



## NOVEMBER'S BLAST.

"THE FLOWERS ARE GONE."

The melancholy days are come,  
The saddest of the year,  
Of wailing wind and naked woods,  
And meadows brown and sere.  
Heap'd in the hollows of the grove,  
The summer leaves lie dead,  
They rustle to the eddying wind,  
And to the rabbit's tread.  
The robin and the wren are flown,  
And from the shrubs the jay;  
And from the wood-top caws the crow,  
Through all the gloomy day.

Where are the flowers, the bright young  
flowers,  
That smil'd beneath the feet,  
Of hues so passing beautiful,  
And breath so passing sweet?  
Alas! they all are in their graves,  
The gentle race of flowers  
Are lying in their lowly beds.  
With the fair and good of ours.  
The rain is falling on the graves,  
But the cold November rain  
Calls not, from out the gloomy earth,  
The lovely ones again.

The wind-flower and the violet,  
They perished long ago;  
The briar, the orchis, and the rose,  
Died 'mid the summer's glow;  
But on the hill the golden-rod,  
The aster in the wood,  
The yellow sunflower by the brook,  
In autumn beauty stood:  
Till fell the frost from the clear cold heaven  
As falls the plume on men,  
And the blossom never smiled again,  
By upland, glade, or glen.

And now, when comes the calm mid-day—  
As still such days will come—  
To call the squirrel and the bee  
From out their winter home;  
When the sound of dropping nuts is heard,  
Though all the trees are still,  
And twinkle, in the smoky light,  
The waters of the rill:  
The south wind searches for the flowers  
Whose fragrance late he bore,  
And sighs to find them in the wood,  
And by the stream, no more.

I then think of a loved one, who  
In youthful beauty died;  
The fair meek blossom that grew up  
And faded by my side;

We laid her in the cold moist earth,  
When the forest cast the leaf,  
And wept that such a lovely one  
Should have a life so brief.  
Yet not unmeet it was that one  
Like that young friend of ours,  
So gentle and so beautiful,  
Should perish with the flowers.

## PRELIMINARY POINTS TO BE CONSIDERED, BEFORE A FARMER, CAN UNDERTAKE WITH PRUDENCE, THE OCCUPATION OF ANY EXTENT OF LAND.

## SECT. II.—Soil. (Continued from page 3.)

The surface, or outward coating of land, usually consists of a collection of various earthy matters, in a loose and porous state, with a mixture of animal and vegetable substances, partially decomposed, together with certain saline and mineral ingredients. Where favourably combined, it is admirably calculated to afford support to plants, to enable them to fix their roots, and gradually to derive nourishment by their tubes, from the soluble and dissolved substances contained in the soil, (as this mixed mass is called), or passing into it. The strata on which it is incumbent, are known under the general name of *subsoil*.

The importance of the soil has been described in various ways. By some it has been called the mother, or nurse of vegetation. By others it is represented as discharging functions to plants, similar to those which the stomach does to animals in preparing their food, and fitting it for absorption by their roots. It furnishes the plant also with heat; for a well cultivated and highly manured soil, is much warmer than the surrounding atmosphere. The farmer, it is said, ought to study the relative value of the different soils, as a merchant does the worth of the several commodities he deals in. Good soils, it has been remarked, will seldom yield a scanty produce. In short, a favourable soil and climate, are deservedly accounted, "*The first riches of a country.*"

The necessity of paying attention to the nature and quality of the soil, need not therefore be dwelt upon. By ascertaining the qualities it possesses, or by removing its defects, the profits of a farmer may be greatly increased. He must, in general, regulate his measures accordingly, in regard to the rent he is to offer,—the capital he is to lay out,—the stock he is to keep,—the crops

he is to raise,—and the improvements he is to make. Indeed, such is the importance of the soil, and the necessity of adapting his system to its peculiar properties, that no general system of cultivation can be laid down, unless all the circumstances regarding the nature, and situation of the soil and subsoil, be known; and such is the force of habit, that it rarely happens, if a farmer has been long accustomed to one species of soil, he will be equally successful in the management of another\*.

From inattention to the nature of soils, many foolish, fruitless, and expensive attempts have been made to introduce different kinds of plants, not at all suited to them; and manures have often been improperly applied. This ignorance has likewise prevented many from employing the means of improvement, though the expense was trifling, and within their reach. From ignorance, also, of the means calculated for the proper cultivation of the different soils, many unsuccessful and pernicious practices have been adopted.

Soils may be considered under the following general heads:—Sand;—Gravel;—Clay;—Peat;—Alluvial; and, Loam, or that species of artificial soil, into which the others are generally brought, by the effects of manure, and of earthy applications, in the course of long cultivation. While describing each sort, we shall briefly state the modes of improving their texture;—the crops for which they are respectively calculated;—and the districts where they are cultivated with the greatest success.

1. *Sand*.—A soil that consists entirely of small grains of a hard nature, (*silex*), which neither cohere together, nor are softened by water, nor soluble in acids, though it ought not to be totally abandoned, yet is too poor to be cultivated with advantage. It would indeed be hazardous in the extreme, from the risk of having the covering soil blown off the new-sown grain, in the spring, by high winds. Sandy soils, however, gene-

\* One of the most intelligent farmers in Norfolk, accustomed to a dry and sandy soil, was asked, What he would do with a wet or clayey one? He very candidly answered, "That he knew no more how to manage such a soil, than if he had never seen a plough." Farmers, when they change their situations, are too apt to carry along with them, that plan of management to which they have been accustomed, without considering that it may not suit their new situations.