

## "Loveliness

Needs not the foreign aid of ornament,  
But is when unadorned adorned the most."

And confident am I that such would not be the case, were the constitutional bias of the young for natural objects more faithfully cultivated, and artificial objects made to assume in their estimation a proper, that is, a subordinate place.

Another most pernicious effect resulting from this artificial state of things in society, is that strong love of romance, which now almost constitutes a universal passion. At least one fifth part of all the works published in this country are works of fiction; and probably one half of the works actually read are of this description. And they are devoured with epicurean greediness by almost all classes, especially by the young. Need I stop to convince this audience, that the time and mental effort devoted to the preparation and perusal of such works are much worse than wasted? that they engender views and feelings decidedly hostile to thorough mental discipline, and to temporal and eternal happiness? Now, if a love of nature were early and thoroughly cultivated in the youthful bosom, I am confident that usually it would forestall the love of fiction. For does the youth resort to works of romance because he wishes to gratify a natural taste for the new and the beautiful? Where can he find such novelty and such beauty as nature unfolds? Is it a love of variety that makes romance so fascinating? Here, too, nature is as superior to human invention as the Author of nature is to man. Or is it a love of the marvellous and the magnificent that constitutes the chief attraction of the dreams of imagination? O, where are the wonders and sublimities that can be compared to those which open before the student of nature at every step? — wonders of fact, and not of fiction; on which,