

ENGLAND AND AMERICA IN 1863.

A CHAPTER IN THE LIFE OF CYRUS W. FIELD.

THOSE who looked upon Cyrus W. Field as a man absorbed in one idea may be surprised to learn that during the years of the civil war he worked untiringly for the good of his country. When in England his great desire was that the true reason for the struggle should be fully understood, and when in this country that Americans should know that they had warm friends across the water.

His trunks, both in crossing and in recrossing the Atlantic, were filled with books and papers relating to the war, and we are not surprised to learn that immediately on landing in New York, early in January, 1863, he remembered his friends in London.

The first letter of thanks is dated—

“11 CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE, S. W.,
Feb. 20, '63.

“MY DEAR SIR,—I return my best thanks for your courtesy and kindness in sending me a present of books relating to the American war, which has arrived safely.

“I have read with very great interest the correspondence between Mr. Loring and Mr. Field. It is conducted in a tone altogether honorable to the two gentlemen and to their respective countries.

“I hope I do not offend expressing the humble desire that it may please the Almighty soon to bring your terrific struggle to an end; for all who know me know that if I entertain such a wish it is with a view to the welfare of all persons of the United States, in which I have ever taken the most cordial interest.

“I will not ask you to trouble Mr. Seward with my thanks for his kindness in sending me the correspondence of the State Department.

Believe me, my dear Sir,

Very faithfully yours,

W. E. GLADSTONE.

“CYRUS W. FIELD, Esq.”

The letter which follows was written by Mr. Bright a week later:

“LONDON, February 27th, 1863.

“MY DEAR SIR,—I have to thank you for forwarding to me Mr. Putnam's four handsome volumes of the *Record of the*

Rebellion. I value the work highly, and have wished to have it. I shall write to Mr. Putnam to thank him for his most friendly and acceptable present.

“We are impatient for news from your country. There is great effort without great result, and we fear the divisions in the North will weaken the government and stimulate the South. Sometimes, of late, I have seemed to fear anarchy in the North as much as rebellion in the South. I hope my fears arise more from my deep interest in your conflict than from any real danger from the discordant elements among you. If there is not virtue enough among you to save the state, then has the slavery poison done its fearful work. But I will not despair. Opinion here has changed greatly. In almost every town great meetings are being held to pass resolutions in favor of the North—and the advocates of the South are pretty much put down. This is a short and hasty note. . . .

Believe me always,

Very truly yours,

JOHN BRIGHT.

“CYRUS W. FIELD, Esq., New York.”

Mr. Field sailed for England in the steamship *China* on the morning of June 3d; early in July his firm in New York wrote to him: “Business has been almost entirely suspended for the last week on account of the great excitement arising from the rebel invasion of Pennsylvania. . . . Harrisburg, Baltimore, and Philadelphia are threatened by Lee.” This also was the news brought by the steamer *Bohemian*, and published in London on July 16th. Those who sympathized with the South were exultant over it, and were quite sure that the steamer *Canada*, due on the 18th, would bring news of the utter defeat of the Northern army under General Meade. The steamer did not arrive on the day she was expected, and on the intervening Sunday Mr. Field afterwards said that he was far too excited to think of going to church. Instead he hailed a cab and drove to the house of Mr. Adams (then American minister in London). Mr. Adams was at church. Next he stopped at the rooms of a friend,

and persuaded him to go with him to the city. They drove to Reuter's. The man in charge of that office refused to answer any questions, saying that if he were to do so he would lose his place. He was assured that if that proved to be so he should immediately be given another place, and with an increase of pay. These questions were those asked: "Is the steamer in from America, and what is the price of gold in New York?" At last the wearied clerk opened the door wide enough to say that "the steamer was in, and that gold was 131." This gave assurance of a victory for the North, and putting his foot between the door and the jamb, Mr. Field refused to move it until he was given every particular. "There has been a three days' fight at Gettysburg; Lee has retreated into Virginia; Vicksburg has fallen." Three cheers were given, and then three times three. They were hearty and loud, and after that the one thought of the loyal Americans was to spread the good news as rapidly as possible. First Mr. Field made his way to Upper Portland Place, where a message was left for Mr. Adams. Then he drove out of London and passed the afternoon in going to see his friends. He enjoyed very much telling of the victory to those who rejoiced with him, but perhaps more to those who, though Northerners by birth, were Southerners at heart, and had not failed in the dark days just passed to let him know that they wished for a divided country. At one house in particular he entered looking very depressed, with a low voice asked if they had heard the news from Queenstown, and when the answer was "no," he read to them the paper he carried in his hand. His appearance had deceived them, and they had answered him smilingly, but their faces fell when they heard the news, and as he drove from the house he waved the message at them and called back, "Oh, you rebels! oh, you rebels!"

