

the drama shall do?—to which the following pithy desire is responded:—"Marry! let him come forth and kill a giant!"

THE COMPLEXION OF MAN.

As the inferior animals over which man claims dominion, present us with diversities of colour, corresponding to the climates in which they live, so does the human race present us with certain varieties of complexion in all the different latitudes of the globe. Beneath the burning rays of a tropical sun, the complexion of man is of a deep jet black, as may be observed in the numerous tribes of African negroes; but as we proceed from the equator into more temperate climates, the complexion loses its darkened hue, and passes through all varieties of shade, until it becomes delicately fair. If, passing from the extreme of heat to the extreme of cold, we extend our observations to the highest northern latitudes, we shall there find that the human body becomes of a brownish or dusky hue, such as may be observed in the Laplander, Greenlander, and Esquimaux. We may, indeed, establish the following classification of complexions:—1. The white. 2. The yellow, or olive-coloured. 3. The red, or copper coloured. 4. The brown, or tawny coloured. 5. The deep ebony jet black. The original complexion of man has afforded matter for much speculation; but the general opinion of those who have examined the subject is, that he was not, as we flatter ourselves, of a white or fair, but of a dark complexion. When we consider that man was created in Asia, there is no extravagance in conjecturing that his complexion may have been of such a character.

Many persons have argued that such varieties and contrasts of complexion as are observed among different races of men, could not have arisen from external circumstances; wherefore they conclude, that more than one species of man must have been originally created. But the truth is, that the influence of light, heat, dry or moist air, food, soil, artificial habits, and very many other causes, which it is difficult even to enumerate, may, through a long succession of ages, have effected these changes. We have a proof of this in the Jews, who are undoubtedly derived from one parent stock; yet the English Jew has a fair complexion, the Portuguese Jew is swarthy, the American Jew is olive, the Arabian Jew is copper-coloured, and the African Jew is black. Here, then, we distinctly see the influence of climate on a people, who seldom or never intermarry with others of a different sect, and who have preserved their peculiar character, as a distinct nation, entire, amidst all the other inhabitants of the world.

Even in this country, the influence of climate upon the complexion is very obvious, as may be known by comparing the countenance of the rustic who toils in the open fields, or the seaman who traverses the "boundless plains of ocean," with that of the literary man in his retirement, or the mechanic, who, from sunrise to sunset, toils in a manufactory. Compare, too, the daughter of a rich noble, who has had the misfortune to have been born an heiress, and is educated for the display of her beauty in the fashionable world, with the daughter of the cottager, who has from her childhood, been accustomed to exercise in all weathers; in the one, the skin is exquisitely soft and smooth, and emulates in whiteness the purity of the winter snow; in the other, the skin is less smooth and fair, and the tinge of the life-blood is seen mantling below it; the one is a complexion indicative of a delicate or perhaps sickly constitution, which cannot withstand a winter blast or summer shower; the other indicates a being continually cheered by the conscious and animated glow of health.

In a foreign country, where the sun's rays fall more directly, and, therefore, with greater force, on the earth, exposure to their influence undoubtedly tans and darkens the complexion, as may be observed in all those who have returned from a long residence in India. Even among the natives in Africa, the women of the higher classes, who live much under shelter, and seldom expose themselves to the sun's rays, are of a lighter complexion than those who move about in the open air. It may be observed, too, that negro children, when born, are as fair as Europeans, and gradually afterwards become black. Besides this, the palms of the hands, the soles of the feet, and other parts of the body which are concealed from light, are not so dark in the adult African as those that are more exposed.

