

## THE MOTHER.

The incident related in the following lines occurred in 1821, on one of the Green Mountains in Vermont. The mother was a Mrs. Blake, whose child was preserved alive in the manner described.

The cold wind swept the mountain height,  
And pathless was the dreary wild—  
And 'mid the cheerless hours of night  
A mother wandered with her child.  
As through the drifting snow she pressed,  
The babe was sleeping on her breast.

And colder still the winds did blow,  
And darker hours of night came on,  
And deeper grew the drifting snow,—  
Her limbs were chilled, her strength was gone :  
"Oh, God!" she cried, in accents wild,  
"If I must perish, save my child."

She stripped her mantle from her breast,  
And bared her bosom to the storm,  
And round her child she wrapt the vest,  
And smiled to think her babe was warm.  
With one cold kiss a tear she shed,  
And sunk upon a snowy bed.

At dawn a traveller came by,  
And saw her 'neath a snowy veil—  
The frost of death was in her eye,  
Her cheek was cold, and hard, and pale :  
He moved the robe that wrapped the child—  
The babe looked up, and sweetly smiled !

—American Paper.

## BEAUTIFUL ILLUSTRATION.

Suppose, to illustrate the glorious truth of man's redemption, an enclosure, in some part of our world, many miles in circumference, filled with the diseased, the dying, and the dead. Love, like an angel of mercy, comes down from the upper sanctuary, and looks upon the gigantic enclosure, weeping at the painful spectacle of the dying in all their stages of disease, and the dead sleeping beneath the shadow of despair. Approaching one of the gates, Love finds a sentinel stationed to guard it, and asks his name; he answers, 'I am Truth.' Love asks, 'Is it possible I may enter here to heal the dying, and bid the dead arise?' Truth replies, 'I have written, the soul that sinneth it shall die, and I cannot cancel it.' Love hastens to another gate, and finds another sentinel, and asks his name; and his answer is, 'I am Holiness.' Love says, 'Cannot the dying be restored, and the dead be made to live?' Holiness replies, 'I can permit none that are impure, to escape from their congenial residence, and hold communion with the holy.' Love goes to a third gate, and finds there a sentinel whose name is Justice; Love asks the question, 'Can the dying be healed, can the dead be quickened? May I enter to redeem the one, and to restore the other?' Justice replies, 'I have weighed them in the scales, and it is written upon them all, 'Altogether wanting.' Love asks, 'Then what is to be done? I would recover the dying, I would quicken the dead. How is it possible to accomplish it?' Justice and Truth and Holiness reply, 'If an atonement can be made adequate to our demands, we will surrender the keys entrusted to our care; and not only may the dying be recovered and the dead live, but we will assist to accomplish it.' Love returns to that residence from whence it came, and announces the solemn and faithful fact, that either all living creatures in our lost world must sink into hell forever, or some glorious atonement must be made, so efficacious, that all the attributes of God shall be glorified, and Love enabled to reach and reclaim the perishing guilty. The question is asked, amid the millions of heaven, 'Who will go for us?' Who is prepared to bear the curse and exhaust it, to magnify the law, and make it honorable? All heaven is dumb; angels are dumb, archangels are dumb, the seraphim that burn and glow around the everlasting throne, are dumb. At last, 'a still small voice' proceeds from the throne, as of a Lamb that had been slain, saying, 'Here am I; send me; Lo I come!'—*J. Cumming.*

## THE MEGATHERIUM.

A creature belonging to the later Pliocene ages, if not indeed to the era of the Diluvial formation, has been discovered in America, both north and south. This is the *Megatherium*, an animal more widely removed in character from any existing creature, than any of the other fossil remains that have yet been observed. The megatherium was discovered towards the end of the last century. A skeleton almost entire, was found nearly at one hundred feet of depth, in excavations made on the banks of the river Luxan, several leagues to the south-west of Buenos Ayres. The megatherium was a tardigrade (slow-moving) animal, like the sloth, and was at least the size of a common ox. Its limbs were terminated by five thick toes, attached to a series of huge flat metatarsal bones, or those bones with which the toes are continuous, as in the human foot. "Some of the toes (says Buckland, in his notice of this creature) are terminated by large and powerful claws of great length; the bones supporting these claws are composed partly of an axis, or pointed core, which filled the internal cavity of the horny claw; and partly of a bony sheath, that formed a strong case to receive and support its base." These claws, from their position, were admirably calculated for the purpose of digging. The legs of this creature were of enormous thickness, its *thigh-bone being nearly three times the thickness of the same bone in the elephant.* The other bones of the megatherium were almost proportionably heavy. A still more remarkable feature, however, in the animal's structure was the coat of armour, of solid bone, varying from three-fourths of an inch to an inch and a half in thickness, which covered its hide, in the same manner as the armadillo's is encased by the same substance.

The habits and peculiarities of this stupendous sloth—for so the megatherium may be termed—are well described and explained in Dr. Buckland's Bridgewater Treatise. After stating that with the head and shoulders of a sloth, it combined, in its legs and feet, an admixture of the characters of the ant-eater and the armadillo, and resembled them still more in being encased in a coat of armour, he continues, "Its haunches were more than five feet wide, and its body twelve feet long and eight feet high; its feet were a *yard in length*, and terminated by most gigantic claws; its tail was probably clad in armour, and much larger than the tail of any other beast among living or extinct terrestrial mammalia. Thus heavily constructed, and ponderously accoutred, it could neither run, nor leap, nor climb, nor burrow under the ground, and in all its movements must have been necessarily slow; but what need of rapid locomotion to an animal whose occupation of digging roots for food was almost stationary?—and what need of speed for flight from foes to a creature whose giant carcass was encased in an impenetrable cuirass, and who by a single pat of his paw, or lash of his tail, could in an instant have demolished the cougar or the crocodile? Secure within the panoply of his bony armour, where was the enemy that would dare encounter this behemoth of the Pampas (the South American region where it existed,) or in what more powerful creature can we find the cause that has effected the extirpation of his race?"

His entire frame was an apparatus of colossal mechanism, adapted exactly to the work it had to do; strong and ponderous, in proportion as this work was heavy, and calculated to be the vehicle of life and enjoyment to a race of quadrupeds, which though they have ceased to be counted among the living inhabitants of our planet, have, in their fossil bones, left behind them imperishable monuments of the consummate skill with which they were constructed.—*Protestant Telegraph.*

PREPARATION FOR DEATH.—When you lie down at night compose your spirits, as if you were not to awake till the heavens be no more. And when you awake in the morning, consider that new day as your last, and live accordingly. Surely that night cometh of which you will never see the morning, or that morning of which you will never see the night, but which of your mornings or nights will be such, you know not. Let the mantle of worldly enjoyments hang loose about you, that it may be easily dopt, when death comes to carry you into another world. When the corn is forsaking the ground, it is ready for the sickle; when the fruit is ripe it falls off the tree easily. So when a Christian's heart is truly weaned from the world he is prepared for death, and it will be more easy for him. A heart disengaged from the world is a heavenly one, and then we are ready for a heaven, when our heart is there before us.—*Barton.*