

planets,—of the asteroids rather,—whose atmosphere rises over it to more than ten times the height of the atmosphere of our own planet ; I have looked up to the branches that twisted and interlaced themselves so high over head, and the leaves that seemed sleeping in the light ; I have seen the deep blue sky far beyond ; I have caught glimpses through the chance vistas of little open spaces, shaggy with a rank vegetation, and which I have loved to deem the haunts of a solitude still deeper than that which surrounded me ; I have marked the varieties of beauty which distinguish the several denizens of the forest,—the ash, with his long massy arms, that shoot off from the trunk at such acute angles, and his sooty blossoms spread over him as if he wore mourning,—the elm, with his trunk gnarled and furrowed like an Egyptian column, and his flake-like foliage laid on in strips that lie nearly parallel to the horizon,—the plane, with his dark green leaves and dense heavy outline, like that of a thundercloud,—the birch, too, a tree evidently of the gentler sex, with her long flowing tresses falling down to her knee ; and as I looked above and around, I felt my heart swelling with an exquisite emotion, that feasts on the grand and the beautiful as its proper food ; and surely that mind must be chilled and darkened by the pall of a death-like scepticism, that does not expand with love and gratitude, under the influence of so exquisite a feeling, to the great and wonderful Being who has imparted so much of good and fair to the forms of inanimate nature, and has bestowed on the creature such a capacity of enjoying them.—*March 7, 1840.*