

This child had little need then of the mental crammer, or the chatterer of words; the subtle, silent Voice could there displace all other teachers. Books may not have been altogether wanting, but

“He had small need of books.”

Great thoughts came to him, but came first in the form of great emotions :

“What soul was his, when, from the naked top
Of some bold headland, he beheld the sun
Rise up, and bathe the world in light ! He looked —
Ocean and earth, the solid frame of earth
And ocean’s liquid mass, beneath him lay
In gladness and deep joy. The clouds were touched,
And in their silent faces did he read
Unutterable love. Sound needed none,
Nor any voice of joy ; his spirit drank
The spectacle ; sensation, soul, and form
All melted into him : they swallowed up
His animal being ; in them did he live,
And by them did he live ; they were his life.

In such access of mind, in such high hour
Of visitation from the living God,
Thought was not ; in enjoyment it expired.
No thanks he breathed, he proffered no request,
Kept into still communion that transcends
The imperfect offices of prayer and praise,
His mind was a thanksgiving to the power
That made him ; it was blessedness and love ! ”

What a picture is this ! What an acclamation of all that is spiritually attainable, in the closet, or under the open sky ; the “still communion,” the “visitation from the living God,” the “access of mind.” What is all our boasted knowledge without thee ! It avails not to say that here is imaged a superior and an exceptional soul, that of the Poet himself. These primal instincts here set forth are our universal heritage ; only they are overlaid, or we are educated out of them. Here is the very inner sanctuary, whither Immanuel leads the way ; and it was the poet’s faith that there are many humble, unsophisticated, unlettered souls, in their degree what he has pictured large. Attend to him ; for it is his aim and province to assist all that are, and to stimulate many, many more !

—PASTOR FELIX.

THE STYLE OF MRS. BROWNING.

MRS. Browning occupies the same place among women that Shakspeare does among men. Her early education was promiscuous, consisting chiefly of reading with little regard to the quality of the books that she read. Afterwards fortunate circumstances guided her in the direction of studies as refining as they were severe. She became familiar with Grecian literature, and learned the art and beauty of the Attic dramatists. She