Westward the Oregon flows and the Walleway and Owvhee.

Eastward, with devious course, among the Windriver Mountains.

Through the Sweetwater Valley precipitate leaps the Nebraska:

And to the south, from Fontaine-qui-bout and the Spanish sierras,

5 Fretted with sands and rocks, and swept by the wind of the desert,

Numberless torrents, with ceaseless sound, descend to the ocean.

Like the great chords of a harp, in loud and solemn vibrations.

Spreading between these streams are the wondrous, beautiful prairies,

Billowy bays of grass ever rolling in shadow and sunshine,

10 Bright with luxuriant clusters of roses and purple amorphas.

Over them wander the buffalo herds, and the elk and the roebuck:

Over them wander the wolves, and herds of riderless horses;

Fires that blast and blight, and winds that are weary with travel;

1. Oregon, or Columbia, River flows into the Pacific about lat. 46°. The Owyhee and Walleway are tributaries of the Oregon on the left and right bank, respectively.

2. Wind-river Mountains. A portion of the Rocky Moun-

tains, crossing the centre of Idaho.
3. Nebraska. The junction of the Platte River with the North and South Fork forms the Nebraska. The Sweetwater Valley leads from the Wind-river Mountains.

4. Fontaine-qui-bout (the boiling spring). Supposed to be a well-known spring, situated in a valley south of Denver City,

Over them wander the scattered tribes of Ishmael's children.

Staining the desert with blood; and above their terrible war-trails

Circles and sails aloft, on pinions majestic, the vul-

Like the implacable soul of a chieftain slaughtered in battle,

By invisible stairs ascending and scaling the heavens. 5 Here and there rise smokes from the camps of these savage marauders;

Here and there rise groves from the margins of swiftrunning rivers;

And the grim, taciturn bear, the anchorite monk of the desert.

Climbs down their dark ravines to dig for roots by the brookside,

And over all is the sky, the clear and crystalline 10

Like the protecting hand of God inverted above them.

Into this wonderful land, at the base of the Ozark Mountains,

Gabriel far had entered, with hunters and trappers behind him.

Day after day, with their Indian guides, the maiden and Basil

Followed his flying steps, and thought each day to 15 o'ertake him.

Sometimes they saw, or thought they saw, the smoke of his camp-fire

^{4.} Spanish sierras. In Spanish sierra means a saw, and hence any craggy, jagged mountain ridge. The Spanish sierras commerce east of Utah and New Mexico.

^{1.} Ishmael's children. The twelve children of Ishmael formed the twelve tribes some of which disappeared. These lost tribes are supposed by some speculators to have wandered somehow into America and become the progenitors of the North American Indian.

Rise in the morning air from the distant plain; but at nightfall,

When they had reached the place, they found only embers and ashes.

And, though their hearts were sad at times and their bodies were weary,

Hope still guided them on, as the magic Fata Morgana 5 Showed them her lakes of light, that retreated and vanished before them.

Once, as they sat by their evening fire, there silently entered

Into the little camp an Indian woman, whose features Wore deep traces of sorrow, and patience as great as her sorrow.

She was a Shawnee woman returning home to her people,

10 From the far-off hunting-grounds of the cruel Camanches,

Where her Canadian husband, a Coureur-des-Bois, had been murdered.

Touched were their hearts at her story, and warmest and friendliest welcome

Gave they, with words of cheer, and she sat and feasted among them

On the buffalo meat and the venison cooked on the embers.

15 But when their meal was done, and Basil and all his companions,

Worn with the long day's march and the chase of the deer and the bison,

Stretched themselves on the ground, and slept where the quivering firelight

Flashed on their swarthy cheeks, and their forms wrapped up in their blankets,

Then at the door of Evangeline's tent she sat and repeated

Slowly, with soft, low voice, and the charm of her Indian accent,

All the tale of her love, with its pleasures, and pains, and reverses.

Much Evangeline wept at the tale, and to know that 5 another

Hapless heart like her own had loved and had been disappointed.

Moved to the depths of her soul by pity and woman's compassion,

Yet in her sorrow pleased that one who had suffered was near her,

She in turn related her love and all its disasters.

