

And pour upon the spell-bound worshipper,
Floods of glad melody. The sunlight looks
Through the green boughs, and charms the forest flower
From its most secret haunts. The grand old earth
Seems like a glorious temple, and each tree,
Each sheltered nook, a holy shrine, where souls
May pause to render homage.

On the bank
There are sweet clusters of blue violets
Which look so lovingly into my eyes,
That I would take them from their wildwood home,
To my own garden. And along the path,
The little white flowers peep to catch the light
Spring gives them with her glances. Bending shrubs
Are wreathed with stainless blossoms, and the marsh
Keeps in its damp recesses, flaming blooms,
That gleam like gems of fire.

Yon clump of thorns
Hath thrown on its white garlands, and the lambs
Lie in quiet shadows. Winding paths
Chequer the hill-side, where the flocks have sought
The murmuring stream, which, like a singing child,
Goes gently through the meadows. The soft air
Stirs gracefully the pliant willow twigs,
And wakes to fresher life the drooping grass.
Spring hath a myriad elemental hands
Which "cease not, night nor day," their mystic work.
Morn hath its dew; noon-day its tides of light;
Eve hath its million starry beams, and night
Its spreading veil of darkness; and the hills
And lowly vales, the flashing lakes and streams
Are putting on their rarest festal robes,
To greet the laden summer. Her warm breath
Even now is on the air, and her soft voice
Speaks from the waterfall; her magic tones
Send a new thrill through every living thing,
And make the season a triumphal day,
Grand with its bright processions, resonant
With trumpet notes. It is a new earth,
And a new heaven were spread before our eyes,
And through the open portals we could look
On jewelled pavements, and inhale the life
From all life-giving things. Each soul may find
A wondrous revelation, strange as that
Which blessed the transc'd Saint on Patmos isle.

—*Mary A. Ripley.*

2. THE NEW GREAT SEAL OF ENGLAND.

The new Great Seal of England has been submitted to Her Majesty in council, approved, and delivered to the custody of the Lord Chancellor. The old seal, by the Queen's command, was defaced. Like the Great Seals for the last 200 or 300 years, it is made of silver, being actually composed of two seals, upon one of which the obverse and on the other the reverse is engraved, and both are used in sealing documents, the wax being squeezed in a soft state between the two, the impression presenting thus the appearance of a medal in wax. With the exception of the seals in use in time of the Commonwealth, the Great Seals have always represented on the obverse the Sovereign on horseback, and on the reverse the Sovereign on the throne, each being accompanied with such other figures allegorical or otherwise, as the taste of the engraver may suggest and the Sovereign may approve. In the present seal the obverse represents a page leading Her Majesty's horse, and on the reverse Her Majesty sits on a throne under a handsome canopy, supported on either side by a figure of religion and another of justice.—*Court Journal.*

3. THE VARIOUS SILK FABRICS.

Silk is woven into curious fabrics, plain and figured, by the Jacquard loom, and also into velvets. The fine soft pile of velvet is produced during the process of weaving, by inserting short pieces of thread doubled under the shoot or weft, and which stand upright in such a way, and so close together, as entirely to conceal the interlacings of the warp and shoot. In the production of every yard of velvet, six yards of pile at least are used. The loops of the double threads intended for the pile are afterwards divided by running a sharp instrument, called a treval, along the groove. This is done by the hand, and of course requires great dexterity, as the slightest deviation from the proper line would infallibly injure, if not wholly destroy, the silk. Damasks of the most exquisite and elaborate patterns are produced by the Jacquard loom, and in some instances

as many as twelve hundred or fourteen hundred changes or cards are required for their completion. Satin and satinnet are peculiar kinds of silk twill, and exhibit in a most perfect manner the lustre of the material of which they are composed. Brocade is the general term for tissue of silk with gold or silver threads—a fabric of exceeding richness. Lutestring, Gros de Naples, Persian, &c., are names given to plain fabrics of silk, differing little from each other except in their thickness, or in the quality of silk. Tabberet, tobine, serge, levantine, etc., are twilled fabrics, occasionally relieved with satin stripes and cheeks, and are to be found of all qualities and colors. Crape, craped or smooth—gauze in all its varieties—ribbons of multitudinous sorts—bandanas, &c., &c.—are two well known to require description. In fact, it would be almost impossible to enumerate the various stuff woven from silk, either for the purpose of clothing, upholstery, or ornament; but an idea of its cheapness and universality may be formed from the fact that, at the present time, there is scarcely an individual, even in very humble life, but uses it to some extent, either for the purposes of dress or of ornament.

4. MANUFACTURE OF PENNY POSTAGE STAMPS.

The London journals report that the annual demand for penny postage stamps in Great Britain is little short of 500,000,000. Supposing the year to contain 200 working days, that gives for every working day about 1,600,000 stamps to be manufactured.

IX. Short Critical Notices of Books.

—**THE MISSING LINK**; or, Bible Women in the Homes of London Poor. By L. N. R. author of "The Book and its Story." New York: Carter & Bros. The work contains a most interesting account of the labours of the female Bible agents among the "London heathen." Many of the anecdotes and sketches are painfully touching. They exhibit the unrenewed human heart in some of its worst and best phases. The female agency employed has been for many reasons highly appropriate and successful.

—**HASTE TO THE RESCUE**; or, Work while it is Day. By Mrs. Charles Wightman. New York: Carter & Bros. This is a kindred book to the foregoing. It gives a graphic detail of the labours of the kind-hearted authoress, in seeking to stem the torrent of intemperance and vice among the working men in the neighbourhood of her husband's parish, St. Alkmund, Shrewsbury, England. The book contains a preface by Miss Marsh,—the perusal of whose soul-stirring "English Hearts and English Hands," had incited Mrs. Wightman to the missionary work which she now records in her "Haste to the Rescue."

—**THE COTTAGE AND ITS VISITOR**; By Miss Charlesworth. New York: Carter and Bros. Few who have read Miss Charlesworth's "Ministering Children" will be disappointed in perusing this abridgement of a new work from her pen. It details with great sweetness and interest varied labours of the writer among the poor. "Its counsel (says the preface) to those who desire to benefit the poor, but who feel the drawback of personal inexperience, is the result of long and intimate acquaintance with them; its narrative illustrations are strictly true, and the subjects of them were personally known to the writer."

—**ARCTIC EXPLORATION**: the United States Grinnell Expedition in search of Sir John Franklin; a personal narrative. By E. K. Kane, M.D. Philadelphia: Childs & Peterson. This work records a series of personal privation and exposure, in search of the lost Franklin, which none but intrepid men like Dr. Kane could have had the courage to face. The American expeditions, although nobly undertaken, were, as in the case of Dr. Kane's second voyage to the Polar Sea, singularly deficient in many of the conveniences and comforts which experience had shown to be absolutely necessary in prosecuting a successful search. These privations unnecessarily exposed Dr. Kane and his companions to severer trials than those encountered by the English navigators, but they served to illustrate the endurance and devotion of that heroic man. The first American expedition under Lieut. De Haven, as recorded in this book, had less of stirring incident than the second, under Dr. Kane, but it furnished an abundance of other information of the deepest interest.

—**LIFE OF DR. KANE**. By Dr. Elder. Philadelphia: Childs & Peterson. As a fitting sequel to the life and labours of so distinguished an Arctic traveller as Dr. Kane, it was proper that a biographical sketch of his career should soon follow after his decease. This has been prepared by his friend, Dr. Elder. It is full of incident and of the more striking events in Dr. Kane's life. It also contains an extended account of the honors paid to the memory of Dr. Kane during the passage of his remains