

or of "sighing sent," by the "parting genius,"

"From haunted spring and dale,
Edged with poplar pale."

We find occasional glimpses of the same dank scenery in Collins, Cowper, and Crabbe ; and very frequent ones, in our own times, in the graphic descriptions of Alfred Tennyson and Thomas Hood.

"One willow o'er the river wept,
And shook the wave as the wind did sigh ;
Above in the wind sported the swallow,
Chasing itself at its own wild will ;
And far through the marish green, and still,
The tangled water-courses slept,
Shot over with purple, and green, and yellow."

Not less striking is at least one of the pictures drawn by Hood :—

"The coot was swimming in the reedy pool,
Beside the water-hen, so soon affrighted ;
And in the weedy moat, the heron, fond
Of solitude, alighted ;
The moping heron, motionless and stiff,
That on a stone as silently and stilly
Stood, an apparent sentinel, as if
To guard the water-lily."

The watery flats of the country have had also their influence on the popular superstitions. The delusive tapers that spring up a-nights from stagnant bogs and fens must have been of frequent appearance in the more marshy districts of England ; and we accordingly find, that of all the national goblins, the goblin of the wandering night-fire, whether recognized as Jack-of-the-Lantern or Will-of-the-Wisp, was one of the best known.