

the giant vessel which will carry two thousand troops or emigrants. Above the bridges only the little penny steamers ply, whose smoke pipes seem to snap right off every time they pass under the arches of the many bridges. One of the most common features is the group of dull-looking coal-barges, rendered necessary by the enormous consumption of the soot-producing chimneys of the world-metropolis.

The cut on page 124 shows Waterloo Bridge, one of the finest in the world. It was completed over seventy years ago and cost \$5,000,000. It is one thousand two hundred and sixty yards long, and rests on nine arches, each of one hundred and twenty-feet span, and thirty-five feet high. Many of the relics of Old London are being removed to make way for what some antiquarian has called "the deadly march of improvement." One of these was old Temple Bar; it marked the entrance to the "city" proper, and even the sovereign had to stop and obtain from the Lord Mayor leave to pass through. It was built by Sir Christopher Wren in 1670. The heads of many State criminals have been barbarously exhibited on iron spikes on the top of the gate.

SNOW-FLAKES.

BY HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW.

Out of the bosom of the air,
 Out of the cloud-folds of her garments shaken,
 Over the woodlands brown and bare,
 Over the harvest-fields forsaken,
 Silent and soft and slow,
 Descends the snow.

Even as our cloudy fancies take
 Suddenly shape in some divine expression,
 Even as the troubled heart doth make
 In the white countenance confession,
 The troubled sky reveals
 The grief it feels.

This is the poem of the air,
 Slowly in silent syllables recorded;
 This is the secret of despair,
 Long in its cloudy bosom hoarded,
 Now whispered and revealed
 To wood and field.

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