

and placed in a sort of assemblage of all the species of vegetation more especially as its habit was a collected mass of an innumerable variety of plants a very delicate vegetation that could easily be gathered and when applied our full power to the service, and rich in feed was our reward.

On the very first of jet in this valley that appeared upon the canvas was a magnificent white cloud. It was a temple—a lane of devotions, or a scene of field, when consecrated to the Christian's devotion of the first or the last—the probabilities his attributes, partly free from the principles of atheism and blasphemy as the author of controversial proofs, and has the soul and creation of his own hand to sum up his understandings. It was an equidistant triangle, composed of golden sunbeams, or of some other representation like those, which like it, divided a myriad of points of golden light two circles and surrounding in the sunbeams, that were, though fifty feet in diameter, was too bright to receive more than a sixth part of the sunbeams and the first part of it too amorous I was nearly in the centre of one of its sides being three square columns six feet in diameter at their base, and gently tapering to a height of seventy feet. The intercommunications were each twelve feet. We instantly resolved our magnificence so as to enhance the whole structure in one view, and then indeed it was most beautiful.

The roof was composed of some yellow matting, digged into their compartments, which were not triangular planes inclining to the centre, but subdivide it, curved and separated, so as to represent a mass of violently agitated flames rising from a common source of conflagration and terminating in widely waving points. This design was too majestic, and too skilfully executed to be neglected for a single moment. Through a few openings in these mystic flames, we perceived a large sphere of a darker kind of metal nearly of clouded copper colour, which they enclosed and seemingly revolved around, as it were magnetically consuming it. This was the roof, but upon each of the three corners there was a small sphere of apparently the same metal as the large central one; and these rested upon a kind of pedestal, quite new in any order of architecture with which we are acquainted but nevertheless exceedingly graceful and impressive. It was like a half opened scroll, swelling off boldly from the roof, and the god gave the world in several convolutions. It was of the same metal as the flames, and on each of the sides of the building it was opened at both ends. The columns, six on each side, were simple plain shafts, without capitals or pedestals, or any description of ornament—not was any perceived in other parts of the edifice.

It was open on each side, and seemed to contain neither seats, altars, nor offerings; but it was a light airy structure, nearly a hundred feet high from its white glistening floor to its glowing roof, and it stood upon a round green eminence on the eastern side of the valley. We afterwards however, discovered two others which were in every respect fac similes of this one, but in neither did we perceive any visitant, except flocks of wild doves, which alighted upon its illustrious pinnacles. Had the devotees of these temples gone the way of all living, or were the latter merely historical monuments? What did the ingenious builders by the globe surrounded by flames? Did they, by this, record any past calamity of their world, or predict any future one of ours? I by no means despaired of ultimately solving not only these, but a thousand other questions which present themselves respecting the object in this planet, for not the millionth part of her surface has yet been explored, and we have been more desirous of collecting the greater possible number of new facts than indulging in speculative theories however seductive to the imagination.

But we had not far to seek for inhabitants of this "Vale of the Trials." Immediately on the outer border of the wood which surrounded, at the distance of half a mile, the eminence on which the first of these temples stood, we saw several detached assemblies of beings whom we instantly recognized to be of the saurian species as our winged friends of the Ruby Colosseum near the Lake Langrenus.—Having adjusted the instrument for a minute examination, we found that nearly all the individuals in these groups were of a larger stature than the former specimens, less dark in color, and in every respect an improved variety of the race. They were chiefly engaged in eating a large yellow fruit like a gourd, sections of which they dexterously divided with their fingers and ate with rather uncouth voracity, throwing away the rind. A small red fruit, shaped like a cucumber, which we had often seen pendant from trees having a broad dark leaf, were also lying in heaps, in the centre of several of the festive groups; but the only use they appeared to make of it was sucking its juice, after rolling it between the palms of their hands, and nibbling off an end.

