Noetru

THE TASK.

Subject -- "A Work-Basket."

TO BESSIE

I scarcely know where to begin my strange task at, Since Jack, my Pegasus, is rather too wild To put his proud nostrils within a "work-basket," Or suffer his reins to be held by a child.-

·TT :

But here goes my Pony; now prance and now caper, And playfully gambol around it at will,-But stay, -not so fast, - 'till I get me some paper, -Till then,-for a moment, I beg you be still. 111

Would I were that basket, then some admiration Would light up that eye when upon me it spene, Twould speak in such tones of its kind approvement. That Heaven would claim them and call them h

I look in the future and many a pleasure, I see cluster round it, like dow-drops that rest In 'a bright summer's morn on 'a rare floral treasure, That nature herself in her beauty has drest.

Ah! many 'a sigh of the fondest devotion, -Perhaps it will witness, for some favored one, And inwardly laugh at the swelling emotion That bosom betrayed fore that lover was gone.

Or even contain in itself the confession. The lover himself has long languished to know, While lavishly using each fondest impression, That from a full heart in rich streams ever flow.

But here my Pegasus gets wild,-I can't hold him, · He'll throw me by Jove if I don't let him go, In vain I caress him; -with worse effect scold him,"

Select Cale.

He's gone by th' Powers! oh! stop him! wo! wo

THE VALUE OF A PIN.

When in Paris lately, I spent a very' p'ens ant evening in the society of some of its most distinguished men. One of our countries a had invited us to a capital 'hachelors' dinner-, party. A young Frenchman-whose name, if I were authorized to publish it, would be tumiliar to many, because it is that of a highly esteemed munufacturer, who won one of the first gold medals and the cross of the Legion of Honor-was the most conspicuous guest. We all looked with sincere admiration at the industrious and gifted engineer who had before the age of thirty, acquired so large an amount of wealth and distinction; the more so because there was a report current that the new decore had succeeded in making his way through many impediments and difficulties, and that he had started from a very low station in life. I determined to know the truth, at all events; and as I had the good fortune to occupy the sent near our French friend, I was soon on intimate terms with him. and when dinner was over, and we were comfortably and quietly sipping a most excellent cup of coffee, I suddenly asked our here to give us the story of his life. He complied without reluctance or affected modesty with this rather importinent desire, and gave the . following narrative.

Some fifteen years ago, I was a kind of Young vagabond, slow to learn, but very eager for all sorts of mischief, for which the gamins of Paris possess an unpleasant but well-merit ed reputation. My father was a small shopkeeper, in very moderate circum tances, and - I attended the municipal school next to our house, or rather I pretended to attend it, for I liked much better to stroll along the Boule vards and amuse myself in the Champs Elysees There was, in short, every prospect of my becoming an idle, worthless fellow, much to the grief of my good, honest father, when a word of reproof spoken in due time brought me back to my senses and to the right path. It is a trifling anecdote, if we may use this word without impropriety, in a world where the happiness of a whole family so often depends on so called trifles.

I had not gone to school that day, a because I had met on the Boulevards a long funeral procession-thousands and thousands of mourners of all ages and all conditions; deputies and mechanics, high diguitaries and humble artisans -- a curious but interesting mixture of coats and blouses, following a very simple hearse. It was the people of Paris accompanying good old Jacques Lafitte to his last abode. There was something so affecting in this demonstration—that of a whole popu lation bestowing on a simple citizen honors refused to kings, and only from time to time granted to such patriots as General Foy, Lafayette, or Garnier Pages-that even if I had not been too glad to take advantage of this new pretext, offered so unexpectedly to my vagrant propensity, Lahould have followed the funeral. So I took a place in the cortege with a companion, and on we went to the cemetry, which could scarcely hold us all. and was closely guarded by a number of po- and we all know how the Emperor Napoleon, ferent Indians, in whose veracity I have much can be found upon the face of the earth: and so,

hols of the monkeys, and discussing the political merits of the pure democrat whose loss France lamented on that day ! During this chat, I played with a little stick, and had fallen from a lady's dress; but, as you may suppose, I threw them carelessly away, and continued my declamatory address.

