

Inhabitants of Oldstyle, allow me to congratulate you, on the presentation of the Queen of your choice and affections, and on the happy occasion which congregates us in this place, at this time.

Autumn is the season of realization and thankfulness ;—of rest and improvement for virtuous industry.

The awakening loveliness of Spring, which aroused to active life, has passed away ; the more mature charms of Summer have receded ; Harvest with its fruits and varied stores,—its loaded waggons from the interior, its shallops from the shores, has paid its welcome visit, and the torpidity of snow-crowned Winter impends.

The tender foliage, soon, will no longer adorn the meadows ;—the streams no longer sing among the valleys ;—crocus, and primrose, and other sweet companions, will have gone for a winter's repose, not to appear until the rural months again smile genially on the gardens.

Many ships, also, shall be still, in the frost-locked harbours ;—the ploughman's ditty,—the robin's warbling, will be hushed ;—but whistling winds will career over the snow-spread plain, and the crashing of ice-bergs agitate the Polar sea.

In the barn, however, and by the cottage hearth, and in the school-house and the lecture-room,—the mind will have its season of domestic and public, of intellectual and moral and religious, improvement.

Now comes the Spring-time of the soul,—its summer will follow ; and if we improve the periods wisely, our Harvest will have been joyously gathered, and we will be thankful amid our unfading stores, when May again visits the fields and the waters, and summons to other scenes of activity.

Again I express congratulations and good wishes,—to you the presiding lady of the hour,—and to you, and you, and you, whose ready acquiescence in good laws, and whose zeal in good works, are so essential to the success of our proceedings, and to the prosperity of Oldstyle.

*Several.* Hurra ! hurra !

*Farmer F.* Our minstrels now.

(The singers come forward, at each side, bow to the Queen, and sing.)

*Mr. B.* In the name of the Queen, I announce, that our festivities are to include trials of activity and skill and study,—and that rewards will be dispensed for various kinds of excellence.