

gradual decay which this potent destroyer so impiously provokes. To most historical travellers this is the "mecca" of their devotions, and to render their oblations upon the altar of liberty more sincere, they remove, piece-meal, the structure upon which their reverence hinges. The curse of Vandalism is the great bane of the human race, and with us, unless Congress acts decidedly in the matter, all our venerable war-posts must become, in a few years, known only in "song and story." Lossing deserves the thanks of the American people for his timely rescue of many of the scenes and relics of the past; and in his splendid work, "The Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution," he has stored in excellent verse a whole magazine of historical researches and amusing anecdotes, for which I am deeply indebted in the compilation of this little work.

