

COMMUNINGS WITH NATURE.*

No. IV.

Autumn Leaves.

BY GRACE AGUILAR.

AUTUMN leaves ! how beautiful
 Your fading glories are ;
 O'er hill and dell, o'er wood and fell
 Ye shed rich light afar.

Of ev'ry gorgeous hue and shade,
 Brown, ruddy, green, and gold ;
 Each change more brilliantly array'd,
 New glowing rays unfold.

With smiles of trusting love, ye gild
 The pathway to the tomb,
 Till Nature, e'en in death, seems fill'd
 With loveliness and bloom.

Ye deck with beauty, e'en decay,
 And meet with chasten'd mirth
 The winds that bear ye far away
 To moulder on the earth.

Oh beautiful ! most beautiful,
 The lesson that ye speak ;
 So richly clad, in beauty glad,
 To whisper to the meek—

“ Fear not ! the Hand which robes the tree
 In glory e'er it fade,
 Hath dearer mercy, man, for thee,
 E'en in death's gloomy shade.

* The lines to “ Summer,” in our August number ought to have been marked No. III. of this series.

“ His love will bless for thee with light
 The valley of decay,
 And fill thy soul with thoughts as bright
 As Autumn’s glorious ray.

“ ’Tis beauty, all around, above,
 To shout, with thrilling voice,
 ‘ God loveth all, with such dear love,
 He bids e’en death rejoice.’ ”

JEWISH SCHOOLS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE OCCIDENT,

SOME time ago I read, with delight, in the Occident, an article to establish a Jewish colony in the United States; and, although I cannot agree with the writer on the expediency of the plan in all its details, still there are many feasible points which might prove beneficial to those of our brethren who labour under civil disabilities in Europe. At some future period, I intend to discuss this matter more fully, and am of opinion some plan could be formed for the amelioration of the condition of our disfranchised brethren in aristocratic and despotic countries of the old world, in particular Russia and the petty governments of Germany, where bigotry sways its sceptre. But, Mr. Editor, “Charity commences at home,” is an old adage; and before I, as an humble individual, would exercise my efforts in aiding in the formation of a Jewish colony, my exertions must first be exercised in the establishment of Hebrew Public Schools, where our children can be educated in accordance with our faith, without being compelled to listen to the reading and expounding of other religious tenets. Let me not be misunderstood in using the word *compulsion*; there exists so much liberality in the public school system, that no child, contrary to the wishes of its parents, is forced to recite from the New Testament; but you will agree with me, that our children, in particular those of a very tender age, imbibe a considerable