

WORK OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

Every Year the Father of Waters Carries Down a Square Mile of Land.

The Mississippi has in the course of ages transported from the mountains and high land within its drainage area sufficient material to make 400,000 square miles of new land by filling up an estuary which extended from its original outfall to the Gulf of Mexico for a length of 500 miles, and in width from 30 to 40 miles. This river, says Longman's Magazine, is still pouring solid matter into the gulf, where it is spread out in a fan-like shape over a coast line of 150 miles, and is filling up at the rate of 362,000,000 tons a year, or six times as much soil as was removed in the construction of the Manchester ship canal, and sufficient to make a square mile of new land, allowing for it having to fill up the gulf to a depth of 80 yards.

Some idea of the vastness of this operation may be conceived when the fact is considered that some of this soil has to be transported more than 3,000 miles; and that if the whole of it had to be carried on boats at the lowest rate at which heavy material is carried on the inland waters of America, or, say, for one-tenth of a penny per ton per mile over an average of half the total distance, the cost would be no less a sum than £238,000,000 a year. Through the vast delta thus formed the river winds its way, twisting and turning by innumerable bends until it extends its length to nearly 1,200 miles, or more than double the point-to-point length of the delta, continually eroding the banks in one place and building up land in another, occasionally breaking its way across a narrow neck which lies between the two extremities and filling up the old channel.

PEN AND INK DRAWING.

Modern Imitation of the Ancients by a New Process.

It is easy, of course, to understand how pen drawing should have come to be so largely employed and elaborated. It is a matter of reproduction for illustration. An etching will not print with type, nor with a steel engraving. This, says the London Spectator, led in the early part of the century to the imitation of steel engravings by wood engravers, who did the business most skillfully with immense labor. The drawings for them were mostly made in pencil. But photographic process rendered the intervention of the wood engraver needless, if the artist made a pen drawing that would photograph and process well. A pure technical difficulty can be overcome by large numbers of craftsmen; large numbers, accordingly, have learned to make pen drawings to supplant wood engravings. But it should be noted that to do this is itself a kind of reproductive process. Few elaborate pen drawings are made without a studious foundation in some other material. The pen line must frequently be traced or drawn over the pencil line, very much like the engraver's tool.

The point about the moderns and an-

cients, then, resolved itself into the imitation by the moderns in a new medium of the technique of an old. It is certain that the ancients could have performed this feat if they had chosen, not altogether certain that they would have chosen. For, to consider those other points of reproduction and dissemination, the modern master seems to be in no greater hurry than the ancient to make use of the new facilities. When such a master does take up the pen, he handles it to much grander effect than do its devotees.

BOY AND ROBIN.

Friendship of the Two Brought About by Cold Weather.

During the extremely severe weather of February, 1895, myriads of birds perished from cold and starvation, both in Europe and the United States. In England this destruction was the more sorrowful, perhaps, as the country where the birds winter is more thickly settled than with us, and there were more to see their sufferings. But occasionally the British birds found friendly shelter.

The London Times published, during the cold weather, this note from Rodolph Walther, a boy of twelve years, who lives at Tunbridge Wells:

"I thought perhaps you would allow a schoolboy to tell you how very tame and fearless the cold and hunger have made the wild birds around our house.

"Of course we feed them with bread and all sorts of odds and ends, and the ground is simply black with our hungry visitors. Even the suspicious rooks come quite close to the house for their share.

"A little blue-tit passes its day in our basement, heedless of sleepy pussy basking herself before the stove.

"Most of all I wish to tell you about my strange bedroom companion, a little robin, which has taken up its residence in my bedroom; and though I leave the window open, he never goes out except to take a short fly. We pass the night together, and he makes his bed in one of my football boots.

"The other morning he woke me up by singing on a chair at the side of my bed. I suppose he thought I ought to be at my lessons."

Not a Good Likeness.

It is not always easy to recognize the "gentlemen and ladies of sculpture." No wonder the old lady in the following story, taken from the Evangelist, was somewhat in doubt: In the "monument room" of Trinity church is a large marble tablet put up in memory of the late Bishop Hobart. It is a bas-relief, representing the bishop as dying, and sinking into the arms of an allegorical female figure, probably intended for the angel of death. Years ago an aged couple from the country were shown about the church, and when they reached the tablet they paused long before it. At last the dear old lady spoke. "That's a good likeness of the bishop," she said, "but"—here she regarded the angelic personage attentively—"it's a poor one of Mrs. Hobart. I knew her well, and she didn't look like that!"

THE PEOPLE WILL WIN.

They Are Opposed by Powerful Influences but Will Ultimately Triumph.

The difference between the cause of American bimetallism and that of the British gold standard is clearly illustrated in a recent editorial in the Atlanta Constitution by the methods which are employed in presenting them before the country. The cause of American bimetallism is entirely in the hands of the people. It has behind it no purchased or purchased newspapers. It has behind it no combination of bankers, no money clique, no gold ring, no horde of Shylocks and money lenders. In every state, district and county it has been taken up by the people. In every case where the politicians display doubt or hesitancy for the cause of American bimetallism has been taken out of their hands by the plain and honest voters of the country. Thus we see the movement taking shape in the west and in the south, having behind it the patriotic purpose of the people.

On the other hand, the movement in behalf of the British gold standard has behind it every selfish interest that depends on the contraction of the people's money supply and the enhancement of the purchasing power of the dollar. It has behind it all the wealth and power of the banks of this country; all the political influence that money can buy; all the newspapers that can be influenced with money or patronage, and all the business men who are compelled to depend on the banks for accommodation. It has behind it all the power of Wall street, and all the secret influences that flow out from that corrupt and reckless money center to all quarters of the republic.

That, under all these adverse influences, the cause of American bimetallism should display any vitality at all would be surprising under ordinary circumstances; but the fact that it has developed a vitality that is more than extraordinary, shows that the people are at last arousing themselves to the necessity of defending their dearest rights and interests. The people in all parts of the country are beginning to agitate this great question with the force and fervor that they threw into the political campaigns that took place in the better days of the republic—the days when the will of the people reigned at the ballot box was regarded as a thing too sacred to be tampered with. And the people will win this time as they have always won when engaged in defending their rights and liberties. They will overthrow the British gold standard even as they overthrew the less intolerable political conditions imposed on them by the aggressive and selfish policy of Great Britain. They will win, and woe to the time-serving politicians who stand in their way or strive to thwart them!

—Silver men are for sound money. They want both gold and silver as primary money—as it was before 1873. The gold men want to continue and set up the single gold standard—and after awhile every private contract would be made payable in gold only.