

## THE PLAINS—A PROPHECY.

Go ye and look upon that land,  
That far vast land that few behold,  
And none beholding understand—  
That old, old land which men call new—  
Go journey with the seasons through  
Its wastes, and learn how limitless.  
The solemn silence of that plain  
Is, oh! so eloquent. The blue  
And blended skies seem built for it,  
And all else seems a yesterday,  
An idle tale but illy told,  
Its story is of God alone,  
For man has lived and gone away  
And left but little heaps of stone.  
Lo! here you learn how more than fit  
And dignified is silence, when  
You hear the petty jeers of men.  
Its awful solitudes remain,  
Thenceforth for aye a part of you,  
And you have learned your littleness.

Some silent red men cross your track;  
Some sun-tanned trappers come and go;  
Some rolling seas of buffalo  
Break thunder-like and far away  
Against the foot-hills, breaking back  
Like breakers of some troubled bay;  
Some white-tailed antelope blown by  
So airy like; some foxes shy  
And shadow-like move to and fro  
Like weavers' shuttles as you pass;  
And now and then from out the grass  
You hear some lone bird cluck, and call  
A sharp keen call for her lost brood,  
That only makes the solitude  
Seem deeper still, and that is all.

That wide domain of mysteries  
And sighs that men misunderstand;  
A land of space and dreams, a land  
Of sea-salt lakes and dried up seas;  
A land of caves and caravans  
And lonely wells and pools; a land  
That hath its purposes and plans,  
That seems so like dead Palestine,  
Save that its wastes have no confine  
Till pushed against the leveled skies;  
A land from out whose depths shall rise  
The new-time prophets; the domain  
From out whose awful depths shall come,  
All clad in skins, with dusty feet,  
A man fresh from his Maker's hand,  
A singer singing oversweet,  
A charmer charming, very wise;  
And then all men shall not be dumb—  
Nay, not be dumb, for he shall say,  
"Take heed: for I prepare the way  
For weary feet;" and from this land  
The Christ shall come when next the race  
Of man shall look upon his face.

Rome, 1874. JOAQUIN MILLER.  
—Harper's Monthly.

## NATURALIZATION LAWS.

The existing laws of the United States upon the subject of naturalization are to be gathered from many statutes, some of them relating to other subjects; and the want of one general act, in which the whole law should be embodied and clearly expressed, has been very much felt. The qualifications requisite, and the mode of obtaining naturalization, are at present (1870) as follows—

The applicant must be a free white person, and must have resided in the United States for the continued term of five years next preceding his admission, and one year at least within the State or Territory where the court is held that admits him.

Two years at least before his admission he must declare on oath or affirmation, before a court of record having common law jurisdiction and a seal and clerk, or before a circuit or district court of the U. S., or before a clerk of either of the said courts, that it is *bona fide* his intention to become a citizen, and to renounce for ever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly by name the prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of which he is at the time a citizen or subject. This declaration is recorded by the clerk, and a certificate under the seal of the court and signed by the clerk that he has made such a declaration is given him, which is received thereafter as evidence of the fact.

If the applicant was a minor under the age of eighteen when he came to the country, his previous declaration of intention is dispensed with, and he is entitled to be admitted after he has arrived at the age of twenty-one years, if he has resided five years in the United States, including the three years of his minority, and has so continued to reside up to the time when he makes his application, upon complying with the law in other respects. There is some obscurity in respect to the latter provision in the law. Some have thought that the three years of minority from 18 to 21 is all that can be allowed as a part of the five years' residence demanded by

the act, and that one naturalized as a minor was not entitled to be admitted until he had arrived at the age of 23; but it has been decided in the New York common pleas (all the judges concurring) that he is entitled to be admitted at 21, if he had resided here since he was 15; that all that the statute requires is that he must in every case have resided here between the ages of 18 and 21, and if he has done that and also resided here two years before that period began, it is a residence of five years within the meaning of the act, and he is entitled to admission at 21.

