

We should dread the desert behind us
Worse than the dark before.

What the leaves are to the forest,
With light and air for food,
Ere their sweet and tender juices
Have been hardened into wood—

That to the world are children ;
Through them it feels the glow
Of a brighter and sunnier climate
Than reaches the trunks below.

Come to me, O ye children !
And whisper in my ear
What the birds and the winds are singing
In your sunny atmosphere.

For what are all our contrivings,
And the wisdom of our books,
When compared with your caresses,
And the gladness of your looks ?

Ye are better than all the ballads
That ever were sung or said ;
For ye are the living poems,
And all the rest are dead.

—H. W. Longfellow.

2. QUEEN VICTORIA'S APPEARANCE.

Of late years, especially since the sad loss of her husband, Queen Victoria has undergone a great change, both in mind and body. She never was possessed of great beauty, and the charm of her presence always rose more from the natural expression of an amiable disposition, than from any regularity of feature or grace of manner. She never was endowed with the irresistible fascinations of the Queen of Scots, nor with the imperious airs of Elizabeth, which extorted a reverence that could not be refused. Her eyes are blue and bright, her hair dark, and her complexion is now somewhat sallow. It is marked by deep lines of affliction, and yet those do not make her expression less attractive. It has been well observed that sickness and sorrow refine most countenances, and hers is another illustration of the truth of this saying. In the approaches of age she has gained that which may be called the beauty of goodness. It is undoubtedly true that old age, provided that it be found in the way of righteousness, gives to the features not their own.

If the motions of the mind be good, the lines of the face will become more and more beautiful as time wears on, and the sensuous charms of colour, delicacy and the regularity of feature fade. This is certainly apparent in the face of Queen Victoria at present. In stature she is rather inferior to the average height, and looks far more majestic when seated than standing ; and yet, wherever and whenever she is seen, she always bears the obvious mark of a noble lady. No one could meet her under any circumstances without perceiving at once that she is high-bred, and accustomed to command. She cares little for dress ; and at Balmoral, Osborne, or any of her palaces where she is in the bosom of her family, she wears plain, unpretending garments, such as some at least of our fair countrywomen would not allow themselves to be seen in at any time. She dislikes pomp and display, and does not often appear in public ; never, except when some great State occasion seems to demand it. Among all the Americans who have visited Europe, very few have seen Queen Victoria, while nearly every traveller has looked upon Louis Napoleon and Eugenie, who are frequently seen driving about Paris with the greatest freedom. In consequence of this reserve, the spectacle is much more imposing and attractive when she does appear.

She is an extremely good horsewoman, and manages her steed with great address and fearlessness. At the encampment at Cobham, a few years ago, she appeared on horseback, and was, of course, the admired of all beholders, as she rode on the field on her dark bay Templer. She wore a long dark green robe, of some thick, rich material, a closely fitting jacket, with but few ornaments, and a low dark hat, with a long black ostrich feather. In her hand she carried an elegant riding whip, with a handle of gold, and a carbuncle set in the top of it. She rode along the lines with grace, and really, for the time, one recalled to mind, irresistibly, the energetic presence of Elizabeth, as she passed before her soldiers at the time of the threatened invasion of the Grand Armada, and with burning words urged them to do and dare every honorable deed in behalf of Old England and its Virgin Queen.

Victoria always appears well at a review, and has that magnetic glance of the eye which leads every soldier to believe that his sover-

ign looks directly at him on such an occasion. This quality is not unfrequently possessed by great generals, though few women ever have sufficient nerve to show it.

Queen Victoria's costume in public is a black silk dress, trimmed with crape and jet, and Mary Queen of Scots cap with long veil, necklace, and cross of diamonds.—*The Weekly Prototype.*

3. GENERAL LEE AS A COLLEGE PRESIDENT.

General Lee has accepted the position, offered to him a few weeks since, of President of Washington College, next to the oldest, and one of the most respectable institutions of learning in Virginia. His acceptance is fortunate for the College, and the position is well suited to the present circumstances of General Lee. Its advantages to him are dignity, seclusion, occupation, usefulness, adaptation to his cast of character, and to the exclusion from other public employments consequent on the unfortunate side he took in the late war. Gen. Lee is the most admired and popular man in the Southern States. The solid esteem felt for his personal character will attract to Washington College, located at Lexington, a large portion of the cleverest and most promising young men of the South. It augurs well for the future tranquility of the country, that the controlling minds of that section in the next generation are to be moulded by such a man as General Lee.

The qualities which won for him such extraordinary esteem as the commander of an army, will secure him great success as the head of an institution of learning. He has a rare faculty of governing without a visible obtrusion of authority. He surrounds himself with a moral atmosphere which calls forth instinctive respect and love, and inspires a devoted enthusiasm. He will therefore easily bend young minds to his wishes without disagreeably thwarting theirs. This is an admirable cast of character for such a position as General Lee is to occupy, where young men with a budding consciousness of talents, full of hope and generous impulses, will submit themselves to his guidance with implicit confidence. His experience as superintendent of the Military Academy at West Point, long ago trained him for the practical details of his new office.

General Lee's interpretation of the duties which, in his new situation, he owes to his country, is well expressed in the following sentences from his letter of acceptance : "It is the duty of every citizen in the present condition of the country to do all in his power to aid in the restoration of peace and harmony, and in no way to oppose the policy of the state or general government directed to that object." And again : "It is particularly incumbent on those charged with the instruction of the young men to set an example of submission to authority." The Board of Trustees of the institution have called a meeting, and in a series of resolutions "heartily concur in and fully endorse the sentiments so well expressed by General Lee ; sentiments that cannot fail to commend themselves to the approval of the President of the United States, and to the unqualified assent of all sensible and virtuous citizens."—*Spectator.*

4. AUTHORS IN THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

The British Parliament, this year, contains an unusually large number of literary men. Amongst them are the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whose last work is one on Homer ; J. Stuart Mill, the political economist ; D'Israeli and Bulwer, whose novels may now be counted by the score ; A. W. Kinglake, the historian of the Crimean War ; Layard, the explorer of Nineveh ; Thomas Hughes, better known as "Tom Brown ;" Mr. Oliphant, author of several works of Eastern travel ; Mr. Faucett, a blind man, and an able political economist ; Sir George Bowyer, the Civil Law commentator ; Mr. Forsyth, author of a "Life of Cicero ;" besides Sir Roundell Palmer, Edward Baines, W. E. Baxter, Charles Buxton, J. F. Maguire, and a number of minor celebrities.

5. AN OCTOGENARIAN VOLUNTARY SCHOOL-MASTER.

Mr. James Beattie, Auchterless, who has daily taught, without fee or reward, a school at Gordonston for sixty years, completed his 82nd year on Friday last, and on that evening he invited his pupils, boys and girls, to the schoolroom, where, after being first examined in the presence of a number of spectators, the whole were treated first to tea, and afterwards to fruit and a little wine, given by the hand of their aged instructor. The meeting was a very pleasant and interesting one ; and we venture to think that nowhere in the kingdom will there be found a school the teacher of which has, for sixty years, taught without fees. Mr. Beattie's work is a labour of love, and his pupils make great progress.—*Banffshire Journal.*