

**THE HABITS OF THE RAVEN.**—“The raven sometimes nestles at no great distance from the eagle, in which case these birds do not molest each other; but in general, the former is a determined enemy to the latter, and may often be seen harassing it. ‘What a brave soldier the raven is; he fights the eagle, who is four times his size!’ I remember hearing a old Highlander say to me more than twenty years ago. But let us consider the matter. There goes the white-tailed eagle! Launched from the rock of Linn she advances along the cliffs on her way to the inland hills, where she expects to find a supply of food for her young. Now she is opposite the promontory of U, whence, croaking in fierce anger, rush two ravens. The eagle seems not to heed them; but they rapidly gain upon her, and, separating as they come up to her wake, one ascends, the other glides beneath, menacing her, and attempting to peck at her. While she regards the one below, that above plunges towards her; but perceiving that she is ready to meet him, he re-ascends a few feet, the other in the mean time, threatening vengeance below. I never observed, however, that they actually came in contact with the object of their pursuit, which seemed to regard them as more disagreeable than dangerous, and appeared to hurry on merely to avoid being pestered by them.”—*Macgillivray’s British Birds.*

**THE CARRION CROW.**—“The carrion crow is very easily tamed, and is strongly attached to the person who brings him up. I kept one for two years and a half. It flew round about the neighbourhood, and roosted every night on the trees of my shrubbery. At whatever distance he was, as soon as he heard my voice he immediately came to me. He was very fond of being caressed, but should any one except myself stroke him on the head or back, he was sure to make the blood spring from their fingers. He seemed to take a very great delight in pecking the heels of barefooted youths. The more terrified they were, the more did his joy seem to increase. Even the heels of my pointers, when he was in his merry mood, did not escape his art of ingeniously tormenting. His memory was astonishing. One Monday morning, after being satiated with food, he picked up a mole which was lying in the orchard, and hopped with it into the garden. I kept out of his sight, as he seldom concealed any thing when he thought you observed him. He covered it so nicely with earth that, after the most diligent search, I could not discover where he had put it. As his wings had been cut to prevent him from flying over the wall into the garden, he made many a fruitless attempt during the week to get in at the door. On Saturday evening, however, it having been left open, I saw him hop to the very spot where the mole had been so long hid, and, to my surprise, he came out with it in the twinkling of an eye.”—*Ibid.*

**TASTE FOR SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY.**—A mind which has once imbibed a taste for scientific inquiry, and has learnt the habit of applying its principles readily to the cases which occur, has within itself an inexhaustible source of pure and exciting contemplations; one would think that Shakspeare had such a mind in view when he described a contemplative man as finding—

Tongues in trees—books in the running brooks,  
Sermons in stones—and good in everything.

Accustomed to trace the operation of general causes, and the exemplification of general laws, in circumstances where the uninformed and uninquiring eye perceives neither novelty nor beauty, he walks in the midst of wonders; every object which falls in his way elucidates some principle, affords some instruction, and impresses him with a sense of harmony and order. Nor is it a mere passive pleasure which is thus communicated. A thousand subjects of inquiry are continually arising in his mind, which keep his faculties in constant exercise, and his thoughts perpetually on the wing, so that lassitude is excluded from his life, and that craving after artificial excitement and dissipation of mind, which lead so many into frivolous, unworthy, and destructive pursuits, is altogether eradicated from his bosom.

It is not one of the least advantages of these pursuits, which, however, they possess in common with every class of intellectual pleasures, that they are altogether independent of external circumstances, and are to be enjoyed in every situation in which a man can be placed in life. The highest degrees of worldly prosperity are so far from being incompatible with them, that they supply additional advantages for their pursuit, and that sort of fresh and renewed relish which arises partly from the sense of contrast, partly from experience of the peculiar pre-eminence which they possess over the pleasures of sense in their capability of unlimited increase and continual repetition, without satiety and distaste. They may be enjoyed, too, in the intervals of the most active business; and the calm and dispassionate interest with which they fill the mind, renders them a most delightful retreat from the agitations and dissensions of the world, and from the conflict of passions, prejudices, and interests, in which the man of business finds himself continually involved.—*Sir John Herschel.*