They seemed to be eminently happy, and even polite, for we saw, in many instances, individuals sitting nearest to these piles of fruit, select the largest and brightest specimens, and throw them archwise across the circle to some opposite friend or associate who had extracted the nutriment from those scattered around him, and which were frequently not a few. While thus engaged in their rural banquets, or in social converse, they were always seated with their knees flat upon the turf, and their feet brought evenly together in the form of a triangle. And for some mysterious reason or other, this figure seemed to be an especial favorite among them; for we

found that every group or social circle arranged itself in this shape before they dispersed, which was generally done at the signal of an individual who stepped into the centre and brought his hands over his head in an acute angle. At this signal, each member of the company extended his arms forward so as to form an acute horizontal angle with the extremity of the fingers. But this was not the only proof we had that they were creatures of order and subordination. * * *

We had no opportunity of seeing them actually engaged in any work of industry or art; and so far as we could judge, they spent their happy hours in collecting various fruits in the woods, eating, dying, bathing, and loitering about upon the summits of principles. * * *

But although evidently the highest order of animals in this rich valley, they were not its only occupants. Most of the other animals which we had discovered elsewhere, in very distant regions, were collected here; and also at least eight or nine species of quadrupeds. The most attractive of these was a tall white stag, with lofty spreading antlers black as ebony. We several times saw this elegant creature trot up to the seated parties of the semi-human beings I have described, and browse the herbage close beside them, without the least manifestation of fear on its part, or of notice on theirs. The universal state of amity among all classes of lunar creatures, and the apparent absence of every carnivorous or ferocious species, gave us the most refined pleasure, and doubly endeared to us this lovely nocturnal companion of our larger but less favored world. Everagain, when I "eye the blue vault and bless the useful light," shall I recall the scenes of beauty, grandeur and felicity, I have beheld upon the surface not "as through a glass darkly, but face to face," and never shall I think of that line of our three noble poet—

"Meek Dian's crest
Sails through the azure air amidst of the blast,"

without exulting in my knowledge of its truth.

With the careful inspection of this instructive valley, and a scientific classification of its animal, vegetable, and mineral productions, the astronomers closed their labors for the night; labor rather mental than physical, and oppressive from the extreme excitement which they naturally induced. A singular circumstance occurred the next day which threw the telescope quite out of use for nearly a week, by which time the moon could no longer be observed that month. The great lens which was usually lowered during the day, and placed horizontally, had, it is true, been lowered as usual, but had been inadvertently left in a perpendicular position.

Accordingly, shortly after sunrise the next morning, Herschel, and his assistants Dr. Grant, and Messrs. Drummond and Home, who slept in bungalow erected a short distance from the observatory circle, were awakened by the loud shouts of some Dutch farmers and domesticated Hottentots (who were passing with their oxen to agricultural labor), that the big house was on fire! Dr. Herschel leaped out of bed from his brief slumbers, and sure enough, saw his observatory enveloped in a cloud of smoke. Luckily it had been thickly covered within and without with a coat of Roman plaster, or it would inevitably have been destroyed with its inevitable contents; but, as it was, a hole fifteen feet in circumference had been burnt completely through the "reflecting chamber" which was attached to the side of the observatory nearest the lens, through the canvas field on which had been exhibited so many wonders that will ever live in the history of mankind and through the outer wall. So fierce was the concentration of the solar rays through the gigantic lens, that a clump of trees standing in a line with them was set on fire, and the plaster of the observatory walls, all round the orifice, was vitrified to blue glass. The lens being almost immediately turned, and a brook of water being within a few hundred yards, the fire was soon extinguished, but the damage already done was not inconsiderable. The microscope lenses had fortunately been removed for the purpose of being cleaned, but several of the metallic reflectors were so fused as to be rendered useless. Masons and carpenters were procured from Cape Town, and with all possible despatch, and in about a week the whole apparatus was again prepared for operation.

The moon being now invisible, Dr. Herschel directed his inquiries to the primary planets of the system, and first to the planet Saturn. We need not say that this remarkable globe has for many ages been an object of the most ardent astronomical curiosity. The stupendous phenomenon of doubling having baffled the scrutiny and conjecture of many generations of astronomers, was finally abandoned as inexplicable. It is well known that this planet is situated in the system 900 millions of miles distant from the sun, and having the immense diameter of 79,000 miles it is more than 900 times larger than the earth. Its annual motion around the sun is not accomplished in less than twenty-nine and a half of our years, while its diurnal rotation upon its axis is accomplished in 10h. 16m., or considerably less than half of a terrestrial day. It has not less than seven moons, the sixth and seventh of which, were discovered by the elder Herschel, in 1789. It is thwarted by mysterious belts or bands of a yellowish tinge, and is surrounded by a double ring—the outer one of which is two hundred and four thousand miles in diameter. The outside diameter of the inner ring is 181,000 miles, and the breadth of the outer one being 7,200 miles, the space between them is 2,800 miles. The breadth of the inner ring is much greater