For a full understanding of the importance of the victories won at Gettysburg and Vicksburg as affecting the attitude of European statesmen toward the Union cause, a very interesting letter written by Mr. Gladstone to Mr. Field in 1862 is here for the first time given to the public:

"11 WILTON H. TERRACE, Nov. 27, 1862.

"MY DEAR SIR, — I thank you very much for giving me the *Thirteen Months*.

Will you think that I belie the expression I have used if I tell you candidly the effect this book has produced upon my mind? I think you will not. I do not believe that you or your countrymen are among those who desire that any one should purchase your favors by speaking what is false, or by forbearing to speak what is true.

"The book, then, impresses me even more deeply than I was before impressed with the heavy responsibility you incur in persevering with this destructive and hopeless war at the cost of such dangers and evils to yourselves, to say nothing of your adversaries, or of an amount of misery inflicted upon Europe such as no other civil war in the history of man has ever brought upon those beyond its immediate range.

"Your frightful conflict may be regarded from many points of view. The competency of the Southern States to secede: the rightfulness of their conduct in seceding (two matters wholly distinct, and a great deal too much confounded): the natural reluctance of Northern Americans to acquiesce in the severance of the Union, and the apparent loss of strength and glory to their country: the bearing of the separation on the real interests and on the moral character of the North: again, for an Englishman, its bearing with respect to British interests: all these are texts, of which any one affords ample matter for reflection, but I will only state, as regards the last of them, that I for one have never hesitated to maintain that, in my opinion, the separate and special interests of England were all on the side of the maintenance of the old Union; and if I were to look at their interests alone, and had the power of choosing in what way the war should end, I would choose for its ending by the restoration of the old Union this very day.

"Another view of the matter not to be overlooked is its bearing on the interests of the black and colored race. I believe the separation to be one of the few happy events that have marked their mournful history. And, although English opinion may be wrong upon this subject, yet it is headed by three men perhaps the best entitled to represent on this side of the water the old champions of the antislavery cause — Lord Brougham, the Bishop of Oxford, and Mr. Buxton.

"But there is an aspect of the war

which transcends every other: the possibility of success. The prospect of success will not justify a war in itself unjust: but the impossibility of success in a war of conquest of itself suffices to make it unjust. When that impossibility is reasonably proved, all the horror, all the bloodshed, all the evil passions, all the dangers to liberty and order, with which such a war abounds, come to lie at the door of the party which refuses to hold its hand and let its neighbor be.

"You know that in the opinion of Europe that impossibility has been proved. It is proved by every page of this book, and every copy of the book which circulates will carry the proof wider, and stamp it more clearly. Depend upon it, to place the matter upon a single issue, you cannot conquer and keep down a country where the women believe like the women of New Orleans, and where, as this author says, they would be ready to form regiments if such regiments could be of use. And how idle it is to talk, as some of your people do, and some of ours, of the slackness with which the war has been carried on, and of its accounting for the want of success! You have no cause to be ashamed of your military character and efforts. You have proved what wanted no proof, your spirit, hardihood, immense power, and rapidity and variety of resources. You have compressed ten years of war into the term of eighteen months: you have spent as much money, and have armed and perhaps have destroyed as many men, taking the two sides together, as all Europe spent in the first ten years of the Revolutionary war. Is not this enough? Why have you not more faith in the future of a nation which should lead for ages to come the American continent, which in five or ten years will make up its apparent loss, or first loss, of strength and numbers, and which, with a career unencumbered by the terrible calamity and curse of slavery, will even from the first be liberated from a position morally and incurably false, and will from the first enjoy a permanent gain in credit and character such as will much more than compensate for its temporary material losses.

"I am, in short, a follower of General Scott: with him I say, 'wayward sisters, go in peace': immortal fame be to him for his wise and courageous advice, amounting to a prophecy! Finally, you have

done what man could do. You have failed because you resolved to do what man could not do. Laws stronger than human will are on the side of earnest self-defence. And the aim at the impossible, which in other things may be folly only, when the path of search is dark with misery and red with blood, is not folly only but guilt to boot.

