

1299. "Among the country people large quantities of wild pigeons in the spring are regarded as certain indications of an unhealthy summer. Whether or no this prognostication has ever been verified before, I cannot tell. But it is very certain that during the last spring the number of those birds brought to our markets were immense. Never, perhaps, were there so many before." (A Short Account of the Malignant Fever lately prevalent in Philadelphia, by Matthew Cary.) The "last spring" was the spring of 1793, in which year the book was published.

1301-4. The simile is particularly applicable as recalling the wide waters of the Acadian land. The "tides of the sea" rise higher than usual in the months of April and September.

1308-10. Longfellow wrote: "I was passing down Spruce Street [Philadelphia] when my attention was called to a large building with beautiful trees about it, inside of a high enclosure. . . . The charming pictures of lawn, flower-beds, and shade-trees which it presented, made an impression which has never left me; and when I came to write *Evangeline*, I placed the final scene, the meeting between *Evangeline* and *Gabriel* and the death, at the poorhouse; and the burial in an old Catholic graveyard not far away, which I found by chance in another of my walks."

"The present almshouse on Spruce Street," says the author of *The Annals of Philadelphia*, "began in 1760, was first occupied in the year 1767. . . . It was then quite a place in the country and near the woods."

1312. See *S. Matthew* xxvi. 11.

1326. CHRIST CHURCH, Philadelphia, belongs to the Episcopalians. Its famous belfry was finished in 1754, and the chime of bells was purchased in England for \$4,500.

1328. This is the oldest church in Philadelphia. It was opened in 1700. Wicaco is within the city, on the banks of the Delaware.

1355. See *Exodus* xii.

1364. It is worth while to observe here the easy and beautiful transition from one picture to another.

1375. A striking simile of Death.

1383. Cf. note to l. 1308.

1386-9. Notice how the effect of this passage is aided by the repetition.

1391. The marshes of the Piziquid (Avon) were resettled in 1759 — those of the St. Croix two years later. The diked lands of Grand Pré were taken up in 1760, and the lands of Annapolis about nine years after the French had left them.

1393. As, for instance, at Chezzetcook, the Tusket Islands, and the Clare District.

1398-9. These noble lines form a solemn close to the poem. They cast our thoughts back to the first (ll. 5, 6), binding the whole together, and we leave the story with the unchanging music of the ocean in our ears. Its voice, speaking of eternity, is the best comment upon the sorrows which have gone before.