

them, the topics of flowers and birds are uncommon enough to be exceedingly attractive. In treating of these topics John Burroughs makes use of a style peculiarly his own. The main characteristics are:—

1. *Simplicity*.—The essays abound in words and sentences of plain Anglo-Saxon origin and arrangement. Taking an example at random, we find in the paper on 'Pastoral Bees' the following sentence:—"The honey-bee goes forth from the hive in spring like the dove from Noah's ark, and it is not till after many days that she brings back the olive leaf, which in this case is a pellet of golden pollen upon each hip, usually obtained from the elder or swamp willow." In this sentence there are 52 words; of these, 39 are monosyllables, 11 dissyllables, and 2 trisyllables; and this will serve as a sample of the whole. On the page from which the quotation is taken, there are 167 words. No less than 150 of them are Anglo-Saxon and the remaining 17 are the simplest forms of Latin and Greek derivatives. In a word, the style of John Burroughs is the style of the English Bible. One might almost imagine that he had made the King James' version his model and drawn his vocabulary therefrom. In this respect, there is a striking likeness to the diction of Ruskin. The same simple words, the same loyalty to the Anglo-Saxon, the same short, crisp sentences are found in the writings of these two masters of the English language.

2. *Vividness*.—No writer of English has a more thorough command of graphic phrases. In no feature of his work does Mr. Burroughs so completely individualize himself as in this. Some time ago, an article appeared in the *Century* on the Blue Grass region of Kentucky. Without knowing who had written it the writer began to read it. In the midst of the essay one of these peculiar expressions was found. There could be no doubt as to the authorship after that. No one but Burroughs would have conceived such a verbal combination. Turning to the end of the article, the guess was verified, for there was his name signed as the author. Here are a few examples. Speaking of the improvement wrought by the purchase of a new cow he says, "the milk had met with a change of heart." Alluding to the composition of the human frame being seven-tenths water—"Seven-tenths of the human race rained down but yesterday.