

admiration for the aged aristocrat, as he stroked his long gray beard, and showed in his face evident signs of family pride and self-complacency over the remarkable success which had crowned their efforts. The 'fire wells,' which are only few compared with the brine wells, are about of the same depth. The gas which they emit is utilized for lighting purposes in the salt factories, and for heat under the evaporating pans."

THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA.

On page 301 we give an illustration of the Great Wall, built upon the northern boundaries of the empire two hundred years before the Christian era. It was designed as a defence against the warlike Tartars, but is now quite useless. It is the most gigantic work of defence ever erected by man. It runs from a point on the coast of Liau-tung in a westerly direction to the Yellow River, thence in a northern and again in a north-western direction to its termination making, with its windings, a length of 1,250 or 1,500 miles. In some places it is a simple rampart; in others a solid foundation of granite; while the eastern section has a height of from fifteen to thirty feet, and a breadth such that six horsemen may ride abreast upon it. There are brick towers upon it at different intervals, about forty feet high. The wall passes through the valleys and over lofty mountain ranges. What energy and patience the Chinese must have had to build this enormous structure, which has lasted now