

# PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

ENLARGED SERIES.—VOL. I.

TORONTO, OCTOBER 8, 1881.

No. 5.

## COMFORT ONE ANOTHER.

BY MRS. M. E. SANGSTER.

COMFORT one another ;  
For the way is growing dreary,  
The feet are often weary,  
And the heart is very sad.  
There is heavy burden-bearing,  
When it seems that none are caring,  
And we half forget that ever we were glad.

Comfort one another ;  
With the hand-clasp close and tender,  
With the sweetness love can render,  
And the looks of friendly eyes.  
Do not wait with grace unspoken,  
While life's daily bread is broken ;  
Gentle speech is oft like manna from the skies.

Comfort one another ;  
There are words of music ringing  
Down the ages, sweet as singing  
Of the happy choirs above.  
Ransomed saint and mighty angel,  
Lift the grand, deep-voiced evangel,  
Where forever they are praising the eternal love.

Comfort one another ;  
By the hope of Him who sought us  
In our peril—Him who bought us,  
Paying with His precious blood :  
By the faith that will not alter,  
Trusting strength that shall not falter,  
Leaning on the One divinely good.

Comfort one another :  
Let the grave-gloom lie behind you,  
While the Spirit's words remind you  
Of the home beyond the tomb,  
Where no more is pain or parting,  
Fever's flush, or tear-drop starting,  
But the presence of the Lord, and for all his people room.

—Independent.

## CANYONS OF THE COLORADO.

THE Engraving exhibits a view on one of the most remarkable rivers in the world—the great Colorado of the far west. This river flows for hundreds of miles between lofty walls of rock, which tower so high that often the sunlight never reaches the bottom, and the sky appears only as a narrow rift far over head. These gorges, or "canyons," as they are called, are sometimes six thousand feet, or over a mile, in depth, and have been worn in the course of ages by the action of the stream. One of the most remarkable voyages of discovery of which we ever read, was that of Major Powell—to whose courtesy we are indebted for the use of this cut—and his party. They sailed down the stream in a number of small boats, like

that shown in the foreground ; sometimes running rapids, and sometimes being wrecked, as they braved the untried perils of the stream. We may give some further illustrations of this wonderful river, and of the dangers they encountered.

Although confined in this bare spot in the sea, where but little was seen or heard save a distant sail and the dashing of the waters, he became a marked man among the few who chanced to meet him, and the circumstance of his concealment was in

His head was enveloped in a black velvet mask, confined by springs of steel, and so arranged that he could not attempt to reveal his features without immediate detection.

His guardian, De Saint Mars, had been instructed by a royal order from certain of the king's favourites, to take his life immediately, should he attempt to reveal his identity.

During his confinement on the Marguerite island, De Saint Mars ate and slept in the same room with him, and was always provided with weapons with which to despatch him, should he attempt to discover the secret of his history. If report be true, De Saint Mars might well exercise caution, for it is asserted that he was to forfeit his own life if by any want of watchfulness he allowed the prisoner to reveal his identity.

The prisoner himself seemed anxious to make the forbidden discovery. He once wrote a word on some linen, and succeeded in communicating what he wished to an individual not in the secret of the mystery. But the plan was discovered, and the person that received the linen died suddenly, being taken off, it was supposed, by poison. He once engraved something, probably his name, on a piece of silver-plate. The person to whom it was conveyed was detected in his knowledge of the secret, and soon after died, as suddenly and mysteriously as the one who had received the linen.

