

A Picture Three Miles Long.

Most of our readers have heard of, and many may have seen, Banvard's great "Panorama of the Mississippi." It is said that the author of this immense work conceived its idea and determined on its execution when he was a mere boy, during a trip across the Mississippi in a row-boat at sunset. The story of his after-life is a record of singular persistency and success in carrying out a boyish dream.

When his father died, John Banvard was left a poor, friendless lad, and obtained employment with a druggist. But so fond was he of sketching the likenesses of those about him on the walls with chalk or coal, that his master told him he made better likenesses than pills; so poor John lost his situation.

He then tried other plans, and met with many disappointments. Finally he obtained enough money to begin his great work. He bought a small skiff, and set off alone on his perilous adventure.

He travelled thousands of miles, crossing the Mississippi backwards and forwards to secure the best points for making his sketches. All day long he went on sketching, and when the sun was about to set he either shot wild fowl on the river, or hauling the little boat ashore, went into the woods, with his rifle, to shoot game.

After cooking and eating his supper, he turned his boat over on the ground, and crept under it, rolling himself up in a blanket to sleep for the night, safe from the falling dews and prowling animals.

Sometimes for weeks together he never spoke to a human being. In this manner he went on sketching for more than four hundred days before the necessary drawings were finished, and then he set to work in good earnest to paint the picture. He had only made sketches in his wanderings. After these were completed, there were colors and canvas to be bought, and a large wooden building to be erected, for he determined to paint them on one piece of canvas, and thus make a panorama.

When it was finished it covered three miles of canvas, and represented a range of scenery three thousand miles in extent; and that all this magnificent work was executed by a poor, fatherless, moneyless lad, ought to make us ashamed of giving up any undertaking worth pursuing, merely because it would cost us some trouble.

"The World of Missions."

Henry R. Carroll, in a lecture on "The World of Missions," recently delivered at Chautauque, presented the concise summary of the world's effort toward the conversion of the heathen; There is a steady increase in the number of societies and in the aggregate of contributions. There is now no less than 85 societies where there were only nine or ten 80 years ago. Of these societies 35 are American, 25 British, and 25 continental. More than fifty of them have been organized in the last 50 years. Their aggregate income is nearly if not quite \$7,000,000 a year, as against \$25,000 80 years ago. The vast sum represents not the income which the societies expect and receive yearly, with little variation. The managers of the societies make their appropriation in advance, and lay upon the churches the obligations to furnish the funds. These obligations are never disowned or dishonored. The British societies raise more than half of the whole amount, or something less than four million dollars. Five of them raised last year more than three millions, of which the two Anglican societies (the church and the propagation) received \$1,900,000. American societies expend about \$2,000,000 yearly, and the continental societies nearly \$1,000,000. These figures represent only the receipts of foreign missionary societies. They do not include the vast sums raised for home missions, Bible and tract societies, and other similar enterprises. The grand total of all missionary expenditures, at home and abroad, would assuredly not fall below \$51,000,000.—Standard.

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