"You may believe it or not," said I to my attentive school-fellow. "I-hall-ono dav be as rich and as much honored as the worthy citizen Lafitte," Here I made an appropriate pause, which was disturbed in a rather unexpected and unpleasant manner.

"Rich and honored, in leed!" exclaimed a voice behind us; "you will remain a beggar and a good-for-nothing fellow all your life." I started and looked round in confusion, when I saw that the prophet of evil was a venerable old man, leaning on a tree, and listening unceremoniously to our boyish conversation.

"No, my boy," continued he earnestly. " You will never become as rich and honored as good Jaques Lafitte; and I will tell you the reason: you threw two pins away with great disdain, while he picked one up, and owed his fortune to that circumstance. Take my word for it, the youth who does not value of such a friend as lost in a dim region that -a-pin-will-never-become a wealthy man."-I was speechless and niv eyes alone betrayed my feelings. The kind old man, for such he was, in spite of his assumed harshness, took a sent beside us, and spoke thus:

"Let me tell you the story of Monsieur Lafitte's progress, and may it be a lesson to you dering life! Jacques was one of the numerpos lamily of a pror-carpenter in the south of France: and if a generous fairy had song at Li craffe that he would one day become a ich maker an infinential deputy, a statesranging a masser who would refuse to a most with the wishes of the king, and incby refire into private Me; and that, after fulholing all the duties incumbent on his several stations in life, his death would be lamented by a whole nation, and fifty thousand mourners would follow him to the gave-the wonderful prediction would have been laughed at. even by a fond mother, For poor young Jacques had not the advantage of going to school, and he deplored it bitterly: while you indulge only in playing and rambling, and do not avail yourself of the opportunities which your family and the state offer you. He learned the rudiments of reading and writing, as it, were, by himself, and certainly with much difficulty; and after having been a kind of errand-boy in a country-office, and improved himself as well as he was able, he set out for Paris, where he arrived pennyless, and having nothing to trust to but God and a letter recommendation to a celebrated banker, Monsieur Perregaux. As soon as might be, he heart bear loudly when he presented this letter, for in it were concentrated all his hopes in life. He had not eaten anything that morning, and did not possess a single sou to to buy a dinner; and, besides he was some hundred leagues away from home, where his and father and his poor mother were perhaps starving, with nearly a dozen children round to escape before he is himself seen. them. Monsieur Perregaux read the letter, without even remarking the pale countenance of the young man, and returned directly the discouraging answer that he had already five or six clerks too many in his office, and that there was no room for a new one. Poor Jacques, on hearing this, was in the act, of retiring slowly and without a word, although in apology to the banker, who had watched the proceedings of the young man with curiosity. I beg pardon, Sir.' Monsieur Perregaux however had noticed the action, and recalling

your things, and come back directly. "It was a sunbeam shiring through the dark clouds which had till then overhung the

licemen and a detachment of municipal guards | when departing for his grave in St. Helena, for sometimes governments fear great mer, intrusted him with six millions without guareven after they have breathed their last. I antee or receipt; how liafitte married his listened with deep emotion to the speeches daughter to the Prince de in Moskowa, the eldelivered by some of the popular orators of destron of the illustrious Marshal Ney; how the time; and at last, whon all was over, I he was elected deputy and, and became one of made my way home, still having my compan- the most influential members of the House; ion with me, and, as a matter of course, in- how he played the foremost part in the revoculging in as many by-roads as we possibly lution of 1830, and was one of the king makcould. You must not, therefore, he surprised ers; how he was named by Louis Philippe to find us in the afternoon sitting on a bench minister of finance, and resigned his office rathin the Jardin des Plantes, watching the gam- er than sign anti popular decree; how he became poor again in the service of his country, and how the grateful people subsribed two millions of francs on his behalf to re-establish his fortunes. You yourselves anw to day how thus picked up two pins that had probably France honored this gfeat man to the last Go then, my lads, attendalligently your school andflearn to value even a pin."