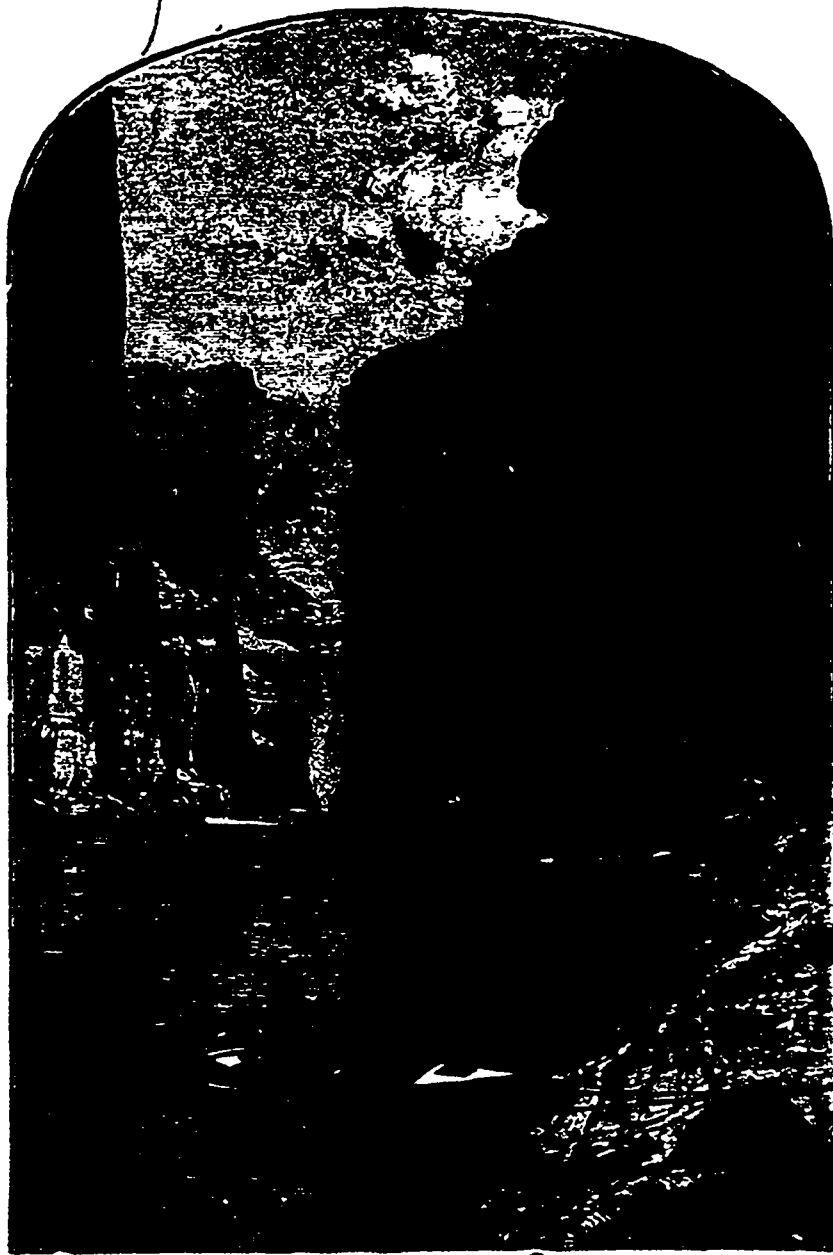
These incidents show that the prisoner was a man of shrewdness and learning.

He was attended during his imprisonment in the Bastille by the governor of the fortress, who alone administered to his wants ; and when he attended mass he was always followed by a detachment of Invalides (French soldiers,) who were instructed to fire upon him in case he should speak or attempt to uncover his face.

These circumstances, and many others of like character, show that he was a person of very eminent rank, and that those who thus shut him out from mankind were conscious that they were committing a crime of no ordinary magnitude.

Who, then, was this person of mystery, familiarly known as the Man of the Iron Mask ?

He is supposed by many to have been a son of Anne of Austria and the Duke of Buckingham, and so a half-brother of Louis XIV., and a co-heir to the throne of France. If so, it would appear that, while Louis XIV. was luxuriating amid the splendors of



CANYONS OF THE COLORADO.

## THE MAN OF THE IRON MASK.

DURING the reign of Louis XIV. of France, there appeared on one of the Marguerite Islands, in the Mediterranean, a prisoner of state closely guarded, and intrusted to the especial care of a French government officer, De Saint Mars.

danger of being noised abroad. He was consequently removed to Paris, and immured in the cells of the Bastille. From the time that he began to attract attention on the island in the Mediterranean to the close of his protracted life, no one but his appointed attendants is known to have seen his face.