

times. We are informed by Barthius, in his notes on Statius's "Thebais," that on the banks of the Naha, between Coblenz and Bingen, an echo repeated the words of a man seventeen times; and although the repetition is, in most echoes, heard after the word or note of the person who speaks or sings, in this instance the repetitions follow the original sound so rapidly and clearly, with such varieties, that the voice seems to be lost in the multitude of mimicry.

In times when men were less interested in the investigation of the causes of the phenomena they heard or saw, the echo must have exceedingly perplexed them. Were we permitted to indulge imagination, it would not be difficult to picture to ourselves the amazement and consternation with which an inhabitant of the newly-peopled earth would be seized, when he first heard the rocks far and near reiterating the broken sentences that escaped from his lips, as he wandered alone by the banks of a river, or chased the deer in the mountains. There is much in external nature calculated to awaken that consciousness of invisible power which resides in every bosom that has not been entirely contaminated by vice. The Greeks, whose luxuriant imaginations were ever active in the personification of natural phenomena, have given to echo a place among the gods. The reader will recall to memory her history. She is described as the daughter of Air and Tellus, the attendant of Juno, and the confidant of Jupiter. Her loquacity, however, displeased the god, and she was so far deprived of speech as to only have the power of reply when spoken to. Pan was once her admirer, but never enjoyed her smiles. Narcissus was the object of her choice, but he despised her, and she pined to death, though her voice is still heard on the earth. It is unnecessary to point out the aptness and beauty of this personification.

We might here close our description of atmospheric phenomena, and introduce some remarks upon air in motion, under the head of "appearances dependant on the distribution of heat;" but we shall, perhaps, best maintain the order of our subjects by an allusion to the phenomena in this place.

WIND.

The equilibrium of the atmosphere may be destroyed, and streams or currents of air be produced, by a variety of causes, but change of temperature is by far the most important. Air,