



The painting calls This painting entitled Across the Continent « Westward the Course of Empire Takes its Way » was made by Frances Flora Bond Palmer in 1868. I chose it because I think it is an apt illustration of ~~This painting illustrates~~ the notion of the myth of the west.

Firstly, we can see a railway and a train that create a dividing line which separates ~~separate~~ the civilization on the left ~~and the~~ from ~~nature~~ the wilderness on the right. The railway continues ~~until the background~~ as far as the eye can see, reaching the horizon in the background, ~~as if the idea of progress is without end,~~ suggesting that nothing can stop progress, there are lots of people on board the train, as we can see. ~~It's a disconnection with the left and the right of the painting.~~ Que voulez-vous dire?

Moreover, as I said, the left of the painting symbolizes civilisation. Indeed, we can say that because there are houses, people are working. In the foreground on the left they are **cutting** trees with axes. In the background, there are canvas covered **wagons** and horses which are going to the background of the painting like the railway.

Yet, the left is opposed to the right. Indeed, we can see mountains **on** the background and trees by the river. There also Indian people who seem to be **repulsive in front of the left** because they have **arms on their hands** and they turn it towards the smoke of the train as if they **refused** the idea of progress. And on **the** river, there are small **boats**. Their life **looks seems** to be **simpler** than **that of the** people who live on the left because they live **with the** among nature without **sacrifice- sacrificing** it.