

enables us to enter fully into Jane's inner life. The method was, in 1847, strikingly original.

Jane reads her book. It is one volume, it seems, and of some weight and size, for when John Reed throws it at her, he has to 'lift' and 'poise' it, and it knocks Jane down (p 42). (The weight of one volume of the 1821 edition, in boards, imperial 8vo is just under 2½lb.)

That the book is volume II, i.e. *Water Birds*, is established by the quotations and paraphrase given from 'certain introductory pages'. These are by Bewick himself, and express with the elevated rhetoric of his time, and with a genuine Romantic impulse, the wonder of created life and the glory of the 'Author of Nature'.¹⁹ His most striking paragraphs deal with the migrant sea birds of the north.

The 'nations of the feathered race,' he writes, hold the 'northern extremities of the earth . . . as their peculiar heritage – a possession which they have held coeval with creation. There, amidst lakes and endless swamps, where the human foot never trod, and where, excepting their own cries, nothing is heard but the winds, they find an asylum where they can rear their young in safety.' But after the summer has gone, 'as soon as the sun begins, in shortened peeps, to quit his horizontal course, the falling snows, and the hollow blasts foretell the change, and are the signals for their departure.' Others of the 'multifarious host' of sea-fowl pierce the air 'with their harsh shrill cries, screamed forth in mingled discord with the roaring of the surge. Grating as their cries are, these birds are often hailed by the mariner, as his only pilots, while he is tossed to and fro, amidst solitary rocks and isles, inhabited only by the sea-fowl.'

No wonder that young Jane could not pass those pages by 'quite as a blank'! What a feeling they evoke of loneliness, cold, suffering and endurance! At this point in Bewick's text Charlotte begins to blend paraphrase and quotation. Her 'solitary rocks and promontories' (p 40) is a conflation of 'solitary rocks and isles', above, with Bewick's next phrase, 'rocky promontories'. She quotes the essentials from succeeding lines, as comparison will show, but even what she omits – Bewick's 'Frozen Ocean', for instance, has left its sediment in her mind. Here is the text of Bewick at this point.

'The greater part of them hatch and rear their young on the rocky promontories and inlets of the sea, and on the innumerable little isles with which the extensive coast of Norway is studded, from its southern extremity – the Lindesness, or Naze, to the North Cape, that opposes itself to the Frozen Ocean. The Hebrides, or Western Scottish Isles, are also well known to be a principal rendezvous to sea-fowl, and celebrated as such by Thomson.'

Bewick then quotes nine lines of verse, the first four of which Charlotte uses (omitting those which stress bird life); she picks up his