"I should not have used so largely in this letter the privilege of free utterance had I not been conscious that I vie with yourselves in my admiration of the founders of your republic, and that I have no lurking sentiment either of hostility or indifference to America; nor, I may add, even then had I not believed that you are lovers of sincerity, and that you can bear even the rudeness of its tongue.

I remain, my dear sir,

Very faithfully yours,

W. GLADSTONE.

"CYRUS FIELD, Esq."

The letters received in London the end of July told of the draft riots that had broken out in New York. These riots were brought home to Mr. Field quite forcibly; his house on Gramercy Park adjoined his brother's, Mr. David Dudley Field, and that was only saved from destruction by the timely arrival of a company of soldiers. Mr. Bright's next letter is dated:

"ROCHDALE, August 7, '63.

"MY DEAR SIR,—I don't remember precisely what I wrote to you, but I do not think it would be wise for me or good for the cause if I were seen to be interfering among the contending opinions in the States.

"I therefore prefer that my letter should not be published; but I can have no objection to your sending it to Mr. Chase, if you think it worth his reading.

"From the tone of the Southern papers and the spasms of the New York *Herald* I gather that the struggle is approaching an end, and the conspirators are anxious to save slavery in the arrangements that may be made.

"On this point the great contest will now turn, and the statesmanship of your statesmen will be tried. I still have faith in the cause of freedom.

Believe me always

Very sincerely yours,

JOHN BRIGHT.

"CYRUS W. FIELD, Esq., Palace Hotel, London."

The letter referred to was that written on February 27th, and it called forth this long one from Mr. Chase:

“WASHINGTON, August 21st, 1863.

“MY DEAR SIR,—I thank you for sending me a copy of Mr. Bright’s letter. It is marked by the comprehensive sagacity which distinguishes his statesmanship.

“Have you read ‘Callirrhoe,’ a fanciful story of George Sand’s which has appeared in the late numbers of the *Revue des deux Mondes*. It is founded upon the idea of transmigration, and especially upon the notion that the souls of those who have lived in former times reappear, with their characteristic traits, in the persons of new generations. If I adopted this notion, I might believe that Hampden and Sidney live again in Bright and Cobden.

“A letter expressing the same general ideas as are contained in that addressed to you was lately sent by Mr. Bright to Mr. Aspinwall. This letter Mr. Aspinwall kindly enclosed to me, and I read it to the President. I had repeatedly said the same things to him, and was not sorry to have my representations unconsciously echoed by a liberal English statesman. The President said nothing, but I am sure he is more and more confirmed in the resolution to make the Proclamation efficient as well after peace as during rebellion.

“My own efforts are constantly directed to this result. Almost daily I confer more or less fully with loyalists of the insurrectionary States, who almost unanimously concur in judgment with me that the only safe basis of permanent peace is reconstitution by recognition in the fundamental law of each State, through a convention of its loyal people, of the condition of universal freedom established by the Proclamation. It was only yesterday that I had a full conversation with Gov. Pierpont of Virginia, and Judge Bowden, one of the United States Senators from that State, on this subject. Both these gentlemen agree in thinking that the President should revoke the exception of certain counties in southeastern Virginia from the operation of the Proclamation, and that the Governor should call the Legislature together and recommend the assembling of a convention for the amendment of the existing Constitution; and in expecting that the convention will propose an amendment prohibiting slavery! I think there is some reason to

hope that the President may determine to revoke the exception, and more reason to hope that the convention will be called and Freedom established in Virginia through its agency.

“I do not know that you are perfectly familiar with the present condition of things in Virginia. Soon after the outbreak of the rebellion the loyal people of Virginia organized under the old Constitution, through a Legislature at Wheeling, and subsequently through a convention consented to a division of the State by organizing the northwest portion as the State of West Virginia. If you look at the map you will see that the line forming the southern and eastern boundaries of this new State commences on the big fork of the Big Sandy on the west line of McDowell County, and thence proceeds irregularly, so as to include McDowell and Mercer counties, along the crest of the Alleghanies to Pendleton County, where it diverges to the Shenandoah Mountains, and proceeds northeast to the Potomac River at the northeast corner of Berkeley, including Pendleton, Hardy, Hampshire, Morgan, and Berkeley counties. Congress consented to the admission of this State, and it is now in the Union, fully organized under a free-labor Constitution. Its organization, of course, left the government of old Virginia in the hands of Gov. Pierpont and his associates, by whom the seat of government has been established at Alexandria. At present only a comparatively narrow belt of counties, from the Atlantic to the east line of Berkeley, is practically controlled by the loyal State government, but the loyal men of these counties are recognized by the national government as the State, and as county after county is rescued from rebel control it will come naturally under this organization, until, probably at no distant day, Gov. Pierpont will be acknowledged as the Governor of Virginia at Richmond. When this takes place the State will be necessarily a free State, under a Constitution prohibiting slavery.

