

A toll of a dollar and a half per ton on the tonnage furnished by the United States and Peru alone for their exports and imports will probably meet all charges and repairs, and also six per cent. interest on the cost of eighty millions.

The canal proposed has one decided advantage over the canal at the Isthmus. Compared with this, it will shorten nearly

700 miles our route to California, and will thus cheapen transportation. The value of such a canal can not well be overrated. Two centuries since, Patterson, who founded the Bank of England and the colony of Darien, writes thus as to a canal to unite the two oceans: "It will be the gate of the universe, and enable its proprietors to give laws to both oceans."

THE SIFTING OF PETER.

A FOLK-SONG.

"Behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat."—St. Luke, xxii. 31.

In St. Luke's Gospel we are told
How Peter in the days of old
Was sifted;
And now, though ages intervene,
Sin is the same, while time and scene
Are shifted.

Satan desires us, great and small,
As wheat, to sift us, and we all
Are tempted;
Not one, however rich or great,
Is by his station or estate
Exempted.

No house so safely guarded is
But he, by some device of his,
Can enter;
No heart hath armor so complete
But he can pierce with arrows fleet
Its centre.

For all at last the cock will crow
Who hear the warning voice, but go
Unheeding,
Till thrice and more they have denied
The Man of Sorrows, crucified
And bleeding.

One look of that pale suffering face
Will make us feel the deep disgrace
Of weakness;
We shall be sifted till the strength
Of self-conceit be changed at length
To meekness.

Wounds of the soul, though healed, will ache;
The reddening scars remain, and make
Confession;
Lost innocence returns no more;
We are not what we were before
Transgression.

But noble souls, through dust and heat,
Rise from disaster and defeat
The stronger,
And conscious still of the divine
Within them, lie on earth supine
No longer.