

Cheered by the good man's words she resumed her journey, over boundless praires and through endless forests to encounter at each step disappointment and sorrow.

"But Evangeline's heart was sustained by a vision, that faintly
Floated before her eyes, and beckoned her on through the moonlight."

Hope again is fired when she meets the long-absent Basil, but it is hope that ends in renewed disappointment for,

"Old memories rose, and an irrepressible sadness
Came o'er her heart ;"

Her love for Gabriel fills her with the utmost longing for union with him as we plainly perceive in the third cant.

"O Gabriel, my beloved,
Art thou so near unto me and yet I cannot behold thee ?
Art thou so near unto me, and yet thy voice does not reach me ?
Oh ! how often thy feet have trod this path to the prairie !
Ah ! how often thine eyes have looked on the woodlands around me !
Ah ! How often beneath this oak, returning from labor
Thou hast lain down to rest, and to dream of me in thy slumbers.
When shall these eyes behold, these arms be folded about thee?"

This love is strong, this longing for union is so powerful, that it urges her to pursue her lover into the very wilds of the then unexplored far West, of which Longfellow gives such a vivid and beautiful description—one that puts before us strikingly the difficulties, the dangers that Evangeline has to face there. But love ever overcomes all obstacles. And so Evangeline sets forth with Hope as her guiding star : Hope which presents ever the possibility of obtaining the good sought for. And so she went hopefully forward day after day, because, she in common with her guide, "thought each day to o'ertake him."

Their hopes were built upon the fact that :

"Sometimes they saw or thought they saw the smoke of his camp fire
Rise in the morning air from the distant plain,"

And though

"at nightfall

When they had reached the place they found only embers and ashes,"
yet even this was a sign that Gabriel was at least not far away, and so Hope still guided them on. When hope in this direction was finally extinguished, Evangeline