REFLECTIONS ON THE WORKS OF GOD, AND ON HIS PROVIDENCE IN THE REGIONS OF NATURE, AND IN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNIVERSE. A NEW TRANSLATION, AUTUMN

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CHRISTOPH CHRISTIAN STURM

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REFLECTIONS

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FROM THE GERMAN OF

CHRISTOPHER CHRISTIAN STURM.

A New Translation.

AUTUMN.

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JULY.

1. Foreign plants.—2. The transformation of caterpillars.—3. The silkworm.—4. The rainbow.—5. Birds' nests.—6. Pleasures derived from the contemplation of nature.—7. Flower garden.—8. Storms.—9. Ants.—10. Hail.—11. Thunder storms.—12. Primitive constitution of the earth.—13. Changes of the moon.—14. Mineral waters.—15. Continual activity of nature.—16. Utility of meadows.—17. Morning twilight.—18. Pleasures of the country—Evening twilight.—19. The May fly.—20. Nothing perishes in nature.—21. Diversity of climates.—22. Peculiar properties of the sea.—23. Variety of tints observable in flowers.—24. Intense heats of summer.—25. Animal instincts.—26. The human countenance.—27. Attraction of bodies.—28. Different effects in nature produced by the same cause.—29. Diseases of plants.—30. Means of subsistence that nature provides for animals.—31. Variety in the structure of mankind.

STURM'S REFLECTIONS.

JULY 1.

FOREIGN PLANTS.

All our corns and a great number of our vegetables came originally from foreign countries, and principally from warmer climates: the greater part have been translated from Italy, which received them from the Greeks, and these, again, from the east. When America was discovered, a great number of plants and flowers unknown in the eastern hemisphere were transplanted to Europe, and have flourished exceedingly: in England particularly the plants of North America have been most successfully cultivated, and still continue to be so.

Those various species of corn which are most used as wholesome food, both for men and animals, are called grass plants: although they now cover our fields, they are nevertheless foreign to our climate. Rye and wheat are indigenous to Little Tartary and Siberia, where they still flourish without culture: as for barley and oats, we know not from whence they come; they requiring cultivation convinces us that they are

not natives of our country. Rice is the indigenous production of Ethiopia, from whence it was at first transported to the east and afterwards to Italy: in the beginning of the last century it was introduced into America, and now large quantities are annually imported by the European countries from the western hemisphere. Buckwheat came originally from Asia: during the time of the crusades it became known in Italy and Germany.

The greater part of our greens and vegetables have the same origin. Borage comes from Syria, cress from Crete, cauliflowers from Cyprus, and asparagus from Asia: we are indebted to Italy for the chervil, to Spain and Portugal for dill, and to the Canaries for fennel: garlic is the production of the east, and chives and shalots of Siberia, and radishes of China: kidney beans came originally from the East Indies, and the gourd from Astracan; lentils from France, and potatoes from Brazil: tobacco was found by the Spaniards at Tobago, a province of Yucatan, in America.

The chief ornaments of our gardens, the finest flowers, are also the production of foreign countries: Jessamine was originally brought from the East Indies; Spanish alder from Persia; the tulip from Cappadocia; the narcissus from Italy; the lily from Syria; the tuberose from Java and China; the pink from Italy; the asters from China, &c.

Let us meditate with gratitude and joy upon these numerous gifts of Heaven. How bountifully has the Almighty provided for our hap-

piness and our pleasures, in rendering the most distant countries tributaries to us! But let us consider a little the constitution of the globe we inhabit: there is constantly a universal transplantation of rare animals and plants from one place to another, and this change will not cease until the world itself shall be dissolved.

In whatever clime it shall please thee to transplant me, O Lord! may I make it my constant aim to bear fruits useful and beneficial to my fellow creatures, till at last I shall arrive in those regions of bliss where there shall be no vicissitudes, neither sorrow nor pain!

JULY 2.

THE TRANSFORMATION OF CATERPILLARS.

THE transformation of caterpillars into butterflies is one of those phenomena which have great claims upon our attention. The preparatory state previous to this change is very surprising: the caterpillar having cast its skin three or four times, it gradually sinks into a state of torpor, assuming a form that bears no resemblance to a living creature. The insect remains in this state one, two, or three weeks, sometimes even ten months, until its transformation is completed, when it makes its way out of its shell, and soars in the air as a beautiful butterfly.

There are two kinds of butterflies: the wings of the one kind close perpendicularly, those of the other horizontally; the former fly during the day, the latter at night. The caterpillars from