Mute with wonder the Shawnee sat, and when she had 10 ended

Still was mute; but at length, as if a mysterious horror

Passed through her brain, she spake, and repeated the tale of the Mowis;

Fata Morgana. A mirage or optical delusion, so called because supposed to be the work of the Fata Morgana or the Fairy (fata) Morgana.

^{12.} Mowis. The story is as follows: A beautiful Indian maiden had by her sorcery cast an Indian brave into a wasting sickness. The "Manito" (good spirit) of the warrior promised to avenge him. By his orders the Indian made a suit of clothes from old rags, and richly adorned them with jewels. He then formed a human figure out of dried bones and refuse, bound together with snow. The Manito breathed life into this figure (Mowis), and brought him before the maiden. She at once fell in love with the stranger, and married him. On the morning after the marriage-day the bridegroom rose early, and, taking his bows and arrows, told his wife that he was forced to set out on a long journey. She begged to be allowed to accompany him. After some attempts at dissuasion he c nsented. They set out together, but she could not keep up with her husband's steps, and soon lost sight of him. The sun rose, and the fierce heat melted the snow that bound Mowis together; the dry bones began to reappear, and then the form utterly disappeared. When the maiden realized that she had lost her lover, she lay down and died.

- Mowis, the bridegroom of snow, who won and wedded a maiden.
- But, when the morning came, arose and passed from the wigwam,
- Fading and melting away and dissolving into the sunshine,
- Till she beheld him no more, though she followed far into the forest.
- 5 Then, in those sweet, low tones, that seem like a weird incantation,
- Told she the tale of the fair Lilinau, who was wooed by a phantom,
- That, through the pines o'er her father's lodge, in the hush of the twilight,
- Breathed like the evening wind, and whispered love to the maiden,
- Till she followed his green and waving plume through the forest,
- 10 And never more returned, nor was seen again by her people.
 - Silent with wonder and strange surprise Evangeline listened
 - To the soft flow of her magical words, till the region around her
 - Seemed like enchanted ground, and her swarthy guest the enchantress.
 - Slowly over the tops of the Ozark Mountains the moon rose,
- 15 Lighting the little tent, and with a mysterious splendor Touching the somber leaves, and embracing and filling the woodland.

- With a delicious sound the brook rushed by, and the branches
- Swayed and sighed overhead in scarcely audible whispers.
- Filled with the thoughts of love was Evangeline's heart, but a secret,
- Subtile sense crept in of pain and indefinite terror,
- As the cold, poisonous snake creeps into the nest of 5 the swallow.
- It was no earthly fear. A breath from the region of spirits
- Seemed to float in the air of night; and she felt for a moment
- That, like the Indian maid, she, too, was pursuing a phantom.
- And with this thought she slept, and the fear and the phantom had vanished.
- Early upon the morrow the march was resumed; and 10 the Shawnee
- Said, as they journeyed along—"On the western slope of these mountains
- Dwells in his little village the Black Robe chief of the Mission.
- Much he teaches the people, and tells them of Mary and Jesus;
- Loud laugh their hearts with joy, and weep with pain, as they hear him."
- Then, with a sudden and secret emotion, Evangeline 15 answered—
- "Let us go to the Mission, for there good tidings await us!"

^{6.} Lilinau. The story of "Leelinau; or, The Lost Daughter" is very prettily told in the Enchanted Moccasins and Other Tales, adapted by Matthews from Schoolcraft's work on Indian Myths.

^{16.} Mission. The Jesuit priests were dauntless in their efforts to push into the wilderness and convert the Indians. Many fearful stories are told of their adventures.

- Thither they turned their steeds; and behind a spur of the mountains,
- Just as the sun went down, they heard a murmur of voices,
- And in a meadow green and broad, by the bank of a river,
- Saw the tents of the Christians, the tents of the Jesuit Mission.
- 5 Under a towering oak, that stood in the midst of the village.
- Knelt the Black Robe chief with his children. A crucifix fastened
- High on the trunk of the tree, and overshadowed by grape-vines,
- Looked with its agonized face on the multitude kneeling beneath it.
- This was their rural chapel. Aloft, through the intricate arches
- to Of its aerial roof, arose the chant of their vespers,
 - Mingling its notes with the soft susurrus and sighs of the branches.
 - Silent, with heads uncovered, the travelers, nearer approaching,
 - Knelt on the swarded floor, and joined in the evening devotions.