than that of the outer, being 20,000 miles; and its distance from the body of Saturn is more than 30,000. These rings are opaque, but so thin that their edge has not until now been discovered. Sir John Herschel's most interesting discovery with regard to this planet, is the demonstrated fact that these two rings are composed of the fragments of two destroyed worlds, formerly belonging to our solar system, which, on being exploded, were gathered around the immense body of Saturn by the attraction of gravity, and are kept from falling to its surface by the great centrifugal force created by its extraordinary rapidity on its axis. The inner ring was therefore the first of these destroyed worlds (the former station of which in the system is demonstrated in the argument which we subjoin) which was accordingly carried round by the rotary force, and spread forth in the manner we see. The outer ring is another ring exploded in fragments, attracted by the law of gravity as in the former case, and kept from uniting with the inner ring by the centrifugal force of the latter. But the latter having a slower rotation than the planet, has an interior or centrifugal force, and accordingly the space between the outer and inner ring is nearly ten times less than that between the inner ring and the body of Saturn. Having ascertained the mean destiny of the rings, as compared with the destiny of the planet, Sir John Herschel has been enabled to effect the following beautiful demonstration.

Dr. Herschel clearly ascertained that these rings are composed of rocky strata, the skeletons of former globes lying in a state of wild and ghastly confusion, but not devoid of mountains and seas. * * *

The belts across the body of Saturn, he has discovered to be the smoke of a number of immense volcanoes, carried in these straight lines by the intense velocity of the rotary motion. * * *

[And these also he has ascertained to be the causes of the belts of Jupiter. But the portion of work which is devoted to this subject, and to the other planets, as also that which describes the astronomer's discoveries among the stars, is comparatively uninteresting to general readers, however highly it might interest others of scientific taste and mathematical acquirements.—Ed. Sun. *

* * * It was not until the new moon of the month of March, that the weather proved favorable to any continued series of lunar observations; and Dr. Herschel had been too busily occupied in demonstrating his brilliant discoveries in the southern constellations, and in constructing tables and catalogues of his new stars, to avail himself of the few clear nights that intervened.

On one of those, however, Mr. Drummond, myself, and Mr. Holmes made those discoveries near the Bay of Rainbows, to which I have somewhere briefly alluded. The bay thus fancifully denominated is a part of the northern boundary of the first great ocean which I have lately described; and is marked in the chart with the letter O. The tract of country which we explored on this occasion is numbered 6, 5, 8, 9, in the catalogue, and the chief mountains to which these numbers are attached, are severally named Atlas, Hercules, Heracles, Verus, and Heracles Falsus. Still farther north, of these is the island and circle called Pythagoras, and numbered one; and yet nearer the meridian line is the mountainous district marked R, and called the Land of Drought, and Q, the Land of Hoar Frost; and certainly the name of the latter, however theologically bestowed, was not altogether inapplicable: for the tops of its very lofty mountains were evidently covered with snow, though the valleys surrounding them were teeming with the luxuriant fertility of mid-summer. But the region which we first particularly inspected was that of Heracles Falsus (No. 7), in which we found several new species of animals, all of which were horned and of a white or grey color; and the remains of three ancient triangular temples which had long been in ruins. We thence traversed the country southeastward until we arrived at Atlas (No. 6), and it was in one of the noble valleys at the foot of the mountain that we found the very superior species of the Vespertiliohomio. In stature they did not exceed those last described, but they were of infinitely greater personal beauty, and appeared in our eyes scarcely less lovely than the general representation of angels by the more imaginative schools of painters. Their social economy seemed to be regulated by laws or ceremonies exactly like those prevailing in the Vale of the Triads, but their works of art were more numerous, and displayed a proficiency of skill quite incredible to all except actual observers. I shall, therefore, let the first detailed account of them appear in Dr. Herschel's authenticated natural history of this planet.

Honor to the Brave.

Congress at its late session adopted the following resolution:—

A RESOLUTION presenting a gold medal to Georg Croghan, and a sword to each of the officers under his command, for their gallantry and good conduct, in the defence of Fort Stephenson, in eighteen hundred and thirteen.

Resolved, &c. That the President of the United States be requested to cause a gold medal to be struck with suitable emblems and devices, and presented to Colonel Croghan, in testimony of the high sense entertained by Congress of his gallantry and good conduct in the defence of Fort Stephenson; and that he be an especial favorite among them; for we

are engaged in that affair: to Captain James Hunter, to the eldest male representative of Lieutenant Benjamin Johnston, and to Lieutenants Cyrus A. Baylor, John Meek, Ensign Joseph Duncan, and the nearest male representative of ensign Edmund Shipp, deceased.

Approved: February 13th, 1813.

