

THE NATURAL STEPS.

(On the Montmorenci.)

THIS is, unquestionably, one of the most remarkable, and at the same time, most picturesque, localities in a district famed for its sublime landscapes. The river is here circumscribed in a deep channel worn out of the limestone, which forms the banks, in successive layers, almost as regular as the ruined walls of some ancient edifice. As seen in the Plate, the stream appears to pass on and to lose itself under the impending rocks, which are crowned with a gorgeous profusion of birch and pine that, notwithstanding the scantiness of the soil, have managed to find there both foothold and nourishment. Here COWPER might have realized his ideal of a "boundless contiguity of shade," and as much solitude as his soul desired, for, the occasional visitors and trout-fishers excepted, the region is uninhabited, except by the feathered and finny tribes. Few places, however, are more deserving of inspection, and we have no doubt that, in after days, it will be a favourite resort to the lovers of nature in her most reticent and original moods. Many a fine sketch and drawing may be taken here, as well as many a fine speckled trout, and, by the way, our landscape painter, KREIGHOFF, has produced some pictures of this very locality, which, for richness of coloring, and beauty of finish, may and do, favorably compare with works which have procured for their authors a world-wide reputation.