11. Susurrus. Whisper.

- But when the service was done, and the benediction had fallen
- Forth from the hands of the priest, like seed from the hands of the sower,
- Slowly the reverend man advanced to the strangers, and bade them
- Welcome; and when they replied, he smiled with benignant expression,
- Hearing the homelike sounds of his mother tongue in 5 the forest,
- And with words of kindness conducted them into his wigwam.
- There upon mats and skins they reposed, and on cakes of the maize-ear
- Feasted, and slaked their thirst from the water-gourd of the teacher.
- Soon was their story told; and the priest with solemnity answered:
- "Not six suns have risen and set since Gabriel, seated 10 On this mat by my side, where now the maiden re-
- Told me this same sad tale; then arose and continued his journey!"
- Soft was the voice of the priest, and he spake with an accent of kindness;
- But on Evangeline's heart fell his words as in winter the snowflakes
- Fall into some lone nest from which the birds have 15 departed.
- "Far to the north he has gone," continued the priest;
 "but in autumn,
- When the chase is done, will return again to the Mission."
- Then Evangeline said, and her voice was meek and submissive—

^{6.} Black Robe chief with his children. This incident of the Jesuit Mission was probably suggested to Longfellow by Chateaubriand's Atala. The French author, in his tale of the loves of two Indians, Chactas and Atala, makes his hero and heroine find help in their time of sorest need at the mission station of Father Aubry, who, like the Black Robe chief, had retired to the forest, and gathered around him a family of Indians, to whom he taught Christianity in its simplest form. Several of the pictures in Longfellow's description of river and forest scenery seem to have been suggested by the same story of the French author, for it must be remembered that Longfellow had never traveled through the scenes he described, his longest journey in his own land being from Boston to New York or Philadelphia, so that he was entirely dependent on books for the description of the scenery of the Mississippi,

EVANGELINE.

- "Let me remain with thee, for my soul is sad and afflicted."
- So seemed it wise and well unto all; and betimes on the morrow,
- Mounting his Mexican steed, with his Indian guides and companions,
- Homeward Basil returned, and Evangeline stayed at the Mission.
- 5 Slowly, slowly, slowly the days succeeded each other-Days and weeks and months; and the fields of maize
- that were springing Green from the ground when a stranger she came, now waving above her,
- Lifted their slender shafts, with leaves interlacing, and forming
- Cloisters for mendicant crows and granaries pillaged by squirrels.
- 10 Then in the golden weather the maize was husked, and the maidens
 - Blushed at each blood-red ear, for that betokened a lover.
 - But at the crooked laughed, and called it a thief in the corn-field.
 - Even the blood-red ear to Evangeline brought not her
 - "Patience!" the priest would say; "have faith, and thy prayer will be answered!
- 15 Look at this delicate plant that lifts its head from the meadow.
 - See how its leaves all point to the north, as true as the magnet;
 - It is the compass-flower, that the finger of God has suspended
 - 17. Compass-flower. See Hiawatha, xiii. A stout perennial

- Here on its fragile stalk, to direct the traveler's journey
- Over the sea-like, pathless, limitless waste of the
- Such in the soul of man is faith. The blossoms of passion,
- Gay and luxuriant flowers, are brighter and fuller of fragrance,
- But they beguile us, and lead us astray, and their 5 odor is deadly.
- Only this humble plant can guide us here, and here-
- Crown us with asphodel flowers, that are wet with the dews of nepenthe."
- So came the autumn, and passed, and the winter-yet Gabriel came not:
- Blossomed the opening spring, and the notes of the robin and bluebird
- Sounded sweet upon wold and in wood, yet Gabriel 10 came not.
- But on the breath of the summer winds a rumor was wafted
- Sweeter than song of bird, or hue or odor of blossom.
- Far to the north and east, it said, in the Michigan forests.
- Gabriel had his lodge by the banks of the Saginaw river.

plant, three to six feet high, bearing a yellow flower. The edges of the leaves are said to turn north and south, while the faces are turned east and west. Hunters, when lost on the prairies on dark nights, easily get their bearings by feeling the edges of the leaves. On seeing in later life a compass flower in the Botanical Gardens, Longfellow proposed to alter this description of the plant so as to be more true to nature. He altered "delicate plant" to "vigorous plant," and "on its fragile stalk" to "in the houseless wild."

