

the operation of human agency something of the same, though of a grosser kind, may be seen. We have not, it is true, the power of calling into existence, or of determining in an enduring shape, or of giving an embodied form to material atoms ; but in the same manner that nature, operating through ethereal undulations, creates the various forms of vegetable life, there has been committed to us a control over those grosser undulations which move in atmospheric air, and constitute sound. The imagination, the genius of the great masters of music, have already grouped together combinations of these waves, which are destined to an earthly immortality ; combinations, which, when once heard, leave their indelible impression on the memory, and are to us an embodiment of symmetry and harmony. These ideal creations which exist only for the mind, are analogous, in very many points of view, to those more tangible creations which are formed by ethereal waves, and which nature has reserved in her own hands. The symmetrical or beautiful forms which are transmitted to the brain by the eye, appeal at last to that same, that common principle which receives melodious or harmonious sounds transmitted by the ear ; and the creations of human genius, whether they be expressed in the language of music or painting, whether they are heard in the cathedral or seen on the canvass of Claude Lorraine, give us pleasure, because their final impression is made on a mathematical organ, which is so constructed as to appreciate whatever is symmetrical in position, whatever is graceful in figure, whatever is harmonious in movement.

From this point of view, therefore, I look upon the vegetable world as an embodiment of the action of ethereal agents. A tree, when covered with blossoms in the spring, or laden with fruit in the autumn, is a resultant of the play of those active forces which have been emitted by the sun ; an expression of what has been done by vibratory movements operating on ponderable molecules. As soon as the young plant has exposed itself to the solar beam, growth rapidly begins to take place, and organized matter to be condensed from the air, and now a green color is developed, and the stem elongates, and leaves are put forth. In carrying forward all those multiplied operations which have ended in these events, its leaves and its stem have gone upward in search of light—light which has symmetrically arranged their parts and furnished their substance. But these general views are far from giving us an accurate idea of the forces that have been expended or the motions which have been executed in producing the result we contemplate. A forest tree, from its magnitude, rising perhaps a hundred feet from the ground, and spreading its branches over hundreds of square yards, may impress us with a sense of sublimity ; a section of