

member, "how, by the force of the impregnated vapor, the earth was distended like a bladder filled with air, or like the skin of the goat."

It is especially to be regretted that Tibullus should have left no great composition descriptive of the individual character of nature. Among the poets of the Augustan age, he belongs to the few who, being happily strangers to the Alexandrian learning, and devoted to seclusion and a rural life, drew with feeling, and therefore with simplicity, from the resources of their own mind. Elegies,* of which the landscape only constitutes the back-ground, must certainly be regarded as mere pictures of social habits; but the *Lustration of the Fields*, and the Sixth Elegy of the first book, show us what was to have been expected from the friend of Horace and of Messala.

Lucan, the grandson of the rhetorician M. Annæus Seneca, certainly resembles the latter too much in the rhetorical oration of his diction, but yet we find among his works an admirable and vividly truthful picture of the destruction of a Druidic forest† on the now treeless shores of Marseilles. The half-severed oaks support themselves for a time by leaning tottering against each other, and, stripped of their leaves, suffer the first ray of light to pierce their awful and sacred gloom. He who has long lived amid the forests of the New World must feel how vividly the poet, with a few touches, has depicted the luxuriant growth of trees, whose colossal remains lie buried in some of the turf moors of France. In the didactic poem of *Ætna* by Lucilius the younger, a friend of L. Annæus Seneca, we certainly meet with a truthful description of the phenomena attending the eruption of a volcano; but the conception has much less of individuality than the work entitled *Ætna Dialogus*,‡ by Bembo, of which we have already spoken in terms of praise.

"Est prope purpureos colles florentis Hymetti"

(Ovid, *de Arte. Am.*, iii., 687), which, as Ross has remarked, is one of the rare instances that occur of individual delineations of nature referring to a definite locality. The poet describes the fountain of Kallia, sacred to Aphrodite, so celebrated in antiquity, which breaks forth on the western side of Hymettus, otherwise so scantily supplied with water. (See Ross, Letter to Professor Vuross, in the *Griech. Medicin. Zeitschrift*, June, 1837.)

* Tibullus, ed. Voss, 1811, *Eleg.*, lib. i., 6, 21-34; lib. ii., 1, 37-66.

† Lucan, *Phars.*, iii., 400-452 (vol. i., p. 374-384, Weber).

‡ The poem of Lucilius, which is very probably a part of a larger poetic work, on the natural characteristics of Sicily, was ascribed by