^{7.} Nepenthe. The asphodel was supposed by the ancient Greeks to cover the broad fields of the future world. Nepenthe was any potion that had the power of dispelling pain and care.

14. Saginaw. A river in Michigan running into Lake Huron.

- And, with returning guides, that sought the lakes of St. Lawrence,
- Saying a sad farewell, Evangeline went from the Mission.
- When over weary ways, by long and perilous marches, She had attained at length the depths of the Michigan forests,
- 5 Found she the hunter's lodge deserted and fallen to ruin!
- Thus did the long sad years glide on, and in seasons and places
- Divers and distant far was seen the wandering maiden;
- Now in the tents of grace of the meek Moravian Missions,
- Now in the noisy camps and the battle-fields of the army.
- 10 Now in secluded hamlets, in towns and populous cities,
 - Like a phantom she came, and passed away unremembered.
 - Fair was she and young, when in hope began the long journey;
 - Faded was she and old, when in disappointment it ended.
 - Each succeeding year stole something away from her beauty,

- Leaving behind it, broader and deeper, the gloom and the shadow.
- Then there appeared and spread faint streaks of gray o'er her forehead,
- Dawn of another life, that broke o'er her earthly horizon,
- As in the eastern sky the first faint streaks of the morning.

V.

- In that delightful land which is washed by the Dela-5 ware's waters,
- Guarding in sylvan shades the name of Penn the apostle,
- Stands on the banks of its beautiful stream the city he founded.
- There all the air is balm, and the peach is the emblem of beauty,
- And the streets still re-echo the names of the trees of the forest,
- As if they fain would appease the Dryads whose 10 haunts they molested.
- There from the troubled sea had Evangeline landed, an exile.
- Finding among the children of Penn a home and a country.
- There old René Leblanc had died; and when he departed,

^{8.} Moravian Missions. A congregation of Christians descended from the Bohemian Brethren, who were a branch of the Hussites. Their chief settlement was at Fulnek, in Moravia. Their settlements were destroyed during the Thirty Years' War They afterwards settled in various parts of the Old and New World under the name of United Brethren, to whom Protestants of every kind were admitted if they submitted to their rules of discipline. One of the chief objects of the Moravians was the sending out of missionaries. In many respects they closely resemble Quakers.

^{6.} Penn the apostle. In the year 1681 Penn received from Charles II, the grant of a district west of the Delaware River, to which the name of Pennsylvania was given. This colony was the most enlightened colony of the time in America. Religious liberty was established, and enactments against slavery introduced. Philadelphia, a name suggesting the tenets of its Quaker founders, was founded in 1683, on the banks of the Delaware.

^{10.} Dryads. Wood-nymphs, believed to die with the trees, which had once been their abode.

- Saw at his side only one of all his hundred descendants.
- Something at least there was in the friendly streets of the city,
- Something that spake to her heart, and made her no longer a stranger:
- And her ear was pleased with the Thee and Thou of the Quakers,
- 5 For it recalled the past, the old Acadian country,
- Where all men were equal, and all were brothers and sisters.
- So, when the fruitless search, the disappointed endeavor.
- Ended, to recommence no more upon earth, uncomplaining.
- Thither, as leaves to the light, were turned her thoughts and her footsteps.
- 10 As from a mountain's top the rainy mists of the morning
 - Roll away, and afar we behold the landscape below
 - Sun-illumined, with shining rivers and cities and hamlets.
 - So fell the mists from her mind, and she saw the world far below her,
- Dark no longer, but all illumined with love; and the pathway
- 15 Which she had climbed so far, lying smooth and fair in the distance.
 - Gabriel was not forgotten. Within her heart was his image,
 - Clothed in the beauty of love and youth, as last she beheld him,
 - Only more beautiful made by his deathlike silence and absence.