On the following day at noon, the advance of the enemy made its appearance, and about three o'clock his whole force had invested the fort, when after a surrender had been demanded and refused, a fire was opened from a gunboat in the river, and a howitzer placed under cover of a ravine, within 150 yards of the place. No shots were returned by the fort; for in truth such was the dire necessity for husbanding our ammunition, that I gave a positive order under circumstances to fire at an enemy at a greater distance than thirty feet. Before day-light on the morning of the 2d of August, believing that a fire would be concentrated upon the Block house (the N.E.) contained our only piece of artillery, with a view to dismount it, I directed it to be removed into the Northern Block house, and to be pointed so as to rake the ditch in the direction of the North West angle of the fort. My anticipations were in due season realized; four guns upon the Block house first named and with such precision as to plunge several shot directly through the embrasure at which the piece had been standing.

The gallant defence of Fort Stephenson, whether we take into consideration the circumstances attending it, or the consequences resulting from it, was among the most brilliant achievements of the late war. To it may be attributed the subsequent victory on the Lake, and the protection of the entire frontier.—That the main object of the British was an attack on Erie, and the destruction or capture of our naval stores at that place, is matter of history. In a despatch of the 8th of July, Gen. de Rottenburg wrote to Commodore Barclay, as follows:—

ST. DAVIS, 18th July, 1813.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst., and have to inform you in reply thereto, that a force of nearly 400 men are directed to march in successive divisions upon Long Point, as detailed in my letter to Gen. Proctor of this day's date. I am fully impressed with the indispensable necessity of an attack upon Presque Isle (Erie) and should have co-operated with you long ago, had I possessed the means of so doing—I trust it will not be too late, and that you will lose no time in making your arrangements for taking up the troops from Long Point.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obt. servt.
FRANCIS DE ROTTENBURG.
Commodore BARCLAY, &c. M. Gen.

And Sir George Proctor, writing to General Proctor, on the 11th of July, 1813, says:—

"The ordnance and naval stores you require must be taken from the enemy, whose resources on Lake Erie must become yours. I am much mistaken if you do not find Captain Barclay well disposed to play that game."

They made the attempt, and on the 16th of August, Gen. De Rottenburg wrote to Gen. Proctor: "I sincerely lament that you have been compelled by your Indian force to undertake an expedition contrary to your own judgment, and ultimately with inadequate numbers, the result of which has been so disastrous. I knew by experience that no reliance can be placed on Indians—they move off at the moment when they are most wanted."

This was after the attack had been made and failed; but, had Fort Stevenson been carried, Erie would have fallen, our naval stores collected there captured, and the supremacy of the Lake been lost. The consequences would have been fatal.

The following is Col. Croghan's letter to the committee of the Senate:

GEORGETOWN, 5th June, 1814.

Sir:—I received this morning the letter which you did me the honor to address to me yesterday. The inquiries which the military committee make of me in relation to the affair of Lower Sandusky, in August 1813, I will endeavor to answer as succinctly as may consist with perspicuity.

On the 21st of July, 1813, General Harrison, then at Lower Sandusky, being informed by an express from Fort Meigs that the enemy had invested the place with a force of 5000 regular troops and Indians, fell back upon Seneca Heights, leaving me in command of Fort Stevenson, (Lower Sandusky,) with a garrison of less than one hundred and forty effectives. The fort, a slight stockade flanked by four block houses, was at the time ill calculated for defence, it had no ditch or other outward defence to oppose an assailing force, and its armament consisted only of one six pounder, seven charges of powder there for, a pig of lead, (afterwards cut up into slugs to serve as canister) and perhaps forty rounds per man of musket cartridges.

On the departure of Gen. Harrison, I traced out a ditch about the work of six feet in width, and forthwith commenced its excavation with every pick, shovel and spade that could be found; axe men being at the time directed to cut away the trees and bushes to musket shot distance from the pickets.

The work advanced rapidly, but at the moment of its completion, on the morning of the 30th of July, I received an order from Gen. Harrison, dated the evening before at Seneca, directing me to abandon the fort, set fire to it, and retreat to Head Quarters at Seneca.

The order I determined at all hazards not to carry into effect; but deeming it important to know the sentiments of my officers on the subject, I submitted without remark the order to them for consideration and reply. Lieuts. Johnson and Baylor, and Ensigns Shipp and Duncan were for holding the place; Lieut. Meeks, and it is believed Capt. Hunter and Lieut. Anthony were in favor of its abandonment; the two latter however did not give an expression of their opinion. A few hours after my note of refusal to Gen. Harrison (which was couched in terms, that the enemy could not and he alone could understand) I received an order to deliver up my command to an officer sent to relieve me, and report myself at his head quarters, which I did on the evening of that day.

