

side of natural science, which does not try to comprehend nature through the artificial arrangement or classification of a museum, but in those connections, among her own animate and inanimate objects, which constitute reality, and are the characteristics of life and development. It was the real, not the artificial, Jardin des Plantes, where he and his successors tried to study natural objects and the habits of living beings.¹ Another re-

Many animals, till then accounted rare, are now known to exist as common objects, while the annals of science have received many important additions of animals altogether new to natural history records—discoveries which have caused the Firth of Clyde, and more particularly the Cumbrae Islands, to become one of the best explored and most widely known districts of Britain" (Gray, Secretary of the Glasgow Natural History Society, quoted by Thomas R. R. Stebbing in his 'Naturalist of Cumbrae,' London, 1891).

William Pearson (1767-1847) of Borderside, Crosthwaite, near Kendal, was a self-educated yeoman, who after many years spent in a bank at Manchester retired to a small patrimonial estate on the southern border of Westmorland. He possessed a choice collection of books, representing fully the English poets of all ages, and in translation the best German authors. "Of the habits of birds and other native creatures around him he was a watchful observer, and he described them in purest English with a charm that suggested no disadvantageous comparison with White of Selborne" (see Groves, 'Life of Hamilton,' vol. iii. p. 15). He was a friend of Wordsworth.

To this list, which could be indefinitely extended, I might add another, beginning with Thomas

Bewick (1753-1828), the reviver of wood-engraving in England, who lent his art and life to the delineation of nature. 'British Birds' (1797-1804) is a standard work on the borderland of art and science, in which many other British artists have, in humbler or more extensive fields, laboured with so much faithfulness and success.

¹ The 'Complete Angler' and the 'Natural History of Selborne,' are types of a class of literature peculiar to this country. In these classical productions we are introduced into the nursery of English thought, poetry—nay, of science itself. These, as the nation draws ultimately its wealth from the produce and culture of the land, on their part receive valuable ideas from a study of nature. The purity and originality of English art and poetry have their home in the same region. Gilbert White (1720-93) was born and lived in the little Hampshire village of Selborne. He was one of five brothers, all of whom, in various positions and vocations of life, followed the study of nature in its minute and local aspects, combining with it an antiquarian taste. He may not only be classed with the naturalists, but belongs also to that class of writers, peculiar also to England, who devote their time to the compilation of local records, of county histories, and to the preservation of the relics and memorials