“The loyal people of Florida are ready to take the same course which Gov. Pierpont proposes to take in Virginia, and the same is true of the loyal people of Louisiana to a great extent. It will be found, doubtless, as the authority of the Union is re-established in other States included by the Proclamation, that the same

sentiments will prevail, so that it will be quite easy for the national government, if the President feels so disposed, to secure the recognition of the Proclamation and the permanent establishment of its policy through the action of the people of the several States affected by it.

"In this way the great ends to be accomplished can be most certainly reached. My own efforts are constantly directed to their attainment, and I never admit in conversation or otherwise the possibility that the rebel States can *cease to be rebel States and become loyal members* of the Union except through the recognition of the condition created by the Proclamation, by the establishment of Free Institutions under slavery-prohibiting Constitutions. I not only labor for these ends, but hope quite sanguinely that they will be secured. The public sentiment of the country has undergone a great change in reference to slavery. Strong emancipation parties exist in every slave State not affected by the Proclamation, and a general conviction prevails that slavery cannot long survive the restoration of the republic. The Proclamation, and such recognition of it as I have mentioned, will have finished it in the Proclamation States. In the other States the people will finish it by their own action. I do not care to sketch the picture of the great and powerful nation which will then exhibit its strength in America. Your own foresight must have anticipated all I could say.

"The war moves too slow and costs too much, but it moves steadily, and rebellion falls before it. Our financial condition remains entirely sound. The new national banks are being organized as rapidly as prudence allows, and no doubt can, I think, be longer entertained that, whatever else may happen, we shall have gained through the rebellion an opportunity, not unimproved, of establishing a safe and uniform currency for the whole nation. A benefit in itself compensating in some degree, and in no small degree, for the evils we have endured.

"I trust you are succeeding well in your great scheme of the intercontinental telegraph. It is an enterprise worthy of this day of great things. If I had the wealth of an Astor you should not lack the means of construction.

Yours very truly, S. P. CHASE.

"CYRUS W. FIELD, Esq."

This letter was shown to Mr. Gladstone eight months later, and he wrote:

"11 CARLETON HOUSE TERRACE, S. W.,
Apr. 26, '64.

"MY DEAR MR. FIELD.—I return with many thanks these interesting letters; the one full of feeling, the other of important political anticipations.

"It is very good of you to send a letter of Mr. Chase's to me, who, I apprehend, must pass in the United States for no better than a confirmed heretic—though I have never opened my mouth in public about America except for the purposes of sympathy and what I thought friendship. I admit I cannot ask or expect you to take the same view on the other side of the water. Engaged in a desperate struggle, you may fairly regard as adverse all those who have anticipated an unfavorable issue, even although, like myself, they have ceased to indulge gratuitously in such predictions when they have become aware that you resent them, as you are entitled to judge the matter for yourselves. I cannot hope to stand well with Americans, much as I value their good opinions, unless and until the time shall come when they shall take the opposite view, retrospectively, of this war, from that which they now hold.* If that time ever comes, I shall then desire their favorable verdict, just as I now respectfully submit to their condemnation. What I know is this, that the enemies of America rejoice to see the two combatants exhaust themselves and one another in their gigantic and sanguinary strife.

"As respects Mr. Chase, he is, if I may say so, a brother in the craft: and I have often sympathized with his difficulties, and admired his great ability and ingenuity with which he appears to have steered his course. I remain, my dear sir,

Faithfully yours.

