

THE  
HESPERIAN STUDENT.

Qui non Proficit, Deficit.

VOL. VIII.

JANUARY, 1879.

NO. 1

THE POET'S GRAVE.

BY BAYARD TAYLOR.

'Twas in a sunny forest nook,  
With flowers and moss o'ergrown;  
Where naught was heard but the bees' low  
hum.

Or the wild wind's liquid tone—  
They laid the gentle bard to rest.  
When life's wild dream was o'er,  
When the lyre he woke with magic power  
Gave forth its notes no more.

The elm's long boughs droop o'er the turf,  
Like mourners weeping by,  
And there, in Spring, the violet first  
Looks up with mild blue eye;  
And when the forests in the garb  
Of summer proudly wave,  
A thousand low, sweet melodies  
Float mournful 'round his grave.

A holy calm breathes o'er the spot,  
The trees dark shadows fling,  
Save when through twining boughs quick  
gleams  
The wild bird's flashing wing.  
There, when the sunset's glow decays,  
Bright forms with sunny hair  
Glide slowly through the forest aisles,  
Then fade in twilight air.

THE ORIGIN OF LANGUAGE.

The origin of Language Science has not yet discovered. Various theories more or less plausible have been propounded by eminent philologists, but none has as yet met with general acceptance. The question, how did speech originate, still allures and baffles the student of language. Unsatisfactory, however, as is any answer yet given, when viewed in the light of actual demonstration, it will, nevertheless, be conceded by all who have given attention to the subject, that many valuable data have been furnished for a better and clearer understanding of the problem.

There are two methods by which primitive man may have come into the possession of speech. Language may have been supernaturally communicated, and was thus directly a divine gift; or it was a purely human product, obtained by the natural outplay of the human faculties. The first theory has, among recent writers, few supporters. There is no warrant, it is said, for supposing that speech originated in this way. It is not in accordance with analogy, nor is it in harmony with the principles of the divine government that man should be supernaturally provided with what he is himself capable of producing. Science, by which we