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NATURE.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN.

From the Knickerbocker.

Illum'd by red-tinged skies, stand glittering
On tender blade the dew ;
And undulates the landscape of the spring
Upon the clear stream's blue.

Fair is the rocky rill, the blossom'd tree,
The grove with gold that gleams :
Fair is the star of eve, which close we see
To yonder purple realms.

Fair is the meadow's green, the dale's thick bush,
The hill's bright robe of flowers,
The alder-stream, the pond's surrounding rush,
And lilies' snowy showers.

Oh! how the host of beings are made one
By Love's enduring band !
The glow-worm, and the fiery flood of sun,
Spring from one Father's hand.

Thou beckonest, Almighty, if the tree
Lose but a bud that's blown ;
Thou beckonest, if in immensity
One sun is sunk and gone !

From Ward's Miscellany.

A SWISS TRADITION.

In the course of an excursion, during the autumn of last year, a traveller through the wildest and most secluded parts of Switzerland took up his residence, during a stormy night, in a convent of Capuchin friars, not far from Altorf, the birth-place of the famous William Tell. In the course of the evening one of the fathers related, in an impressive manner, the following tradition, which, in some of its characteristic features, bears a striking resemblance to Lord Byron's drama, "Manfred."

"His soul was wild, impetuous, and uncontrollable. He had a keen perception of the faults and vices of others, without the power of correcting his own ; alike sensible of the nobility, and of the darkness of his moral constitution, although unable to cultivate the one to the exclusion of the other.

"In extreme youth, he led a lonely and secluded life in the solitude of a Swiss valley, in company with an only brother, some years older than himself, and a young female relative, who had been educated along with them from her birth. They lived under the care of an aged uncle, the guardian of those extensive domains which the brothers were destined jointly to inherit.

"A peculiar melancholy, cherished and increased by the utter seclusion of that sublime region, had, during the period of their infancy, preyed upon the mind of their father, and finally produced the most dreadful result. The fear of a similar tendency in the minds of the brothers, induced their protector to remove them, at an early age, from the solitude of their native country. The elder was sent to a German university, and the younger completed his education in one of the Italian schools.

"After the lapse of many years, the old guardian died, and the elder of the brothers returned to his native valley ; he there formed an attachment to the lady with whom he had passed his infancy ; and she, after some fearful forebodings, which were unfortunately silenced by the voice of duty and of gratitude, accepted of his love, and became his wife.

"In the meantime, the younger brother had left Italy, and travelled over the greater part of Europe. He mingled with the world, and gave full scope to every impulse

of his feelings. But that world, with the exception of certain hours of boisterous passion and excitement, afforded him little pleasure, and made no lasting impression upon his heart. His greatest joy was in the wildest impulses of the imagination.

"His spirit, though mighty and unbounded, from his early habits and education naturally tended to repose ; he thought with delight on the sun rising among the Alpine snows, or gliding the peaks of the rugged hills with its evening rays. But within him he felt a fire burning for ever, and which the snows of his native mountains could not quench. He feared that he was alone in the world, and that no being, kindred to his own, had been created ; but in his soul there was an image of angelic perfection, which he believed existed not on earth, but without which he knew he could not be happy. Despairing to find it in populous cities, he retired to his paternal domain. On again entering upon the scenes of his infancy, many new and singular feelings were experienced—he was enchanted with the surpassing beauty of the scenery, and wondered that he should have rambled so long, and so far from it. The noise and the bustle of the world were immediately forgotten on contemplating

"The silence that is in the starry sky,
The sleep that is among the lonely hills."

A light, as it were, broke around him, and exhibited a strange and momentary gleam of joy and of misery mingled together. He entered the dwelling of his infancy with delight, and met his brother with emotion. But his dark and troubled eye betokened a fearful change, when he beheld the other playmate of his infancy. Though beautiful as the imagination could conceive, she appeared otherwise than he expected. Her form and face were associated with some of his wildest reveries,—his feelings of affection were united with many undefinable sensations—he felt as if she was not the wife of his brother, although he knew her to be so, and his soul sickened at the thought.