When the applicant has completed the necessary residence, he must prove the fact before one of the courts previously named by other testimony than his own oath. One witness, if he knows the fact, is sufficient. If entitled to admission without a previous declaration of intention, he must declare upon oath and prove to the satisfaction of the court that, for the three years next preceding his application, it was *bona fide* his intention to become a citizen; and every applicant must prove (which may be done by his own oath, unless the court should require other testimony) that he has behaved during the period of his residence as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same.

The mode of admission is as follows—

The applicant goes to the clerk of the court and exhibits the certificate of his having declared his intention. The clerk then prepares a written deposition for the witness, setting forth his knowledge of the applicant's residence and of his good character, and another for the applicant, declaring that he renounces all allegiance to every foreign power, and particularly that of which he is a citizen or subject, and, if he has borne any title of nobility, that he renounces it, and that he will support the Constitution of the United States.

The parties are then taken before the judge, who examines each of them under oath; and if he is satisfied that the applicant has resided in the country for the requisite period, and is a man of good character, he makes an order in writing for his admission. The depositions are then subscribed by the parties and publicly sworn to in court in the presence of the judge; and the certificate of the declaration of intention, the depositions, and the order of the judge are filed, and constitute the record of the proceeding. A final certificate under the seal of the court, signed by the clerk, is then given to the applicant, declaring that he has complied with all the requisites of the law, and has been duly admitted a citizen, which certificate is conclusive evidence thereafter of the fact.

In the case of a minor the previous declaration is dispensed with, but in all other respects the course of procedure is the same.

The record of naturalization, if regular upon its face, is conclusive as to the naturalization of the alien, and cannot be contradicted by extrinsic evidence. It may be set aside, however, if fraudulently obtained, by the court where the alien was naturalized.

An alien who resided in the United States before June 18, 1812, and has continued so to reside, may be admitted without any previous declaration of intention; but in that case he must prove that he resided here before that period, and continued so to reside, and by the oath of two witnesses, who must be citizens, that he has resided within the limits and jurisdiction of the United States for five years immediately preceding the time of his application; and the place or places where he resided during these five years, and the names of his witnesses, must be set forth in the records of the court.

A child born out of the United States is a citizen, if the father was one at the time of the birth of the child, but the right will not descend to one whose father has never resided in the United States; and the minor children of persons naturalized, if the children are then dwelling in the United States, become citizens by the naturalization of the parent. It was formerly questioned whether this latter provision applied except to the children of parents naturalized before the passage of the act in 1802. Chancellor Kent, in his "Commentaries," inclined to the opin-

ion that the act was prospective, and was designed to embrace the children of persons who should thereafter be naturalized, and opinions to the same effect were expressed by many eminent jurists. But the point came up for decision in the court of chancery of the State of New York in 1840, in the case of children who were minors, living with their father in this country, when the father was naturalized in 1839; and whose right to succeed to his estate was denied upon the assumption that they were aliens. Chancellor Walworth decided that they were not aliens, but became citizens in 1839 by the naturalization of their father. After an elaborate examination of the legislation of Congress, he held that this provision in the act of 1802 was prospective, so as to embrace the children of aliens naturalized after the passage of the act, as well as the children of those who were naturalized before.

A decision to the same general effect was rendered by Judge Daly in the New York common pleas in 1847.

In 1850 the point was again raised in Arkansas in a case of much public interest. The Attorney-general of the State brought a writ of *quo warranto* to test the right of one Peck to exercise the office of sheriff to which he had been elected, upon the ground that he was not a citizen. Peck relied simply upon the fact that his father was naturalized in New York when he was eleven years of age, and that he was at that time living with his father. The Supreme Court, after a very careful examination of the question and of the authorities, decided unanimously that Peck was a citizen.