W. E. GLADSTONE."

Mr. Gladstone's friendly attitude toward America was especially shown in his speech at Leith, January 10, 1862, in words which at the present time have a remarkable significance: "Let us form good auguries for the future from that which

* How much Mr. Gladstone valued the good opinions of Americans is shown in his letter to Minister Schenck of November 28, 1872, first published at his request in *Harper's Magazine* for December, 1876.

now stands among the records of the past, and let us hope that whatever remains, or whatever may yet arise, to be adjusted in those relations between the two countries which afford a thousand points of contact every day, and must necessarily likewise afford opportunities for collision—let us hope that in whatever may arise or remain to be adjusted, a spirit of brotherly concord may prevail, and, together with a disposition to assert our rights, we may be permitted to cherish a disposition to interpret handsomely and liberally the acts and intentions of others, and to avoid, if we can, aggravating the frightful evils of the civil war in America by perhaps even greater evils—at any rate, enormous evils—by what, though not a civil war, would be next to a civil war—any conflict between England and America.”

Immediately upon Mr. Field's arrival in New York, on September 23d, he prepared to welcome Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Milne. A reception was given to Sir Alexander and Lady Milne by Mr. and Mrs. Field early in October, and the letter from Washington refers to that entertainment.

“TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *October 7th, 1863.*

“MY DEAR MR. FIELD,—I am glad that you are doing your part towards making the stay of the naval officers of the Good Queen in our Metropolitan Harbor agreeable to them. My faith is strong that the English government will yet see that the interests of mankind demand that there should be no alienation of the two great branches of the Anglo-Saxon family from each other, and will do its part towards removing all causes of alienation by full reparation for the injuries inflicted on American commerce by unneutral acts of British subjects, known to and not prevented by the responsible authorities. That's a long sentence, but I believe it conveys my meaning. I am sorry I cannot accept the kind invitation of yourself and Mrs. Field (to whom please make my best regards acceptable) to meet these gallant officers. Yours very truly,

S. P. CHASE.

“CYRUS W. FIELD, Esq.”

The answer to this letter was written by Mr. Field on October 9, 1863:

“I fully concur in every word you say in regard to the conduct of the British

government towards us, and hope with you that they will see it is for our mutual interest, as well as for that of all mankind, that friendly feelings should always exist between ‘the two great branches of the Anglo-Saxon family.’

“Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Milne left for Washington this morning. . . .

“I have been very glad to do everything in my power to make his visit to this city as agreeable as possible, and I hope he will take away with him from our shores very pleasing impressions of it, and of the country and people.”

The coming of the English fleet to New York had been the subject of discussion both in England and America. This command had been given to the admiral:

“The Naval Commander-in-Chief on the North American and West India station is specially directed by the eighth article of his instructions as follows:

“You are strictly to abstain from entering any port of the United States unless absolutely compelled to do so by the necessities of the service.”

The order was not modified until the fall of 1863, when Admiral Milne sailed from Halifax in H. M. S. *Nile*, with the *Immortalité*, *Medea*, and *Nimble* in company, and arrived off Sandy Hook early in October. To use his own words:

“On being visited by Mr. Archibald, her Majesty's consul, he informed me of the strong and unfriendly feeling which then existed against England in consequence of the building of the two ships of war in Liverpool for the Southern States, and from various other matters connected with the existing civil war, and that my reception would probably be unsatisfactory. This, however, was not the case. My visit was evidently acceptable, and proved most satisfactory, and I received every attention from the authorities as well as private individuals, not only at New York, but also at Washington, as will be seen by the following correspondence:”

“WASHINGTON, *November 30th, 1863.*

“SIR,—Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Milne having reported to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the great kindness and courtesy with which he was received at Washington by the President of the United States and the members of the Cabinet, I have been instructed to convey to the government of the United

States the expression of the gratification which their Lordships have felt at the courtesy and attention so handsomely shown to the Vice-Admiral.

I have, etc., LYONS.

"The Hon. W. H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, Washington."

"DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON,
December 3d, 1863.

"MY DEAR LORD LYONS,—I have made known to the President and to the Heads of Departments the agreeable communication you have made to me in regard to the reception of Rear-Admiral Milne on the occasion of his visit at this capital.

"The just, liberal, and courteous conduct of the Admiral in the performance of his duties while commanding H. M.'s Naval Forces in the vicinity of the United States was known to this government before his arrival, and it therefore afforded the President a special satisfaction to have an opportunity to extend to him an hospitable welcome.

I am, etc., W. H. SEWARD.

"The Lord Lyons."

Dr. W. H. Russell has written that "the great civil war in America stimulated capitalists to renew the attempt; the public mind became alive to the importance of the project, and to the increased facilities which promised a successful issue. Mr. Field, who compassed land and sea incessantly, pressed his friends on both sides of the Atlantic for aid, and agitated the question in London and New York."