"He passed the night in a feverish state of joy and horror. From the window of a lonely tower, he beheld the moon shining amid the bright blue of an Alpine sky, and diffusing a calm and beautiful light on the silvery snow. The eagle owl uttered her long and plaintive note from the castellated summits which overhung the valley, and the feet of the wild chamois were heard rebounding from the neighbouring rocks ; these accorded with the gentler feelings of his mind, but the strong spirit which so frequently overcame him, listened with intense delight to the dreadful roar of an immense torrent, which was precipitated from the summit of an adjoining cliff, among broken rocks and pines, overturned and uprooted, or to the still mightier voice of the avalanche, suddenly descending with the accumulated snows of a hundred years.

"In the morning he met the object of his unhappy passion. Her eyes were dim with tears, and a cloud of sorrow had darkened the light of her lovely countenance.

"For some time there was a mutual constraint in their manner, which both were afraid to acknowledge, and neither were able to dispel. Even the uncontrollable spirit of the wanderer was oppressed and overcome, and he wished he had never returned to the dwelling of his ancestors. The lady was equally aware of the awful peril of their situation, and without the knowledge of her husband, she prepared to depart from the castle, and take the veil in a convent situated in a neighbouring valley.

"With this resolution she departed on the following morning ; but in crossing an Alpine pass which conducted, by a nearer route, to the adjoining valley, she was enveloped in mists and vapour, and lost all knowledge of the sur-

rounding country. The clouds closed in around her, and a tremendous thunder-storm took place in the valley beneath. She wandered about for some time, in hopes of gaining a glimpse, through the clouds, of some accustomed object to direct her steps, till, exhausted by fatigue and fear, she reclined upon a dark rock, in the crevices of which, though it was now the heat of summer, there were many patches of snow. There she sat, in a state of feverish delirium, till a gentle air dispelled the dense vapour from before her feet, and discovered an enormous chasin, down which she must have fallen if she had taken another step. While breathing a silent prayer to Heaven for this providential escape, strange sounds were heard, as of some disembodied voice floating among the clouds. Suddenly she perceived, within a few paces, the figure of the wanderer tossing his arms in the air, his eye inflamed, and his general aspect wild and distracted ; he then appeared meditating a deed of sin ; she rushed towards him, and, clasping him in her arms, dragged him backwards, just as he was about to precipitate himself into the gulf below.

"Overcome by bodily fatigue and agitation of mind, they remained for some time in a state of insensibility. The brother first revived from his stupor ; and finding her whose image was pictured in his soul lying by his side, with her arms resting upon his shoulder, he believed for a moment that he must have executed the dreadful deed he had meditated, and waked in another world. The gentle form of the lady was again reanimated, and slowly she opened her beautiful eyes. She questioned him as to the purpose of his visit to that desolate spot : a full explanation took place of their mutual sensations, and they confessed the passion which consumed them.

"The sun was now high in heaven, the clouds of the morning had ascended to the loftiest Alps, and the mists—into their airy elements resolved—were gone. As the god of day advanced, dark valleys were suddenly illuminated, and lovely lakes brightened like mirrors among the hills, their waters sparkling with the fresh breeze of the morning ; the most beautiful clouds were sailing in the air, some breaking on the mountain-tops, and others resting on the sombre pines, or slumbering on the surface of the unilluminated valleys. The shrill whistle of the marmot was no longer heard, and the chamois had bounded to its inaccessible retreat. The vast range of the neighbouring Alps was next distinctly visible, and presented to the eyes of the beholders 'glory beyond all glory ever seen.'

"In the meantime a change had taken place in the feelings of the mountain-pair, which was powerfully strengthened by the glad face of nature ; the glorious hues of earth and sky seemed indeed to sanction and rejoice in their mutual happiness. The darker spirit of the brother had now fearfully overcome him ; the dreaming predictions of his most imaginative years appeared realised in their fullest extent, and the voice of prudence and of nature was inaudible amidst the intoxication of his joy. The object of his affection rested in his arms in a state of listless happiness, listening with enchanted ear to his wild and impassioned eloquence, and careless of all other sight or sound.

"She, too, had renounced her morning vows, and the convent was unthought of and forgotten. Crossing the mountains by wild and unfrequented paths, they took up their abode in a deserted cottage, formerly frequented by goat-herds and the hunters of the roe. On looking down, for the last time, from the mountain-top, on that delightful valley in which she had so long lived in innocence and peace, the lady thought of her departed mother, and her heart would have died within her, but the wild glee of