming star!"

The voice was hushed, and the sorrowing mother turned away with her eyes lifted from the earth and gloomy river, and fixed them hopefully and wistfully upon heaven. And the bright star she saw, when tears filled her eyes mourning for her loss, yet beams brightly, and it shines on her little baby's grave.

**The Highest Mountain in the World.**

—The principle topic of conversation at Calcutta is the discovery of the highest mountain in the world. At the meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bengal on the 6th of August, Major Thullier announced that Col. Waugh, Surveyor General of India, had completed his computations of the positions and elevations of the peaks of the Himalayas. The result was, to depose the mountain Kanchinjinga from its throne as the highest point on the earth's surface. That distinction for the present to a peak 100 miles from Kanchinjinga, and between that mountain and Kammandoo. This peak is ascertained to be 20,000 feet above the sea level; Kanchinjinga is 28,154 feet; and Dewalagiri, the mountain which "school geographies" persist in calling "the highest mountain in the known world," is only 26,826 feet. The mountain has no name intelligible to civilized men, and Col. Waugh has therefore ventured to denominate it "Mount Everest," after a former Surveyor General.

**Number of the Stars.**—Of the stars, thousands are visible to the naked eye, and millions are discovered by the telescope.—Sir John Herschell calculates that about five and a half millions of stars are visible enough to be distinctly counted in a twenty-foot reflector in both hemispheres, and thinks that the actual number is much greater. His illustrious father estimated on one occasion that one hundred and twenty-five thousand stars passed through the field of his forty-foot reflector in a quarter of an hour. This would give twelve millions for the entire circuit of the heavens in a single telescopic zone; and this estimate was made under the assumption that the nebulae were masses of luminous matter, not yet condensed suns. But with the increase of instrumental power, especially under the mighty grasp of Lord

Rosse's gigantic reflector and the great reflectors at Polkova and Cambridge, the most irresolvable of these nebulae have given way; and the better opinion now is that every one of them is a galaxy, like our own Milky Way, composed of millions of suns.

**ENGLISH SCHOOL-TEACHING.**—"Cook's Quarterly Geography," recently published in London—a gentleman of considerable pretensions—gives some valuable information to "Young England" in regard to this country. It teaches that in the Isle of Orleans, at the mouth of the Mississippi, is the town of New Orleans, the capital of Louisiana. The young men of Virginia are gamblers, cock-fighters and horse-jockeys. Their passions for these diversions, not only inhumanly barbarous, but beneath the dignity of a man of sense, are so predominant that they even advertise their matches in the public papers! But of New Enganders, it declares that: From laziness, inattention, and want of acquaintance with mankind, many of the people have accustomed themselves to peculiar phrases, and to pronounce certain words in a grunting manner! The people of Maine, according to appearance, are wretched in the extreme. Their chief provision is a dirty, dark colored rye meal, and if they use any meat it is on account of preventing their sheep from becoming numerous than they desire, rather than for the pleasure of a good meal. Their common beverage is grog, a mixture of rum and whisky with water. The State of Massachusetts is the only one in the Union in which there are no slaves."

**CORVALLIS TRADE.**—COLEMAN, CASSADY & CO., Corvallis, Oregon City, Nov. 8, 1850.

U.S. MAIL LINE.

Oregon City and Portland Daily Packet, J. C. ALNWORTH, Master, Will run daily, (Sunday's excepted,) in the Corvallis trade, leaving Oregon City every day at 10 A.M. Returning, will leave Portland at 2 P.M., touching at all intermediate points. For freight or passage apply on board. April 1st.

**U.S. MAIL LINE.**

Portland and Astoria.

The Salmon Steamer

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WILL continue to run monthly between Portland and Astoria, via Vancouver, twice a week, leaving Portland on Monday and Thursday mornings of each week for Astoria and Astoria for Portland on Tuesday and Friday mornings, touching Vancouver, St. Helens, Astoria, Clatsop, &c., each way. Price of passage, \$10.00. —INQUIRIES, M. R. HUTCHINS, M. C. THOMPSON'S.

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