

of the supernatural, the world of apparitions, conscience, sin, punishment, and the doings of the devil.

The first, of 'two ships becalmed on a torpid sea', which she thinks of as 'marine phantoms', is probably that shown in Plate F. Next comes the 'fiend pinning down the thief's pack behind him', which Jane passes over quickly as 'an object of terror' (Plate G). Finally, and equally terrifying, there is the 'black, horned thing seated aloof on a rock, surveying a distant crowd surrounding a gallows' (Plate H). Of these last two vignettes the 'devil' always appears in *Land Birds*, and the 'fiend' usually does so. That Charlotte transferred them to Jane's volume of *Water Birds* is an indication of their value for her purpose.

Jane passes quickly over the 'fiend'; why is it 'an object of terror'? The answer lies in her individual interpretation of the picture. To the adult eye, the fiend, black, horned, winged and tailed, is levering at some traveller's bundle to help him hoist it to his back. Whatever the contents – Stedman suggests a body – it is soft and heavy. One should compare the vignette, I am sure, with another of similar tone, in Bewick's *Fables of Aesop*, 1818.<sup>22</sup> In this, shown in Plate J, a poacher carries on his back a bundle which casts a shadow in the shape of a devil like this one with horns, wings, and tail. The child Jane, however, thinks of her picture as showing the fiend's grasp upon some thieving sinner, 'pinning down' on him the burden of his crime.

The 'black, horned thing' on the rock is even more haunting. It puffs at a pipe as it flies past the rock – 'the Devil's Pipe', Ruskin called it.<sup>23</sup> Did Bewick intend such a pun? Clearly, this devil is 'piping' for, or watching for, someone. For whom? For the criminal dying on the distant gallows? For the crowd enjoying the spectacle of his execution? Or, perhaps, for all sinners, whether found out in their sins or not? In the Calvinistic context that is soon to be made plain to Jane by Mr Brocklehurst, the devil is always abroad on business that bodes ill to naughty little girls. Says the servant Abbot in chapter ii, 'If you

E 'the quite solitary churchyard'

F 'the two ships becalmed'