Another important question under this provision is whether both parents should be naturalized to confer the right upon children. The importance of this question is greatly lessened in all cases of naturalization after February 10, 1854, as Congress on that day passed an act declaring that any woman entitled to be naturalized, then married or who should thereafter be married to a citizen, should be deemed and taken to be one; but before that time the American courts had repeatedly held that a wife who was an alien did not become a citizen by the naturalization of her husband. In the case before Chancellor Walworth, and in the one in Arkansas, the naturalization of the father was all that was shown. The attention of the court, however, was not called to the point; but in several other cases where it has been raised incidentally, very eminent judges have declared that the naturalization of the father is all that is required, and Chancellor Kent in his "Commentaries" has expressed himself to the same effect.

These two questions are of great practical importance, as vast numbers of persons since the enactment of this provision have inherited, purchased, and transmitted real property upon the assumption that they were citizens by the naturalization of their fathers, whose rights and the rights which others have derived from them would be disturbed if a different construction were now given to this provision; and although these two questions have not been decided by the highest authority in this country, the Supreme Court of the United States, it may be assumed, from the decisions that have been rendered, from the concurring opinions of many eminent jurists, and from reasons of public policy, that they are now settled, and the construction above stated universally acquiesced in.

If an alien who has declared his intention die before he is naturalized, his widow and children may become citizens by simply taking the oath required of all naturalized citizens to support the Constitution of the United States, and to renounce all previous allegiance. In this case the period of residence of the widow and children is immaterial, nor is any distinction made between minor children and adults.

The residence required by the naturalization laws is a permanent abode in the country; and when that is established or begun, it will not be affected by a temporary absence upon business or pleasure, if the intention to keep up the residence here and return has always existed, and no residence has been established elsewhere. Formerly the words of the statute were: "Without being at any time during the said five years out of the Ter-

ritory of the United States;" but this very stringent and absurd provision was repealed in 1848.

A man's residence may be defined to be the place where he abides with his family, or abides himself, making it the chief seat of his affairs and interests.—*New American Cyclopedia*.

## LYING.

THE SOCIAL LIE AND ITS DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES.

Although the commandment against lying is found almost at the close of the decalogue, I incline to place it, in the education of children, at the head of the list, for lying seems to be with most children the first intentional offense. It is sometimes inherited, but oftener taught by imitation. Children hear their nursery maids tell downright falsehoods, to shield themselves from blame for various trifling faults or omissions of duty; and they are indeed fortunate in their parents if they do not also find them guilty of prevarication and intent to deceive. In a hundred different ways mothers deceive their little children, not thinking for a moment that they are teaching them a lesson in falsehood which may bear fruit to their latest hour, and educating the children to doubt the one in whom, of all persons, they should put implicit confidence.

Riding in the cars a few weeks since I heard a mother say to an uproarious child:

"Jamie, be still! If you don't stop screaming I'll throw you out of the car window, certain sure! Hush now or you'll see what I'll do!"

The child, a boy about two years old, looked his astonishment at the threat, but his cries were not much lessened. The mother took him up in her arms as though she would throw him out, when he screamed in frantic terror and clung to her neck with such appalling fear that she was forced to hush him with kisses, caresses and candy. After a while he fell asleep; worn out with his tumultuous passion. Poor little child!

A little girl of four or five, who had watched the whole scene silently but with the deepest interest, and who, when her mother motioned to throw her little brother from the window, had caught her arm in terror, now said:

"Mamma, would you have thrown Jamie out?"

"No, indeed child," replied the mother; "I only wished to frighten him."

"Frighten him," forsooth! She succeeded in it far better than she expected, and at the same time taught her little girl a lesson in falsehood, and also in contempt for her mother, for the expression of that child's mouth betokened the feelings of her heart. How I longed to cry out to her, in Othello's words:

"You told a lie; an odious, damned lie! Upon my soul a lie; a wicked lie!"

Of course she would have thought me an escaped lunatic, so I forbore, but I could not help my lips wreathing in scorn at the woman's perfidy, and I did wish to tell her that if she disciplined her children in that style she was surely sowing "the whirlwind to reap destruction."