> Having thus spoken the old man went away, and I saw him no more. But his story had made a deep-impression on my-mind, and I become a steady, industrious lad. I attended the school of industry, and learned a great deal in the way of engineering. Jacques Lafitte was always before my eyes as a model; and in passing through the street which bears the name of the illustrious deputy, I always felt the same sort of religious emotion as when I walked past a church. Some inventions I made met with approbation; and now I am what you see me - a not unimportant member of society, on the road to wealth and distinc-

CAPT. MARCY.S EXPLORATIONS.

Who has not a friend among the army officers, and their families, on the frontiers of Texas and Arkansas? Who has not thought has no possible geography ?- a vast wilderness made up of forests that begin and end nowhere, deserts that have no outlines, rivers that run every way and never get in the sea, and fantastic mountains that are visible improbabilities? Who has not imagined his triend to be stationed at a fort which can hardly be stationary, but mist be drifting about in a confusion of localities, beyond all latitude and longitude? Now, here is something that clears up the confusion-a public document entitled -An Exptoration of the Red River of Louisiana in 1852," by Captains Randolph B Marcy and G. B. McCiellau, with large maps and numerous lithographs of scenery, geology, plants and animals.

Captain Marcy, singular as it may seem was the first to explore the source of a great river, pouring itself through a State nearly fifty years old. From his concise and scientific, yet picturesque narrative, embracing a journey of a thousand miles, we take a few of the more juicy episodes, only remarking here the skilful conduct and good fortune of this long expedition, in which not one of the men or the cattle were lost, nor suffered very severely by the way. The voluminous research. es in science we leave to our savans.

RAPACITY OF THE BEAR.

Several anecdotes which were related to me by our guide, concerning the habits of the of this fleetest inhabitant of the plains. Afblack hear, would seem to entitle him to a higher position in the scale of animal instinct and agacity than that of almost any other went to the house of this gentlemen, and his quadruped. For instance, he says that before making his bed to lie down, the animal invariably goes several hundred yards with the wind, at a distance from his track. Should an enemy now come upon his track, he must approach him with the wind; and with the bear's keen sense of smell, he is almost certain to be made aware of his presence, and has time

"He also states that when pursued, the bear sometimes takes refuge in caves in the earth or rocks, where the hunter often endeavors, by making a smoke at the entrance, to force him out; but it not unfrequently hap pens that, instead of coming out when the smoke becomes too oppressive he very deliberately advances to the fire, and with his forethe direct consternation. He bent his head feet bents upon it until it is extinguished; in despair, and cast down his eyes. While in then retreats into the cave. This he assured this position, he saw a pin glittering on the me he had often seen. Although these statefloor, and obeying instinctively a well taught ments would seem to endow bruin with some, lesson of his beloved mother—to care for the thing more than mere animal instinct, and exsmallest things-he picked the pin up and ince a conception of the connection between put it on the mantle piece, saying, by way of cause and effect, yet another apecdote which was related to me would go to prove this cut rious quadruped one of the most stupid fellows in the brute creation.

My informant says that when the bear canthe industrious youth, exclaimed suddenly, I not be driven out the cave by smoke, it some will make room for you in the bank: fetch times becomes necessary for the hunter to take his rifle, and with a torch to enter the cavern in search of him. One would suppose this a very hazardous undertaking and that path of the needy carpenters son, and you may the animal would soon eject the presumptuimagine with what exaultation he greeted our intruder; but, on the contrary, as soon this ray of hope. Thus Jacques Lafitte be as he sees the light approaching, he sits up came first the clerk, then the cashier, then the right on his haunches, and with his fore paws partner, and at last the successor of M. Perre. covers his face and eyes, and remains in this gaux. (In this manner he became very rich position until the light is removed. Thus the thanks to a pin-and made his parents and hunter is enabled to approach as close as he his numerous brothers and sisters happy. He desires without danger, and taking deadly aim was not merely wealthy-that is common with his faithful rifle, poor bruin is slain .enough—he was a man of unsullied integrity; these facts have been stated to, me by three dif-

That is certainly shutting ones eyes, to un pleasant truths, or does the bear seek to excite the sympathy by make-believe grief? or

true."

face with his paws as Cosar dld with his mantle? As wonderful as that of bruin, is the SAGACITY OF THE INDIAN.