Early on the following morning I was remanded to my post, and on re-assuming the command I was highly gratified in witnessing the general satisfaction that seemed to pervade the garrison, and in receiving the heartfelt greetings of the four officers just mentioned, who had sustained me in the course I had chosen to adopt.

On the following day at noon, the advance of the enemy made its appearance, and about three o'clock his whole force had invested the fort, when after a surrender had been demanded and refused, a fire was opened from a gunboat in the river, and a howitzer placed under cover of a ravine, within 150 yards of the place. No shots were returned by the fort; for in truth such was the dire necessity for husbanding our ammunition, that I gave a positive order under circumstances to fire at an enemy at a greater distance than thirty feet. Before day-light on the morning of the 2d of August, believing that a fire would be concentrated upon the Block house (the N.E.) contained our only piece of artillery, with a view to dismount it, I directed it to be removed into the Northern Block house, and to be pointed so as to rake the ditch in the direction of the North West angle of the fort. My anticipations were in due season realized; four guns upon the Block house first named and with such precision as to plunge several shot directly through the embrasure at which the piece had been standing.

After this, the enemy's fire was principally directed against the North Western angle of the fort, with a view to effect a breach, which care was taken to prevent. About 6 o'clock in the afternoon, the sound of a bugle gave notice of some immediate movement, and in a few minutes the enemy was seen advancing to the assault in several columns. The North Eastern face commanded by Lieut. Johnson, was first attacked; but the attacking column was firmly received, and the Lieutenant being reinforced by Ensign Duncan, who came very promptly to his assistance with his whole command, was enabled in a few minutes to beat it back with a loss.

The North Western angle was then vigorously assaulted; Lieut. Meeks, however, who commanded at that point, aided by the advice of the ever active and gallant Shipp, met the overwhelming force opposed to him with so deadly a fire of musketry as to cause its recoil. In spite of every effort, the enemy gained the ditch, and was endeavoring to cut away the pickets, when he was stopped in his career by a destructive fire then opened upon him from the six pounder, it was clearly to be seen that his obstinacy could avail him nothing. Before the firing had ceased at this point, a column of 200 men advanced against the South Eastern face of the work, but it shared the fate of the other columns. Lieut. Baylor, who had charge of that part of the line, being aided by the reserve under Ensign Duncan, (who had been previously ordered to afford relief wherever it was wanted,) soon compelled it to retreat precipitately and in confusion.

I had ocular proof of the gallantry of Lieuts.

Johnson, Meeks and Baylor, and Ensigns Shipp and Duncan. Capt. Hunter I did not see during the assault, he being confined to the Block house upon the right of his company, but he doubtless performed his duty most faithfully.

The consequences hinged upon the attack on Sandusky, were important; had it succeeded, Gen. Harrison would most probably have been compelled to fall back upon upper Sandusky, thus leaving the whole frontier open to the incursions of the Indians; and the enemy flushed with success would have continued down the lake in prosecution of the exclusive objects of the campaign—the destruction of the stores and boats at Cleveland, and of the fleet under Commodore Perry at Erie, both of which would have been accomplished without any material loss.

I may seem to attach too much importance to the affair, but not more I think than facts warrant. The British accounts already before the committee, assure us that an attack on Erie was meditated, and that it was not made in consequence of the refusal of the Indians to pass down the south side of the lake without first taking Fort Sandusky; and the letter of Gen. Duncan, also before the committee (and which can be confirmed by many now at the seat of Government,) is equally explicit as to the course that would probably have been pursued by Gen. Harrison had Sandusky fallen.

I have the honor to be,
Most respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
G. CROGHAN.
To the Hon. W. C. Preston.
[to be Continued.]

The Akin, S. C. Telegraph of the 11th inst., says: Judge Linch pinned it into a chap a few days ago down on the Rains in this district. We have not heard all the particulars. The fellow was found in the cotton field with the negroes; and when detected, feigned partial insanity. There were two others of the like stamp detected about the same time in Orangeburg district. We learn that judge Linch presided there and passed sentence on them.

CASUALTY.—The Cincinnati Gazette, of the 17th inst., says:—"The steamboat Artist, from Louisville, on yesterday, picked up a child floating in the river, seventeen miles below the city. It was apparently three or four years old, dressed in a red calico frock, stockings on, but no stockings, hair. Supposed to have been dropped in some