

bered scenes of his early adventures, associated in his mind with the delightful images of youthful love and fame,—when he sees the lofty Kaatskill putting on, as of old, his white ruff of ambient clouds, and the noble Hudson rushing with his world of waters to the ocean, between the busy streets of Manhattan on the one hand and the classic shades of Communipaw on the other,—he will find his powers refreshed and redoubled, and will feel himself encouraged, perhaps, to more successful efforts than any that he ever made before.”

Article 2d. is on the “*History of the Italian Language and Dialects.*” In this several theories are noticed, respecting the origin of the Italian Language. One maintains, that the Italian is co-eval with the Latin, the latter being the learned and polite, and the former the vulgar medium of communication. Another theory is, that the Italian was formed by the gradual corruption of the Latin, from a classic and grammatical, to an incorrect and vicious mode of speech. A third opinion is, that the Italian language was formed by the Northern invaders, who mixed with the Latin many of their own idioms and forms of speech, and introduced a vicious pronunciation. This latter seems the most general and favourite theory. The Reviewer gives several specimens of early Italian poetry, and makes ingenious observations on the progressive improvement of the language. A list is then afforded of no less than seventeen leading dialects of the Italian, such as the Sicilian, the Calabrian, the Neapolitan, and interesting specimens are furnished of each.

Article third is entitled *History of the Northmen, or Danes and Normans*; and contains many highly interesting notices of our rude forefathers, illustrations of their habits, and specimens of their literature. We copy the following vivid sketch, taken from the work reviewed, of the memorable battle of Hastings, by the results of which, William the Conqueror, gained the English throne.

“The spot which Harold had selected for this ever memorable contest was a high ground, then called Senlac, nine miles from Hastings, opening to the south, and covered in the rear by an extensive wood. He posted his troops on the declivity of the hill in one compact mass, covered with their shields, and wielding their enormous battle-axes. In the centre the royal standard, or gonfanon was fixed in the ground, with the figure of an armed warrior, worked in thread of gold, and ornamented with precious stones. Here stood Harold, and his brothers Gurth and Leofwin, and around them the rest of the Saxon army, every man on foot.

‘As the Normans approached the Saxon intrenchments, the monks and priests who accompanied their army retired to a neighbouring hill to pray, and observe the issue of the battle. A Norman warrior, named Taillefer, spurred his horse in front of the line, and, tossing up in the air his sword, which he caught again in his hand,