

morning air; always meets a responsive chord of harmony in the heart of the good man. While the earth was yet young, and no descendant of a spiritual race had walked its green fields, or gazed upon its beauties, a voice of praise went up to the great Creator, and a choir attuned at Nature's perfect school warbled and caroled notes of thanksgiving.

No country can number more interesting natural features than Canada. If we should take a stand on any of the lofty heights that rise here and there, and variegate its lovely landscapes, we should be charmed with the panoramic view before us. Rivers, whose broad waters dotted with islands, roll onward through a fertile country; lakes lying encircled by mountain and hill; a charming succession of plain, and undulating land, and serpentine stream, and rushing water-fall, with golden, and green, and darker colored tintings among the grain fields, and meadows, all form pictures which the lover of nature must delight to view.

The elegant form, and bright hues of the humming bird, "in whose plumage the ruby, the emerald, and the topaz sparkles,"—the superior brilliancy, and various shading of the butterfly, which, "light, airy, joyous, replete with life; sports in the sunshine, wantons on the flower, and trips from bloom to bloom,"—the outgushing notes of the lark as he joyously rises and soars towards heaven, and pours forth strains that have been compared to hymns of praise,—have all with many other objects of nature delighted thousands. Poets, and Poetesses have "tuned their harps, and lit their fires," while drawing from natural scenery their most exquisite imagery. From the same source Bible writers have taken their most vivid illustrations. Examples in point, abound in the Book of Job, and other portions of sacred writ. Many master minds of ancient and modern times have been absorbed in examinations of the works of nature. We read that King Solomon bought apes, and peacocks from Ophir, and probably animals, and plants too, were brought to him from other foreign countries. Solomon showed an intimate acquaintance with Natural History, and spoke of trees, from the majestic "cedar of Lebanon, to the hyssop that springeth out of the wall," and referred to "beasts, and creeping things, and fowls, and fishes." The Psalmist took up the same theme, when celebrating the glories of the Divine perfections, and discoursing upon the wonders that present themselves "in the heavens above, and the earth beneath," and exclaimed in transport "O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all! the earth is full of thy riches." Pliny many hundred years later produced a work on Natural History, which, though lacking the fire of inspiration, has been read with delight. Corresponding zeal has been awakened, and kindred emotions expressed in more modern times, as the following extracts which I here transcribe will show:

"How pleasant, nay, how much more pleasant," says a writer in *Blackwood's Magazine*, in reference to the prevailing taste for novel-reading, "to take up by chance from a table, groaning under a load of fashionable novels, some small volume composed by some lover of nature, that has found its way there, like some real rose-bud yielding its fragrance amongst artificial