

all produced by the first spring months. From the yard of the Cottage the sleigh with its fur appendages is removed, and the plough is seen in the neighbouring field; the first of those was one of the idle means by which winter was tricked, as it were, out of its gloom,—how vapid and wretchedly splendid it appears in the sunshine of spring! it is very wisely put out of the way, and well substituted by the precursor of fertility and riches. The rotten stalks of the woodbine, sunflower, and hollyhock are also removed; the little flower beds under the windows, are nicely arranged; order, neatness, industry, and comfort, are visible in every detail around, and the confusion of winter has gone with its idleness and languid enjoyments. The master is with his men in the sweet smelling field; the mistress and her daughters, are sowing seeds and planting flower roots in the garden; the boys assisted by the pony are drawing gravel for the yard and garden paths; and the cottage swept and garnished, is alone but not lonely:—its windows and doors stand open, and an æolian harp at one casement sends its full harmony on the passing breeze, vibrating as if domestic spirits were rejoicing in the liberty and life of the expanding year. The domain which surrounds the stately Court, and through which passes the fantastic May-day procession, exhibits larger and more splendid pictures of spring's doings: and the country generally, whether seen in unbroken solitude, or strewn with the domestic islets of civilization, warms, expands, and beautifies in the beneficent airs which at this time flow gladly from heaven to earth.

The Town also, shows its sensibility to the advantages of the season; and has its spring features as well as the country. The files of houses which seemed “standing at ease” all winter, are now “attention,” brightened up, brushed, and pipe clay’d; and the lines between are levelled and arranged. The few trees which shade the church windows—like a rustic force around an old gothic warrior—put on their leaf; the migionette boxes neatly coloured are placed on the window sills, and the geraniums, which like staunch friends continued during all the rigours of winter, are now, conveniently placed to shade deficiencies and to embellish the deserted hearth. The shops put on their gayest costume, and