

Νήπιοι ἂδ' ἴσασιν ὅσῳ πλέον ἤμισυ πάντ' ὄσ' ὅσον ἐν μαλάχῃ τε καὶ ἀσφοδέλῳ μεγ' ὕνειρα.

"Fools, who do not know how much a half is better than the whole, nor how much good resides in the mallow and the asphodel.* The Jesuit Rapin in his excellent poem, *Horti*, "the Gardens," admits also this plant as affording a sort of aliment.

"*Quemque olim Ascræus celebravit carmine vates
Asphodelum veseâ sese radice ferentem
Et Bysantini dictum de nomine regis.*"

From her esculent root now stately springs
Fair Asphodel, whom tuneful Ascræ sings,
And named from one of th' old Bysantine Kings.
Who that King was, Father Rapin does not tell.

The author of *Lalla Rookh*, as a skilful gardener, transplants the mystic flower from the dark regions of Erebus to a terrestrial paradise, and tell us with his usual mode of expression :

"Sleeping in light like the green birds that dwell
In Eden's radiant fields of Asphodel."

But to return. I suspect that the Mœnian bard held in mental view some plant, (if he had then any plant in view) which probably claimed more of existence from his creative imagination than from reality. However, the fantastical supposition—that plots of Asphodel, in golden blossoms of everlasting bloom, bordered the melancholy walks where the "gibberish" multitude retained their ancient whims and ways in the Elysian fields, obtained such currency on Parnassus, that nearly all poets received and passed it as of lawful coinage. Yet in his beautiful and minute description of the mansion of the dead, Virgil does not name this flower, although he describes his heroic phantoms, reclining on the grass—*per herbam vescentes*. Perhaps he understood the words *ασφοδελον λειμωνα* in a sense far different from that which commentators, before and after him, have adopted. In the supposition that the name of the plant means "free from ashes" might not that word, coupled with *λειμωνα*, a meadow, mean the high grass and luxuriant herbs growing spontaneously there without the help of a manure consisting generally of ashes—*Faecunda sine cinere pascua*?—So thick a veil hangs between us and the nature of Homer's Asphodel, that Pope himself being asked: "Pray, what is the Asphodel of Homer - - -?"—"Why," he answered, "I believe, if one was to say the truth, 'twas nothing else but that poor yellow flower that grows about our orchards—and if so, the verse might be translated in English :

----- The stern Achilles

Stalk'd through a mead of Daffodillies."

SPENCE'S ANECD.

* Hesiod means that a moderate income is more conducive to happiness than a great fortune, and that a vegetable diet is more wholesome than all the dainties of an Apician table.

LAPLAND LOVES.

[For the annexed brief account of the Laplanders, who are now with the reindeer in this country, we are indebted to our ingenious friend Mr. Bullock; his unadorned narrative of the story of those Beings, on whose fate his enterprise has had so vital an

effect, is to us most interesting, and we are sure must excite a strong feeling in the breasts of the thousands who have seen the simple JENS and KARINE.]

Olé Sandesen, an adventurous and speculative Norwegian, conceived the idea of advantageously naturalizing the Rein Deer in his native country; and, to remove every obstacle, disposed of his little possessions in Norway, and travelled through all parts of Northern Europe, for the purpose of selecting specimens of the finest breeds from Siberia, Finland, Russian and Norwegian Lapland. In the latter country, he purchased the whole herd of an inhabitant who was there considered to be in good circumstances; he was the father of Karine, and Jens his herdsman was born in his service. It appears that a mutual attachment had existed between these young persons from their infancy; and that proposals of marriage had been made by Jens, and rejected by the father of Karine, just before the arrival of the stranger Olé Sandesen, who, when he had purchased the herd of Rein Deer intrusted to the care of Jens, proposed to him to conduct them to Norway. The offer was accepted, and he prepared (a very uncommon circumstance for a Laplander) to leave his native wilds. Karine, in a state of distraction, left her father's dwelling, and eloped with her lover: they were married by the parish Priest at Roras, and accompanied their new master with his colony of Rein Deer about eight hundred miles over the most mountainous and desolate country in the world, and at length arrived at the lofty and snow-capped mountains of Seerdahl, where their head quarters were fixed at the residence of a mountain farmer, called Gorgan Figeland. The King of Sweden, hearing that Sandesen had planted, in his new dominions, a colony which promised considerable advantages to his subjects, rewarded his labours by the present of a large sum of money. This flattering appreciation of his services, induced the indefatigable Norwegian to undertake a second time his perilous journey. He therefore placed his Seerdahl establishment under the superintendence of Figeland, and the immediate care of Jens and Karine, and, aided by the royal bounty, he again penetrated into the most remote parts of the North, to add to the number and value of his stock. It is now three years since he left Norway, and he has not yet been heard of. In the mean time, the herd of Deer suffered much from the body of wolves that had followed them from Lapland, and which had been considerably augmented on the route over the mountains of Norway. The inhabitants of Christiansand and its neighbouring towns were at length obliged to raise a subscription to buy poison for the destruction of those unwelcome visitors; and the avarice of Figeland led him not only to sell and slaughter many of the finest Deer, but also to discharge the faithful little couple and their child (the boy now in London.) They were at this period penniless, destitute of any means of returning home, and incapable of being employed in agriculture; and, in this forlorn condition, wan-

dered through the country, subsisting only on the casual bounty of its thinly scattered inhabitants, until they reached Stravanga, where its comparatively wealthy population supplied them with a more comfortable existence, but did not supply the means of returning to Lapland.

"About this period (Mr. Bullock writes us) I left England, intending for Swedish Finland to procure Rein Deer, for making in this country an experiment similar to that of Olé Sandesen, when I was informed of what had already been done by a Norwegian gentleman from Stravanga, whilst crossing the Baltic in the Steam-boat from Kiel to Copenhagen. This intelligence induced me to change my route, and I passed from Elsinæur to Gottenburg, travelled through Sweden to Stronstadt, and on the road visited the falls of Troletta. At Stronstadt I hired a large open boat, in which I crossed to Norway, and coasted to Christiansand; and then travelled by land and water to Fleckfjord, entering the interior, by ascending the banks of the magnificent Dorga, whose waterfalls and scenery, the finest in Europe, were probably never before viewed by an English eye. I now reached the mountains of Figeland, and purchased nearly the whole remaining herd of Deer brought by Olé Sandesen; and upon inquiry for the Lapland herdsman, was informed, he might probably be met with in Stravanga. Thither I immediately repaired, and at last found him, and in a few days re-united him to his old Lapland friends, with whom, and his wife, he most willingly accompanied me to England; and he gratefully acknowledges that the kindness and munificence of its inhabitants have recompensed him for years of past suffering."

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

THE UNICORN.

Mr. Campbell has brought with him from Mashow, in Africa, the head of an animal which is believed by many, and it is endeavoured to prove, to be the Unicorn of Holy Writ. It is in the museum of the Missionary Society, and has been inspected by several Naturalists, who are divided in opinion on the subject. We have only seen a drawing of it, and from that, as well as from the information of intelligent persons, are inclined to consider it the cranium of the double-horned rhinoceros (so called from a small horn immediately behind the long projecting one;) but as the point is of the highest interest, we shall have a print of the head engraved, and insert it with the particulars (if ready) in our next week's Gazette.

RUSSELL INSTITUTION: MR. RENNIE'S LECTURES.

The interests of Science would be incalculably benefited, and the number of its votaries rapidly increased, were its dissemination generally attempted on the principle which presides in the course of lectures on Natural Philosophy now in delivery at the Russell Institution. The object is to for-