On reading these sentences the work to be done seems but slight. Mr. Field wrote on January 27, 1863, to George Seward, secretary of the Atlantic Telegraph Company, "The whole country is in such a state of excitement in regard to the war that it is almost impossible to get any one to talk for a single moment about telegraph matters, but you may be sure that I shall do all I can to obtain subscriptions here"; and in another letter, "Some days I have worked from before eight in the morning until after ten at night to obtain subscriptions to the Atlantic Telegraph Company"; and in referring to the work of this year, "When scientific and engineering problems were solved we took heart again, and began to prepare for a fresh attempt." This was in 1863. "In this country, though the war was still raging, I went from city to city, holding meetings and trying to raise cap-

ital, but with poor success. Men came and listened, and said it was all very fine, and hoped I would succeed, but I was able to raise but £70,000, and £600,000 was the sum required for the work."

In March of this year, at a meeting held at the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Field told of an interview he had had with a member of the English government. "I was trying to impress upon him the great importance an Atlantic telegraph would be to Great Britain, telling him that if the cable was laid he could every hour of the day communicate with the Governors of five British Provinces. The Admiralty could communicate with the same rapidity and frequency with Halifax, their principal naval station in this part of the world, and the Commander-in-Chief could transmit speedy orders to all military commandants in the provinces. And I referred to the message which had prevented the embarkation of a regiment in August, 1858, and the great expense thus avoided. I also referred to the advantage that would further follow to the British government by being in a position to communicate at any moment with their minister at Washington, Lord Lyons. To which he replied: 'Mr. Field, I admit everything you say with regard to the great importance the undertaking would be to our government. But it would not be one-hundredth part of the benefit to Great Britain that it would be to the American government and the American people. This work would connect England with America, to be sure, but it would do far more for you, for it would connect America with all Europe, Asia, and Africa. In a few months, when the line from England to India shall be completed, your merchants will have no chance to compete with the English merchants unless you complete this work. I believe that the importance of this work to America, the laying down of a submarine telegraph connecting Newfoundland and Ireland, cannot be estimated.'"

At the time that Mr. Field had this conversation he knew "that during the excitement of the *Trent* affair a person connected with the English government applied to Messrs. Glass, Elliot, and Co., of London, to know for what sum they would manufacture a cable and lay it across the Atlantic; to which they replied that they would both manufacture

and lay it down for £675,000, and that it should be in full operation by the 12th day of July, 1862." This is copied from a paper read by Mr. Field before the American Geographical and Statistical Society on May 1, 1862. And he also added, "well might England afford to pay the whole cost of such a work, for in sixty days' time she expended more money in preparation for war with this country than the whole cost of manufacturing and laying several good cables between Newfoundland and Ireland." It was at the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce already referred to that Mr. A. A. Low offered a resolution expressing confidence in the opinion that a cable could be laid across the Atlantic, and ended his speech with these words:

"Any one listening to Mr. Field as frequently and as attentively as I have with regard to this subject could not long entertain a doubt as to the success of the effort. He has studied it in all its bearings, and with the aid of the science and intelligence so readily at command on the other side of the ocean, where he has had the benefit of an experience far exceeding that of this country with regard to ocean telegraphs, I am confident that whatever hesitation may for a time retard the work, it will not be of that kind to defeat the enterprise. With regard to the argument that this telegraph is in the power of the English government, and that we would be debarred from its use in time of war, let it be borne in mind that it may be built by Great Britain without our co-operation. The English government is alive to all the great necessities of the day. I wish, indeed, our own were equally alive to the urgencies of the age.

"The English government, as I said, is alive to all the great necessities of the times, and they will assuredly lay the telegraph, whether we work with them or not. If this government and people participate with the government and people of Great Britain in the work, it will be done under treaty stipulations which will secure to our country effectually great advantages and facilities. I have faith in Great Britain, and I believe that if Great Britain enters into any compact with this country she will be true to her plighted faith. I have little fear on that score. I have recently given expression to complaints against Great Britain, and