"This man has often been among the prairie Indians, understands their language and character well, and the moment he sees a trail made by them, or an old deserted camp, he at once determines what nation they were; the number of horses and mules in their possession: whether they were accompanied by their families, and whether they were upon a war expedition or otherwise; as also the time (within a few hours) of their passing, with many other facts of importance.

"These faculties appear to be intuitive, and confined exclusively to the Indian, I have never seen a white man that could judge of these matters with such certainty as they .-For example, upon passing the trail of the Indians to day, one of our Delawares looked for a moment at the foot prints, picked up a blade of grass that had been crushed; and said the trail was made two days since, when to us it had every appearance of being quite fresh .-Subsequent observations satisfied us that he was correct.

"Upon another occasion, in riding along over the prairie, I saw in the sand what avpeared to be a bear track, with the impression of all of the toes, foot and heel. On pointing it out to one of the Indians, he instantly called-my attention to a blade of grass-hanging about ten inches over the marks, and explained to me that while the wind is blowing, these blades are pressed towards the earth, and the oscillation thereby produced had scooped out the light sand into the form I have mentioned. This when explained, was perfectly simple and intelligible, but I am very much inclined to believe the solution of it would have puzzled the philosophy of a white man for a long time."

Our lady equestr ans, who take prizes at agricultural fairs, would hardly compete

THE AMAZONS OF THE PRAIRIES.

"It is when mounted that the Camanche ex hibits himself to the bost advantage. Here he is at home, and his skill in various manoeuvers which he makes available in battlesuch as throwing himself entirely upon one side of his horse, and discharging his arrows with great rapidity toward the opposite side, from beneath the animal's neck, while he is at full speed, is truly astonishing. Many of the women are equally expert, as equestrians, with the men. They ride upon the same saddles, and in the same Manner, with a leg up on each side of the horse. As an example of their skill in horsémanship, two young women of one of the bands of the Northern Camanches, while we were encamped near them, upon seeing some antelopes at a distance from the camp, mounted horses, and, with lassos in their hands, set off at full speed in pursuit tor pursuing them for some distance, and tatous course permitted, they finally came near it back in triumph to the camp."

History does not afford worthier examples than the Indian guides, of

FAITHFULNESS TO DUTY.

"An incident which was related to me ha occurring with one of these guides a few years since, forcibly illustrates their character .-The officer having charge of the party to which he was attached sent him out to examine a trail he had met with on the prairie. for the purpose of ascertaining where it would lead to. The guide, after following it as far as he supposed he would be required to do. returned and reported that it led off into the praries to no particular place, so far as he could discover. He was told that this was not satisfactory, and directed to take the trail again, and to follow it until he gained the required information. He accordingly went out the second time, but did not return that day nor the next and the party after a time, began to be alarmed for his safety, fearing he might have been killed by the Indians. Days and weeks passed by, but still nothing was heard of the guide, until, on arriving at the first border settlement, to their astonishment, he made his appearance among them, and, approaching the commanding officer, said, 'Captain, that trail which you ordered me to follow terminates here.' He had, with indomitable and resolute energy, traversed alone several hundred miles of wild and desolate prarie, with nothing but his gun to depend upon for a subsistence, determined this time to carry out the instructions of his employer to the letter.

Indian fidelity, however, is sometimes naughtily misdirected, as appears from this example of young men who were

A GREAT COMFORT TO THEIR PATHER.

confidence, and I have no doubt are strictly | they regard stealing from strangers as perfectly legitimate and honorable, and that man who has been most successful in this is the most highly honored by his tribe. Indeed, a young man who has not made one or more of has he a Roman idea of dying, covering his these expeditions into diexico is held in but little repute. I was told by an old chief of the Northern Camanches, that he was the father of four sons, who, he said, were as fine young men as could be found; that they were great source of comfort to him in his old age. and could steal more horses than any other young men in his band.".

