

a necessity in this semi-tropical climate.

Occasionally a brilliant blue green color flashes like a jewel as the road turns towards either side, and we get a glimpse of the ocean. It is stated that, with the exception of the waters of the Mediterranean Sea, none can compare with those around Bermuda for color and transparency. One may see below the surface of the water twenty-feet on a calm day. The rocks with their growth of coral are plainly

visible, and seem to those in the boats to be quite near the surface.

"Along the margin many a shining dome  
White as the palace of a Lapland gnome  
Brightened the wave."

I will conclude with an echo of  
Cary's wish :

"Here could I wish, so fate allowed,  
No longer toiling through the crowd,  
Mine age this calm content to taste,  
With ocean breath mine own to waste."

Adieu.

PLACIDIA.

#### LETTER IV.

HAMILTON, December 18—.

Last week we made an excursion to the Lighthouse—one of the "Lions" of Bermuda. This commanding structure, which possesses one of the most powerful lights to be seen in any part of the world, is situated on the summit of Gibb's Hill, the highest point of land in the western portion of the Bermudas. The light itself stands 362 feet above the sea level. It appears every 54 seconds; and the lens being dioptric and exceedingly powerful, with bright polished mirrors, the flash is a very brilliant one, and can be easily seen 30 miles off.

The tower, which is of cast iron, was constructed in London, and sent out in plates, the last of which was put into place October 9, 1845. The light was first shown May 1, 1846. At the lower portion of the tower stability is given by concrete filled in 22 feet high, where the first floor is. Above this there are seven rooms, 12 feet high, supported by a central revolving column, which is hollow. It serves for the revolving machinery of the light. From centre of light to top of vane is 17 feet. The tower is 134 feet in height, being 24 feet in diameter at

the base and 14 at the top. The cost, exclusive of the light, machinery, etc., was £5,500, about \$27,500, paid by the Imperial Government, on the understanding that the colony would furnish funds for lighting, repairing, etc., which amount to about £500 per annum, inclusive of keepers' salaries.

We went up the steep steps and were admitted to the gallery by the keeper. The finest view of the Bermudas can be obtained from this gallery. It is a bird's eye view of the group; nothing is left out. We looked down from this great elevation at the cluster of islets below, set, as it were, in a plane of azure tinted with emerald. Far away N. E. we see the foaming breakers on sunken rocks, and the North Rock shows its dark pinnacles above the seething waters. Turning to the west the long line of breakers attract the eye, showing how futile must be the efforts of any craft to enter within this fearful boundary without the aid of the dexterous pilot, whose practised eye alone can discern the narrowed channel through the boiling surf. How many noble ships, before this light was shown, struck these outer shoals and sank beneath