I have deplored the action of her people and the non-action of the government. I have done so as an American citizen, alive to the honor of our country and the sensibilities of our people. I have done so, sir, not when smarting under a recent misfortune, for this will not aggravate my complaint or add to its intensity. But I have spoken as I feel, and as every man is bound to speak who has at heart the good of his country, and who would exert in a legitimate and proper manner any influence on the people and government of Great Britain such as may tend to avert the evils of war. Nor do I intend, in consequence of what has occurred, to add to what I have had occasion to say in this chamber at other times. But while I deplore the agency of Great Britain and of the people of Great Britain in permitting vessels like the *Alabama* and *Oreto* to go forth to destroy our commerce, I have that faith in the British government to believe that when it understands all that is justly felt on this side of the water the evil will be corrected. And such is my faith in regard to this enterprise that if Great Britain should enter into stipulations with this country, and the telegraph be completed under these stipulations, I cannot doubt that those stipulations would be honorably and faithfully fulfilled. Our people ought not to be deterred by unworthy considerations from taking part in an enterprise called for by all the intelligence and wisdom of our times, such an enterprise as that now suggested. There is a risk which may well be incurred in view of all the advantages the work presents. I therefore move the adoption of the resolution which I have had the honor to present."

The summer of 1863 was passed, as has been already stated, in England, and when Mr. Field sailed for home, early in September, it had been decided that within ten months another attempt should be made to lay a cable across the Atlantic Ocean. Soon after his return unfavorable reports were received, and it was written that the work was at a standstill, and then it was that he decided to give up active business in New York and devote his whole time to pressing forward this great work. On December 16th he was urged to come immediately to England. He sailed early in January, 1864.

BORDER-LANDS.

BY LOUISE IMOGEN GUINEY.

THRO' all the evening,

All the virginal long evening,

Down the solemn aisle of blossoms it is dread to walk alone;
For there the intangible is nigh, the lost is ever-during;
And who would suffer beneath the old and too divine alluring,
Keen as the ancient drift of sleep on dying faces blown?

Yet in a valley,

At the turn of the orchard alley,

When a wild aroma touched me in the moist and moveless air,
Like breath indeed from out thee, or as airy vesture round thee,
Then was it I went faintly, for fear I had nearly found thee,
O hidden, O perfect, O desired! the first and the final Fair.

THE THREE OLD SISTERS AND THE OLD BEAU.

BY MARY E. WILKINS.

THE three old sisters, Rachel and Nancy and Camilla, lived in the house in which they had been born. They were very old in years—the youngest was nearly seventy—but they were, after all, the most youthful maidens in the village. Not a child dragging her doll-carriage past their windows, not a young girl strolling by in the twilight on her lover's arm, was as young as they, for the youth in them had actually triumphed over age, and gained, as it were, a species of immortality in this world.

Did not Camilla and Nancy, the two younger, really play at grace-hoops sometimes of an evening? The fantastic old shadows, with stiff rheumatic gestures, apeing the free motions of youth, and the flying hoops, had been plainly seen on the window curtains after the candles were lighted. The hoops themselves, wound with faded ribbons, the relics of a graceful sport of their graceful girlhood, hung conspicuously over the mahogany table in their front hall.

In this same front hall, large and square, hung with old greenish landscape paper, with a spiral stair winding slowly upward from its midst, the three old sisters were wont to sit in the cool of summer afternoons. At five o'clock the front door, topped with bull's-eyes of dull green glass, was thrown open, and the three appeared, sitting in state with their embroidery-work. They still embroidered, bending their spectacled eyes painfully over scallops and sprigs and eyelet-holes. They had never outgrown the occupa-

tions of their youth, as they had scarcely outgrown its amusements. It did not seem impossible that Camilla, the youngest, sometimes nursed her ancient doll in her withered bosom.

However, the strongest evidence of the youth which still survived in their hearts, and answered to their conceptions of themselves and one another, was in their costumes. The three old sisters, Rachel, Nancy, and Camilla, sat in their front hall arrayed in bygone silks and muslins, made after the fashions of their girlhood days, with no alterations.

Scanty ruffled skirts clinging to their wasted limbs the three wore, and low bodices and elbow sleeves, displaying pitilessly their withered necks and arms, from which all the sweet curves of youth had departed.

Their gray and scanty locks were arranged in ringlets, and garnished with shell combs, and sometimes a wreath of faded artificial flowers.

It was inconceivable how one, surveying the others, as they sat there in their gay array, could not have seen in their faces, if not in her looking-glass, the loss of her youth; but if she did, she made no sign. Not one of them seemed to have a suspicion that these old costumes did not become them as fairly as ever, and nobody knew if their illusions ever failed them at the sight of one another's parchment skins, and the hollows between their poor old bones.

Always on a pleasant summer afternoon, as they sat there in their front hall,