

to overhang the north, then undulating majestically, it seemed like a curtain suspended between us and some glorious vision of the spirit-land. Pinned to the firmament at either end by a diamond cluster constellation, it dropped its miles of prismatic fringe until almost touching the hill-tops. You would think that the hand of the Creator was now turning for human children the wheel of the great kaleidoscope of the universe. And, with the Laird of Abbotsford ;

“I knew by the streamers that shot so bright
That spirits were riding the northern-light.”

I have seen the sun-set when the grandest dreams of Angelo were surpassed in the west. I have seen the flush of the dawn on the eastern hills. I have contemplated the heavens by night and said with McCarthy :

“What earthly temple such a roof can boast,
What flickering lamp with the rich star-light vies,
When the round moon rests like a sacred host,
Upon the azure altar of the skies.”

I have seen the tempest, when the storm-god had unchained the elements and amidst the flash and boom of heaven's artillery, rushed to the destruction of a whole valley : I have heard of the earthquake in its shocks of ruin, the ocean in its fury ; Vesuvius has belched forth and its lava flowed over the cities of old—but I am sure, that in none of these exhibitions of nature, is the power, the goodness, the omnipotence, the omniscience and omnipresence of the Almighty to be seen as forcibly and as truly grand as in the contemplation of that great natural phenomenon of our hemisphere, the Aurora Borealis.

Such was the panorama I gazed upon a few weeks ago. However, there are always thoughts and reflections suggested by such scenes and I said to myself “how like the world, what an image of humanity this spectacle exhibits !”

Dear reader, have you ever paused in the mid-stream of life, and looking around you and behind, meditated upon the events that are going on and those past? Have you ever thought of the faults, the follies, the vices and consequent misfortunes that are interwoven with the virtues, joys and blessings of life? Stay then for a moment, and gazing upon the picture of life, see how all that applies to the human family at large, also applies in a smaller scale to each individual. The crimes of nations are but the amplifications of the sins of individuals—the virtues of peoples