A Picture of our Country.

America, as she now stands, is a striking fact. The Western clearings, the immence farms of the Mississipi Valley, the Lake trade. the foreign immigration, toiling Africa chained to the car of commerce, gorgeous and reckless New York, and sudden Son Francisco, exciteimagination, by all that they imply and foreshadow. They represent many idens, and embody marry a wonderful and moving story; for business has its dangers and daring; its suffering and endurance, and the changes of fortune, in this new (world of boundless resources and free activity, are more marvellous than the tales of the Arabian Nights. This bold enterprise that stretches to the Pacific, this skilled and thoughtful race grasping a vast empire like a homestend, to cultivate and plant, and adorn; this brave army of worshippers, marching on irresistibly to the conquest of nature, from a grand spectacle. Though their weapons-the axe, the plough, and the steam engine-have not the lustre of poetry that gleaus from the point of the sword : though the heroes of the farm, the work shop and the counting-house, like village Hamp, dens, die unsung, yet great qualities are often. exhibited in these humble fields of man's effort, and their labors tound nations, as those of the coral insect lift the basis of an island above the sea, to the light and air of Heaven

But the picture has its dark side. The eager desire for wealth, the "incessant and Sabbathless" pursuit of it has become the universal passion and occupation. -- We have that love of money which is the root of all evil; and under the deadly shade of the tree from that root, the love of knowledge and art, of truth, and virtue, and beauty, withers and dies . " In prosperity no alturs smoke." The curse of Midas is upon us .- Our feelings, our ideas, our aspiratious, are all turned into gold, and we are starving amid our burren abundance. We worship the material, not the spiritual; the visible and transient, not the invisible and eternal. We are practical, notintellectual; and our pleasures are of the senses, not of the reason, imagination and taste. We are smitten with "the lust of flesh, and the lust of the eye, and the pride of life." We are true disciples of the ethics of interest and utility, and our only morality is cash payment. Truly has it been said, that "he who makes haste to get rich shall not be innocent,". If intemperate drinking be the degrading vice of one portion of our people. intemperate moneymaking is the besetting sin of another and much larger portion, and it is difficult to say which is the more pernicious. One is a vice of the king all the advantages which their circui- senses, destroying the mind; the other a delusion of the mind and a selfish passion, blasting them, and, throwing the lasso with unerring the moral sentiments, and palsying the higher precision, secured each animal, and brought powers of the intellect. The poor drunkard cannot resist the "baneful cup," which benumbs the soul, "unmoulding reason's mintage," and transforming him

"Into the inglorious likeness of a beast," and the infatuated worshipper of Mammon deliberately uses his mental faculties for his own destruction, prefers the ignoble and low to the pure and high, and shuts out the light of Heaven from his life. Successful industry. rapid gains, rank, prosperity, without counteracting causes to modify the influence, have stimulated this passion for wealth to excess, and have produced already in this new country, luxury, venality, corruption, contempt for intellectual pursuits and pleasures, and sneering indifference to cunobling and elevated sentiment. Hence the vulgar ostentation of our cities; hence the general want of literary taste and culture; hence the deplorable frauds of business; hence much of the baseness of politics .- North American Review.

PRINTER'S PHONOGRAPHY.—We once saw a young man gazing at the *ry heavens, with a in 1 ma and a of pistols in the other. We endeavored to attract his attention by log to a f in a paper held in our men, relating 2 a man in that & of the country, who had loft home in a state of mental derangement. He innediately dropped the † and pistols from his pers, with the ! "It is I of whom U rend. I left homeb4 my friends knew of my design. I had so the near of a girl who refused to lis10 2 me, but smiled boly on another. I -ed madly from the house uttering a wild ' to the God of love; all was a to me. Without replying 2 the ? ? ?s of my friends, I came, here with this + & of pistols to put no to my Xis-"They are perhaps, as arrant freebooters 10ce. My case has no | in this ?." That's **一个一个种情况**