Here too, as in many other instances, a striking analogy may be traced between the causes influencing the complexion of man, and those influencing the colour of animals; for as plants and flowers spread forth richer hues in the cheerful light of the sun, than they do when drooping beneath continued clouds, so do the birds and animals of a tropical climate wear a gaudier plumage and a gayer covering than those which are destined to live in the snowy and gloomy regions of the north. Within the tropics, trees and plants generally attain the most luxuriant growth, and the air is often loaded with delicious perfumes. Here the peacock, the parrot, and the bird of paradise, sport their beautiful plumage; and the tiger with his bright stripes, the leopard with his spots, and the lion with his noble mane, seek the solitude of the forests; where, too, serpents, with the most glowing and dazzling hues of skin, may be seen reposing beneath the boughs of trees, or not unfrequently turning round their trunks. Even in Britain, birds that fly by day have a brighter and more varied plumage than those that only venture out by night; as may be seen by comparing the feathers of the goldfinch with those of the fowl. Animals, too, such as hares, rabbits, moles, &c. which burrow in the earth, and conceal themselves from light, generally assimilate in colour to the soil they frequent. Nor does the climate limit its influence only to the colour of animals; it affects the texture and nature of their coverings. Hence the dogs of New Guinea are nearly naked; those in the northern latitudes are covered with coarse woolly hair. In Africa the wool of the sheep degenerates into coarse hair. The colour of the plumage of birds, when domesticated, undergoes many changes. Some singing birds—principally those of the lark and finch kind—are known to become black when fed upon hemp seed. Owing to the varied influence of such causes, wheresoever we rest our eye on the surface of the globe, there do we behold a character peculiar to that region, not dependent alone upon the relations of its mountains or its vallies, its lakes or its rivers, but on all animate nature—the trees of the forest, the birds of the air, the animals both wild and tame, and man himself, who, like the rest, in the succession of ages, has localized himself, and found an appropriate habitation in every climate.

(To be continued.)

AGRICULTURAL.

The following is an extract from an address delivered by Mr. MOSELEY before the Essex county Agricultural Society, New England, September 25th, 1834. The subject may possibly be deemed chimerical by many in Nova Scotia, but every attentive and reflecting mind, must have observed with concern, that the ab-

undance of useful forest trees, with which this country has been furnished by the Great Cultivator of the soil, is rapidly diminishing; and that the time is not far distant when posterity, suffering under privations arising from the scarcity of every sort of useful timber, will look with surprise and regret, at the wasteful prodigality of their forefathers, not only in destroying the native forests, but also in neglecting to provide, by cultivation, a regular succession of such timber trees, as are alike necessary for ornament and utility in every country.

TIMBER TREES.

Viewing this as an interesting subject for our consideration, and growing of more and more importance every year, I shall venture to submit to you some remarks upon our forests, and fruit trees although at the hazard of being very uninteresting. Our wood lots are highly valuable for fuel, fences, and ships. The price of wood for fuel is already one of the heaviest articles of expense in every family. Our commonwealth, stretching along the sea shore, indented with bays, creeks and navigable rivers, has in past time found much employment in ship building, and if it be true, as has been asserted, that a ship of the line requires all the good wood which can be usually found on fifty acres of well wooded land, our prospect is alarming. From present appearances this business must soon be abandoned, from the want of suitable timber. A good wood lot is even now considered among our most valuable lands. What then must be its value in future time, if we go on in our present wasteful use of fuel?—Shall we have less need of it in time to come for our fires, fences, buildings and ships. Certainly, every year is rapidly reducing the quantity of wood, and shall we adopt the strange policy of the man, who would do nothing for posterity because posterity had done nothing for him? Our ancestors when they landed on those shores, found themselves surrounded by dense, impenetrable forests, where now are our cities, towns, villages and fields smiling with plenty; and they bestowed their greatest labour to subdue those impenetrable forests, and convert them to cultivated fields. There was then no need of economy. The very ashes were of more value than the wood, and some of the remaining fire places show with what improvident profusion they supplied their fires.

In order to increase our wood lots we must direct our attention to two objects. First, to preserve those which now remain, and second, to raise new plantations. I believe there is a difference of opinion among our farmers as to the best course of proceeding to preserve our forests. Some recommend selecting out the old and decaying trees for fuel, letting the younger growth stand, while others advise cutting clean in the winter season or when the sap is down. The latter is probably the most general and perhaps the better opinion. It is recommended to cut as near the ground as possible, in order that the new shoots may be thrown out near the roots. Particular care should be taken to exclude cattle, to prevent their cropping the young shoots. It is supposed the trees will attain a sufficient growth in about forty or fifty years to cut again.

For the purpose of increasing our wood lots it will be necessary to turn our attention to raising new plantations. In this country very few attempts have been made to produce wood lots by planting, but in Europe I believe it is very common. Some recommend planting the seed in nurseries, and then transplanting the young trees to the place, in the plantation where they are to stand; while others prefer planting the seed in the place where it is intended the tree should grow, because, in this way, it is said the young tree receives no check by short-