

ments which we have already named, viz., the description of nature when springing from an animated impression of terrestrial forms; the delineative art of landscape painting; and, lastly, the direct objective consideration of the characteristic features of natural forms. The power exercised by these incitements is, however, limited to the sphere embraced by modern cultivation, and to those individuals whose minds have been rendered more susceptible to such impressions by a peculiar disposition, fostered by some special direction in the development of their mental activity.

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DESCRIPTION OF NATURE.—THE DIFFERENCE OF FEELING EXCITED BY THE CONTEMPLATION OF NATURE AT DIFFERENT EPOCHS AND AMONG DIFFERENT RACES OF MEN.

It has often been remarked that, although the enjoyment derived from the contemplation of nature was not wholly unknown to the ancients, the feeling was, nevertheless, much more rarely, and less vividly expressed than in modern times. In his considerations on the poetry of the sentiments, Schiller thus expresses himself:\* “If we bear in mind the beautiful scenery with which the Greeks were surrounded, and remember the opportunities possessed by a people living in so genial a climate, of entering into the free enjoyment of the contemplation of nature, and observe how conformable were their mode of thought, the bent of their imaginations, and the habits of their lives to the simplicity of nature, which was so faithfully reflected in their poetic works, we can not fail to remark with surprise how few traces are to be met among them of the sentimental interest with which we, in modern times, attach ourselves to the individual characteristics of natural scenery. The Greek poet is certainly, in the highest degree, correct, faithful, and circumstantial in his descriptions of nature, but his heart has no more share in his words than if he were treating of a garment, a shield, or a suit of armor. Nature seems to interest his understanding more than his moral perceptions; he does not cling to her charms with the fervor and the plaintive passion of the poet of modern times.”

However much truth and excellence there may be in these

\* See Schiller's *Sämmtliche Werke*, 1826, bd. xviii., s. 231, 473, 480, 486; Gervinus, *Neuere Gesch. der Poet. National-Litteratur der Deutschen*, 1840, bd. i., s. 135; Adolph Bekker, in *Charikles*, th. i., s. 219. Compare, also, Eduard Müller, *Ueber Sophokleische Naturanschauung und die tiefe Naturempfindung der Griechen*, 1842, s. 10, 26.