

and every man's hand against him." The Indians, as they were then, are well characterized in ll. 1095-1100. Longfellow was deeply interested in the aborigines of his native land, their history and traditions. This interest took tangible shape in 1855, when *The Song of Hiawatha* appeared.

1104-5. A fitting close to this fine passage.

1114. **FATA MORGANA**:—The name given to a mirage on the coasts of Italy and Sicily. The Italians call it "Fairy Morgan," because it was formerly supposed to be the magic of Morgan le Fay. In the southwest of the United States "the mirage is very common of lakes which stretch before the tired traveller, and the deception is so great that parties have sometimes beckoned to other travellers, who seemed to be wading knee-deep, to come over to them where dry land was." Read Longfellow's beautiful poem, *Fata Morgana*.

1119-20. The Shawnees were a powerful tribe who lived in what is now Indian Territory. The Comanches dwelt south of the Shawnees, partly in Indian Territory and partly in Texas. Remnants of these tribes still survive.

1121. The **CORREURS-DES-BOIS** frequently married Indian women.

1167. **THE BLACK ROBE CHIEF OF THE MISSION**:—The Jesuit priest. Parkman mentions the "close black cap, the close black robe, of the Jesuit father." It was early in the seventeenth century that the Jesuits instituted these missions which were to "lend dignity to their order and do honour to humanity." They spread through the whole of the New World; their solitary figures were to be seen in the most desolate forests and among the most dangerous surroundings, and their work is encircled with a halo of self-sacrifice that makes it forever memorable.

1181. **VESPERS**:—Evening service. In the Roman Catholic church there are seven periods of daily prayer, viz.: matins, prime, terce, sext, nones, vespers, and compline. These correspond to the hours of four, six, and nine o'clock A.M., and twelve, three, six, and nine o'clock P.M.

1182. **SUSURRUS**:—A whisper, murmur, or rustling.

1189. **MOTHER-TONGUE**:—French, the language of Basil and Evangeline, and very grateful to the ears of the lonely French priest.

1207. **ONOMATOPEA**. The tardy sound of the line helps to indicate the tedious lapse of time.

1212-4. *Cf.* *Hiawatha*, xiii. 210-88.

1219. **THE COMPASS-FLOWER** is found throughout the south and west of the United States. It is said to present the edges of its lower leaves due north and south.

1217-20. The early editions have, in place of these lines, the following, which are neither so beautiful nor so true:—

"Look at this delicate flower that lifts its head from the meadow,
See how its leaves all point to the north, as true as the magnet;
It is the compass-flower, that the finger of God has suspended
Here on its fragile stalk, to direct the traveller's journey."

1225. **THIS PLANT**:—Faith.

1226. **ASPHODEL**, or king's spear, is "the name of a genus of plants of the lily family, having very handsome flowers and mostly found in South Europe." In Grecian myth the asphodel was sacred to the dead, and its