

THE TWO FLORAS, MARINE AND TERRESTRIAL.

BEARING OF THE EXPERIENCE ARGUMENT.

Is the reader acquainted with the graphic verse, and scarce less graphic prose, in which Crabbe describes the appearances presented by a terrestrial vegetation affected by the waters of the sea? In both passages, as in all his purely descriptive writings, there is a solidity of truthful observation exhibited, which triumphs over their general homeliness of vein.

“ On either side

Is level fen, a prospect wild and wide,
 With dykes on either hand, by ocean self-supplied.
 Far on the right the distant sea is seen,
 And salt the springs that feed the marsh between ;
 Beneath an ancient bridge the straitened flood
 Rolls through its sloping banks of slimy mud ;
 Near it a sunken boat resists the tide,
 That frets and hurries to the opposing side ;
 The rushes sharp, that on the borders grow,
 Bend their brown florets to the stream below,
 Impure in all its course, in all its progress slow.
 Here a grave Flora scarcely deigns to bloom,
 Nor wears a rosy blush, nor sheds perfume.
 The few dull flowers that o'er the place are spread,
 Partake the nature of their fenny bed ;
 Here on its wiry stem, in rigid bloom,
 Grows the salt lavender, that lacks perfume ;