- Into her thoughts of him time entered not, for it was not.
- Over him years had no power; he was not changed, but transfigured;
- He had become to her heart as one who is dead, and not absent;
- Patience and abnegation of self, and devotion to others,
- This was the lesson a life of trial and sorrow had 5 taught her.
- So was her love diffused, but, like to some odorous spices,
- Suffered no waste nor loss, though filling the air with aroma.
- Other hope had she none, nor wish in life, but to follow
- Meekly, with reverent steps, the sacred feet of her Saviour.
- Thus many years she lived as a Sister of Mercy; fre- 10 quenting
- Lonely and wretched roofs in the crowded lanes of the city,
- Where distress and want concealed themselves from the sunlight,
- Where disease and sorrow in garrets languished neglected.
- Night after night, when the world was asleep, as the watchman repeated
- Loud, through the gusty streets, that all was well in 15 the city,
- High at some lonely window he saw the light of her taper.

^{14.} Watchman. Before the days of police the streets used to be patrolled by watchmen, who called out the hours of the night, and cried at intervals, "All's well!"

Day after day, in the gray of the dawn, as slow through the suburbs

Plodded the German farmer, with flowers and fruits for the market,

Met he that meek, pale face, returning home from its watchings.

Then it came to pass that a pestilence fell on the city,
5 Presaged by wondrous signs, and mostly by flocks of
wild pigeons,

Darkening the sun in their flight, with naught in their craws but an acorn.

And, as the tides of the sea arise in the month of September,

Flooding some silver stream, till it spreads to a lake in a meadow,

So death flooded life, and o'erflowing its natural margin,

10 Spread to a brackish lake, the silver stream of existence.

Wealth had no power to bribe, nor beauty to charm, the oppressor;

But all perished alike beneath the scourge of his anger—

Only, alas! the poor, who had neither friends nor attendants,

Crept away to die in the almshouse, home of the homeless;

15 Then in the suburbs it stood, in the midst of meadows and woodlands—

Now the city surrounds it; but still with its gateway and wicket

Meek, in the midst of splendor, its humble walls seem to echo

Softly the words of the Lord—"The poor ye always have with you."

Thither, by night and by day, came the Sister of Mercy. The dying

Looked up into her face, and thought, indeed, to be- 5 hold there

Gleams of celestial light encircle her forehead with splendor,

Such as the artist paints o'er the brows of saints and apostles,

Or such as hangs by night o'er a city seen at a distance.

Unto their eyes it seemed the lamps of the city celestial.

Into whose shining gates ere long their spirits would to enter.

Thus, on a Sabbath morn, through the streets, deserted and silent,

Wending her quiet way, she entered the door of the almshouse.

Sweet on the summer air was the odor of flowers in the garden;

And she paused on her way to gather the fairest among them,

That the dying once more might rejoice in their fra- 15 grance and beauty.

Then, as she mounted the stairs to the corridors, cooled by the east wind,

^{15.} Then in the suburbs it stood. Longfellow was in Philadelphia in 1826, nearly twenty years before he wrote Evangeline. It was during this visit that, while wandering through the streets one morning, he came upon the pleasant enclosure of the Pennsylvania Hospital. The picture of this "almshouse"

remained in his memory when, many years afterwards, he made it the scene of the last meeting of Evangeline and Gabriel.

EVANGELINE.

- Distant and soft on her ear fell the chimes from the belfry of Christ Church,
- While, intermingled with these, across the meadows were wafted
- Sounds of psalms, that were sung by the Swedes in their church at Wicaco.
- Soft as descending wings fell the calm of the hour on her spirit;
- 5 Something within her said—"At length thy trials are ended;"
- And, with a light in her looks, she entered the chambers of sickness.
- Noiselessly moved about the assiduous, careful attendants,
- Moistening the feverish lip, and the aching brow, and in silence
- Closing the sightless eyes of the dead, and concealing their faces,
- 10 Where on their pallets they lay, like drifts of snow by the roadside.
 - Many a languid head, upraised as Evangeline entered, Turned on its pillow of pain to gaze while she passed,
 - for her presence
 - Fell on their hearts like a ray of the sun on the walls of a prison.
 - And, as she looked around, she saw how Death, the consoler,
- 15 Laying his hand upon many a heart, had healed it forever.
 - Many familiar forms had disappeared in the nighttime;

