

below building. Of this class of operations British cooks have not the remotest idea. Reasoning beings, who contemplate the *ars coquinaria* from a philosophical point of view, will not dream to revolve in their minds the beautiful doctrine of equivalents of force.—*Dublin University Magazine*.

THE BEAUTIFUL IN A TREE—Downing says:—It seems to us indisputable that no one who has a perception of the beautiful in nature, could for a moment, that a fine single elm tree, such as we may find in the valley of the Connecticut or the Genesee, which has never been touched by the knife, is the most perfect standard of sylvan grace, symmetry, dignity and finely balanced proportions, that it is possible to conceive. One would no more wish to touch it with an axe (unless to remove some branch that is falling into decay) than to give a nicer curve to the rainbow, or add freshness to the dew drop. Many of our readers will give themselves up to the study of such trees as these—trees that have almost completely developed forms that nature has upon the species, they are certain to reach the same conclusions.

HAWKING BIRDS.—The Ruby Throat is very tame, and is a most loving and trustful creature. Mr. Webber has given a most interesting account of a number of Ruby Throats which he succeeded in taming. On several occasions he had enticed the living meteors into the room by placing vases of tempting flowers on the table and adroitly closing the sash as soon as they were engaged with the flowers, but they had always lost them by their dashing the window, and striking themselves against the glass. At last, however his attempts were crowned with success, and "this time I succeeded in securing an unwounded captive, which to my inexpressible delight, proved to be one of the Ruby Throated species, the most splendid and primitive that comes north of Florida."

It immediately suggested itself to me that a mixture of two parts refined sugar with one of honey, in ten of water, would make about the nearest approach to the nectar of flowers. While my sister ran to prepare it, I gradually led my hand to look at my prisoner, and saw by no little amusement as well as suspicion, that it was actually "playing possum," feigning to be dead most skilfully. It lay on my open palm motionless for some minutes, during which I watched it in breathless curiosity. I saw it slowly open its bright little eyes, and then look at them slowly as it caught my eye upon it. When the manufactured nectar came, and a drop was touched upon the top of its bill, it was so life very suddenly, and in a moment was to be seen, drinking with eager gusto of the refreshing draught from a silver teaspoon. When it refused to take any more, and sat perched on the coolest self-composure on my finger,

and plumed itself quite as artistically as if on its favorite spray. I was enchanted with the bold, innocent confidence with which it turned up its keen black eyes to survey us, as much as to say, "well good folk, who are you?"—*Rutledge's Illustrated Natural History*.

NATURAL BAROMETER.—The spider, says an eminent naturalist, is almost universally regarded with disgust and abhorrence; yet, after all, it is one of the most interesting, if not the most useful, of the insect tribe. Since the days of Robert Bruce, it has been celebrated as a model of perseverance, while in industry and ingenuity it has no rival among insects. But the most extraordinary fact in the natural history of this insect, is the remarkable precision it appears to have of an approaching change in the weather. Barometers, at best, only forecast the state of the weather with certainty for about twenty-four hours, and they are very frequently fallible guides particularly when they point to *settled fair*. But we may be sure that the weather will be fine twelve or fourteen days, when the spider makes the principal threads of its web very long. This insect, which is one of the most economical animals, does not commence a work requiring such a great length of threads, which it draws out of its body, unless the state of the atmosphere indicates with certainty that this great expenditure will not be made in vain. Let the weather be ever so bad, we may conclude with certainty that it will soon change to be settled fair when we see the spider repair the damages which his web has received. It is obvious how important this infallible indication of the state of the weather must be in many instances, particularly to the agriculturist.

Ocean Splendours.

When the sea is perfectly clear and transparent, it allows the eye to distinguish objects at a very great depth. Near Mindora, in the Indian Ocean, the spotted corals are plainly visible under twenty-five fathoms of water. The crystalline clearness of the Caribbean sea excited the admiration of Columbus, who, in the pursuit of his great discoveries, ever retained an open eye for the beauties of nature. "In passing over these splendid adorned grounds," says Schöepf, where marine life shows itself in an endless variety of forms, the boat, suspended over the purest crystal, seems to float in the air, so that a person unaccustomed to the scene easily becomes giddy. On the clear sard bottom appear thousands of sea stars, sea urchins, molluscs, and fishes of a brilliancy of colour unknown in our temperate years. Burning red, intense blue, lively green, and golden yellow perpetually vary. The spectator floats over groves of sea plants, gorgonias, corals, alcyoniums, flabellums, and