

and, thirsting for new fields of adventure, he writes to President Monroe for an appointment as draughtsman and naturalist to the expedition. The project lightens his heart instantly, and in imagination he sees the new and rare birds which await him in those unexplored regions. He seeks a recommendation from Vanderlyn, the historical painter, then living in New Orleans, and, with the perspiration streaming down his face, the obscure naturalist opens his portfolio, and lays his drawings out before the critical eye of the famous artist. Vanderlyn is impressed, and gives him a complimentary note, evidently feeling that he is not the mendicant he at first sight took him to be. But, unluckily, Audubon does not go to the Pacific, and, a few years later, desperately bent on improving his financial condition, he turns dancing-master at Bayou Sara, where his wife holds a position as governess. His music and instructions are appreciated, and his pecuniary prospects brighten. On one occasion he is requested by his delighted pupils and their festive parents to dance to his own music, which he does till the whole room comes down in thunders of applause.

He is forty-six years old before his own earnings, added to those of his brave and hopeful wife, furnish him with the little capital with which he hopes to take the first step toward publishing his drawings. Meeting only with discouragement in his own country, he sets sail for England, where he arrives in July 1826.

The story of his labours and trials, and his final complete success abroad, as told by himself in this volume, is specially interesting, but we have no room to detail it here. His drawings are published by subscription, and in a style that eclipses anything of the kind before known. When completed, he undertakes in Edinburgh his *American Ornithological Biography*, the first volume of which is brought out in 1831, and which is also a great success. Before the final completion of his works, he makes several return visits to this country, and extends his rambles North, South, and West in quest of new material. In 1846 the first volume of his *Quadrupeds of North America* is published, but he is not able to complete the work. His mind and strength fail him, and in January, 1851, he passes peacefully away. The second volume of the *Quadrupeds* is mostly prepared by his sons, Victor and John, and has been published since their father's death.

We have no confirmation in this volume of the story