1. Christ Church. An Episcopalian church in Philadelphia, where Franklin was buried.

- Vacant their places were, or filled already by strangers.
- Suddenly, as if arrested by fear or a feeling of wonder.
- Still she stood, with her colorless lips apart, while a shudder
- Ran through her frame, and, forgotten, the flowerets dropped from her fingers,
- And from her eyes and cheeks the light and bloom of 5 the morning.
- Then there escaped from her lips a cry of such terrible anguish,
- That the dying heard it, and started up from their pillows.
- On the pallet before her was stretched the form of an old man.
- Long, and thin, and gray were the locks that shaded his temples;
- But, as he lay in the morning light, his face for a 10 moment
- Seemed to assume once more the forms of its earlier manhood;
- So are wont to be changed the faces of those who are dving.
- Hot and red on his lips still burned the flush of the fever,
- As if life, like the Hebrew, with blood had besprinkled its portals.
- That the Angel of Death might see the sign, and pass 15 over,
- Motionless, senseless, dying, he lay, and his spirit exhausted

^{3.} Swedes in their church at Wicaco. Wicaco is now a suburb of Philadelphia, on the shore.

^{14.} Like the Hebrew. Referring to the striking of the lintels of the doors with the blood of the lamb during the last plague of the Egyptians. (Exodus Xii. 7-31; Leviticus iv. 7.)

Seemed to be sinking down to infinite depths in the darkness,

Darkness of slumber and death, forever sinking and sinking.

Then through those realms of shade, in multiplied reverberations,

Heard he that cry of pain, and through the hush that succeeded .

5 Whispered a gentle voice, in accents tender and saintlike,

"Gabriel! O my beloved!" and died away into silence.

Then he beheld, in a dream, once more the home of his childhood;

Green Acadian meadows, with sylvan rivers among them,

Village, and mountain, and woodlands; and, walking under their shadow,

10 As in the days of her youth, Evangeline rose in his vision.

Tears came into his eyes; and as slowly he lifted his eyelids,

Vanished the vision away, but Evangeline knelt by his bedside.

Vainly he strove to whisper her name, for the accents unuttered

Died on his lips, and their motion revealed what his tongue would have spoken.

15 Vainly he strove to rise; and Evangeline, kneeling beside him,

Kissed his dying lips, and laid his head on her bosom Sweet was the light of his eyes; but it suddenly sank into darkness,

As when a lamp is blown out by a gust of wind at a casement.

All was ended now, the hope, and the fear, and the sorrow,

All the aching of heart, the restless, unsatisfied longing,

All the dull, deep pain, and constant anguish of patience!

And, as she pressed once more the lifeless head to her bosom.

Meekly she bowed her own, and murmured, "Father, 5.

I thank thee!"

STILL stands the forest primeval; but far away from its shadow,

Side by side, in their nameless graves, the lovers are sleeping.

Under the humble walls of the little Catholic churchyard,

In the heart of the city, they lie, unknown and unnoticed:

Daily the tides of life go ebbing and flowing beside 10 them,

Thousands of throbbing hearts, where theirs are at rest and forever.

Thousands of aching brains, where theirs no longer are busy,

Thousands of toiling hands, where theirs have ceased from their labors,

Thousands of weary feet, where theirs have completed their journey!

Still stands the forest primeval; but under the shade 15 of its branches

^{6-9,} p. 110. Still stands the forest primeval. Compare lines 1-9 at the beginning of the poem. The closing lines of the poem repeat the thought of the opening stanza, but are written in a minor key, suited to the sad tale of love which has just been concluded.

- Dwells another race, with other customs and language.
- Only along the shore of the mournful and misty Atlantic
- Linger a few Acadian peasants, whose fathers from
- Wandered back to their native land to die in its bosom;
- 5 In the fisherman's cot the wheel and the loom are still busy;
- Maidens still wear their Norman caps and their kirtles of homespun,
- And by the evening fire repeat Evangeline's story,
- While from its rocky caverns the deep-voiced, neighboring ocean
- Speaks, and in accents disconsolate answers the wail of the forest.

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