Lying is a besetting vice of weak characters, and therefore the love of truth and the hatred of falsehood need to be most assiduously cultivated in children at the youngest period of consciousness of evil. Truth telling and truth loving are the fundamental basis of whatever is excellent and desirable in character, and if a man or a woman lacks this essential element, all their other virtues suffer and are of little value. If a person is truthful we can forgive many little faults, because this salt of character may possibly redeem other failings; besides, a person who loves truth will never rest satisfied until he has improved his moral strength and raised it nearer to the standard of rectitude. Tact, management and policy are all essential elements in social and domestic life, but they are not inconsistent with perfect truthfulness.

Daily we come in contact with persons who require to be properly managed to bring out the agreeable traits of their character and repress those which are annoying and disagreeable, but it does not necessitate falsehood to accomplish this. Many persons have a faculty of

telling you disagreeable truths in a pleasant manner; or administering antidotes to vice of which the recipients are barely conscious; of hinting at facts that will not bear a frank disclosure. And all candid persons must admit that they are not always justified in telling the whole truth. Indeed, were we to do so, we should doubtless be called insane. For there are very many things that should not be spoken, yet we are never guiltless, if we utter falsehoods, and it is our duty to strive by example, and precept not to lead tender feet astray from the paths of truth.

The child who imbibes with his first nutriment a reverence and love for it will become a man of honor. Holy writ assures us that it were better for us to have a millstone about our necks and be drowned in the sea, than to offend one of these little ones. And when a mother utters a deliberate falsehood to her children it seems to me that she has committed an unpardonable sin, and will surely suffer for it. The lack of truth brings dishonesty, and dishonesty is the crying sin of our nation. Oh, mothers, be warned in season and take council with your own wisdom, and make a compact with yourselves that from this time forth you will never deceive a child. The battle of Christianity is to be fought in the family, rather than in the church. See to it that you are not deserters from the ranks.—*Ex.*

## ANOTHER EXTINCT MONSTER.

A letter from Canandaigua, Michigan, to the New York Herald says:—"On Thursday, October 1, while scraping out the county ditch on his farm, in Seneca township, Lenawee county, Michigan, Mr. Oramen Tuttle came in contact with an obstruction which overturned his scraper. On examination it proved to be an immense horn, the remains of some extinct animal. Further digging has developed the other horn, part of the skull, collar bones and a number of ribs, also one tooth. The water running back into the excavated pit has put a temporary stop to the digging, but it will be resumed this morning and measures taken to preserve the bones. The animal had evidently died standing up. I have just visited the spot and examined the bones and the place from which they were taken. A large number of physicians and professors of the Hildsdele and Adrian Colleges pronounce them horns and not tusks. They have an outside shell and a distinct pith. The space occupied by the skeleton is over twenty feet long, and the tips of the horns were about twenty feet apart. The ends of each are decayed, but they now measure eight feet nine inches in length, and must have measured about ten feet when whole. Three feet from the large end they are twenty-two and a half inches in circumference and they weigh 175 pounds each. Some of the ribs were seven feet long. The tooth secured is a frontal tooth, three inches square, and weighs four and a half pounds. They have been viewed by several thousand people, many of whom have seen the tusks of the mastodon, which are quite common in this State, and all those agree that these bear no resemblance to them. The animal's horns must have measured twenty feet across. His height was probably about fifteen feet, and length, independent of horns, nearly twenty. The above statement is perfectly reliable. There is no canard about it; and, if you think proper, you are free to publish it. From your regular subscriber,

"E. HALLENBECK."

MIRACLES AT LOURDES.—Miracles are being reported at Lourdes (Hautes Pyrenees), which continues to be thronged with pilgrims. The *Gazette au Midi* states that last week a girl named Cavrigne was carried to the shrine in a dying state, but had no sooner touched the holy water than she rose up perfectly well. Another girl who had been dumb for seven years, commenced singing as soon as she reached the grotto. At Marseilles, moreover, the nuns have marched in procession to an altar in one of the churches which is dedicated to our Lady of Lourdes to express their gratitude for the miraculous cure of one of their number, who had suffered for twenty months from an apparently incurable malady.—*Galignani's Messenger*, Sept. 24.