

"*River of their hope.*"—The long-wished-for open water.

"*Snow-blind.*"—The glare of the snow in Arctic regions frequently causes what is known as snow-blindness.

"*Iron-strand.*"—Hard as iron, frozen, cold.

"*His heart,*" etc.—Franklin died on board his ship, and thus was spared the pain of seeing his sailors suffer, while they knew that he had breathed his last in comfort, and so were glad that he had not to endure their misery.

Punch.—A famous comic paper, published in London. This poem appeared in 1839, shortly after the news of Franklin's fate was received.

THE SHIP-BUILDERS.

John G. Whittier.—An American poet, born in 1807. He took a prominent part in the struggle for the Abolition of Slavery, both by writing and speaking. He has written several ballads; also, the *Legends of New England*, *Maud Muller*, *Justice and Expediency*.

"*Fading with the stars.*"—Morning is just dawning as appears from the first four lines.

"*For us the smith,*" etc.—The smith must provide the iron parts of the ship to be used by the builders. Note also in the next stanza how the wood is procured.

"*Island barges.*"—Large rafts of timber like floating islands carried down by the stream.

"*Century-circled oak.*"—The oak is said to require a hundred years at least to reach its full height. Each year adds a fresh ring to the wood.

"*Tree-nails.*"—The long wooden pins used in fastening the planks to the sides of a vessel.

"*Keel.*"—The lowest part of a ship.

"*Vulture-beak.*"—The sharp northern ice compared to a vulture's beak. The great danger to ships in the Polar seas is from the masses of ice from which, if once surrounded, escape is well-nigh impossible.

"*Coral peak.*"—Many of the islands of the Pacific are formed by coral insects. These

insects work slowly but surely, till just as the heap of coral reaches the surface of the water they can work no longer. After a while land is formed on the coral foundation, but this takes time, and meanwhile this coral, so near the surface of the sea and yet concealed from sight, is very dangerous to vessels. Notice the contrast in these lines between "Northern ice" and "coral peak," as if the poet would say: "Our ship may travel the wide world over."

"*Citadel.*"—Fortress. The sailor's defence from the waves.

"*Snowy wing*"—White sail.

"*Frozen Hebrides.*"—Note the exaggeration, also the contrast, again brought out by the mention of "sultry Hindostan."

"*Silken chain of commerce.*"—Commerce unites nations in a pleasant, friendly way.

"*Groaning cargo,*" etc.—Cargo of slaves. The slaves were packed closely together on what was called a "slave-deck" in the hold.

"*Lethæan drug for Eastern lands.*"—Opium for China. Lethe was, according to the Greeks, a river in Hades, the taste of whose waters produced entire forgetfulness. Opium stupefies; hence it is called a "Lethæan drug." The Chinese eat this drug in great quantities, and great profit came to Hindostan through the trade. When the Chinese Government wished to put a stop to it England declared war and compelled them to permit the trade.

"*Poison-draught.*"—Intoxicating liquors.

"*Golden grain.*"—Why is the grain called "golden"?

"*Desert's golden sand.*"—Gold dust, found generally in desert places.

"*Clustered fruits.*"—Probably grapes.

"*Morning land.*"—Eastern land; where the sun appears to rise. Spices are procured in great quantities from the East Indies.

NUMBER AND ARITHMETIC.—I.

YOU have found out by the most careful examinations just what each child knows of number; that is, just what limitations by ones your pupils can easily and readily make, and what they know of the relations