

whins, with the chirp of the grasshopper and the hum of the bee.

“Now, we had scarce ended our converse, when, looking out at the end window, I saw Rhoda coming her lane along the road ; and, seeing she might be solitary in her own spirit among such a meeting of near friends, I went out to the door to bring her in myself. It was a very bonny day, as I have said, and the bairns being round upon the lawn at the other side, there was but a far-off sound of their voices, and every-thing else as quiet as it could be under the broad, warm, basking sun,—*so quiet, that you heard the crack of the seed husks on a great bush of gorse near at hand,—a sound that ever puts me in mind of moorland places, and of the very heart and heat of sunny days.* Rhoda, poor bairn, was in very deep black, as it behoved her to be, and was coming in a kind of wandering thoughtful way her lane down the bright sandy road, and below the broad branches of the chestnut trees, that scarce had a rustle in them, so little air was abroad ; and the bit crush of her foot upon the sand was like to a louder echo of the whins, and made a very strange kind of harmony in the quietness.”

This wholesome and very interesting novel is calculated to exert a salutary influence, and to yield, besides, much pleasure in the perusal. Like all the other works of its authoress, it is thoroughly truthful ; there is no exaggeration of character or incident ; events such as it narrates occur in real life ; and the men and women which it portrays may be met in ordinary society, though the better ones are unluckily not very common. And yet a wild romance, full of all sorts of marvels and monstrosities, could scarce amuse so much even a youthful reader, far less readers of sober years. In nothing, however, has the work more merit than in its representations of the religious character. Here, also, there is no exaggeration. The natural temperament is exhibited as exerting its inevitable influence. Rhoda's half-sister, Grace, for instance, though one of the excellent, is not at all so loveable a person as Mrs Margaret, just because *in her*, religion was set on what was originally a more wilful and less loving nature ; and we find this thoroughly truthful distinction maintained throughout. In short, this latest pro-