**Jews in Poland.**—A Polish inn tenanted by a Jewish family exhibits a most curious picture to the eyes of an intelligent observer. It is frequently a miserable hovel with a kind of large barn communicating with it, and serving as a stable and a yard for different kinds of vehicles. The habitation itself consists of a

large room for the customers, and a small one for the family: this last is crowded to excess, and frequently exhibits the most extraordinary assemblage of contents; among which piles of feather-beds are conspicuous, but so dirty, and exhaling such an offensive smell, that no traveller, however fatigued by his journey, will be tempted to repose on them his wearied limbs, in spite of the softness of the couch. Many families frequently crowd into the same room, which is often divided into several compartments, not by any kind of screens, but by mere lines drawn with chalk on the ground-floor. The company is sometimes increased, particularly in cold weather, by a pet calf lying near the fire-place, and by geese cackling in baskets placed under the wooden benches, which represent chairs and sofas in the miserable abode. It may easily be imagined what kind of harmony is produced by the discordant sounds of these noisy inmates, joined with the cries of children and the scolding of women. Yet this apparent wretchedness often covers considerable wealth; and the rough wooden cupboards, which form a part of the furniture of the room we have described, sometimes contain gold chains, silver plate, rich female ornaments studded with pearls and precious stones, and, more than all, bonds for large sums, lent on the most usurious terms.—*British and Foreign Review.*

**SKILL OF SPIDERS.**—Of all the beautiful discoveries which we have become acquainted through the progress of the physical sciences, there are none more striking than those of the microscope, or which may be studied with greater ease. The application of a powerful lens to any of those minute objects which we have it daily in our power to examine, exhibits a scene of wonder, of which those who have never witnessed it cannot form an adequate idea.

For example: the construction of cobwebs has in all ages been lightly esteemed; nevertheless, for simplicity of machinery and neatness of execution, they cannot be surpassed by the art of man. The spinners are the apparatus through which by a most wonderful process the spider draws its thread. Each spinner is pierced, like the plate of a wire-drawer, with a multitude of holes, so numerous and exquisitely fine, that a space often not bigger than a pin’s point includes above a thousand. Through each of these holes proceeds a thread of an inconceivable tenuity, which, immediately after issuing from the orifice, unites with all the other threads, from the same spinner, into one. Hence from each spinner proceeds a compound thread; and these four threads, at the distance of about one-tenth of an inch from the apex of the spinner, again unite, and form the thread which we are accustomed to see, which the spider uses in forming its web. Thus a spider’s web, even spun by the smallest species, and when so fine as to be almost imperceptible to our senses, is not, as we suppose, a single line, but a rope composed of at least four thousand strands. But to feel all the wonders of this fact, we must follow *Lenwenhoeck* in one of his calculations on the subject. This renowned microscopic observer found, by an accurate estimation, that the threads of the minutest spiders, some of which are not larger than a grain of sand, are so fine that four millions of them would not exceed in thickness one of the hairs of his beard. Now we know that each of these threads is composed of above four thousand still finer. It follows, therefore, that above sixteen thousand millions of the finest threads which issue from such spiders, are not, altogether, thicker than a human hair.

In the earlier part of last century, *Bon*, of Languedoc, fabricated a pair of stockings, and a pair of gloves, from the threads of spiders: they were nearly as strong as silk, and of a beautiful gray colour.

## THE PEARL.

HALIFAX, FRIDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 12, 1838.

We have selected from our late files the most interesting items of intelligence. The recent indications of rebellious feeling on the Canadian frontier is we fear an omen of further commotion during the winter. The departure of Lord Durham, before his plans for pacification could be matured is much to be regretted; his talents and influence would have had great weight in checking the growth of rebellion, and reconciling the turbulent factions at present existing in the Canadas. We have strong hopes, however, from the decisive nature of Sir John Colborne’s character, who it is rumoured, will succeed Lord Durham in the administration of the government, that prompt and active measures will be taken to prevent a repetition of the melancholy tragedy acted in Canada during the last winter.

The New York Commercial, in a postscript of a letter from Quebec, dated Sept. 22, gives the substance of a conversation between Lord Durham, and the delegates from the lower provinces, which, we regret, our limits will not permit us to extract. His Lordship spoke in an impressive manner for some ten minutes, explaining his sentiments more fully than he had done in his written answer. He expressed the strong hopes he had entertained, before party-spirit interposed her withering hand, of bring-

ing to maturity those plans he had adopted for the benefit of each province, and strengthening the bonds of the whole.

His Lordship remarked that the Canadas were but imperfectly known in Great Britain, that since he had become acquainted with the resources of that vast country, and with a portion of its inhabitants, his views respecting it were greatly changed; and that in every situation in which he might be placed, his best wishes should be for its prosperity. In allusion to the opposition he had received from the Lords, he was compelled to say that he had been put down—sacrificed by his friends—and that it was the duty of ministers to support him, and not join with his bitter foes in striking at his head. Here his Lordship became greatly affected, and retired for a few minutes. Returning, he concluded, by remarking that as he was deprived of all ability to do good for Canada, it would be of no use for him to remain longer in the country—and he should leave it as soon as he received the official account of the parliamentary doings. It was his intention, to be on his way for England by the 10th of October.

BOSTON, September 29.

### LATEST FROM EUROPE.

The steam-ship *Great Western*, arrived at New York, on Monday evening last, having made her passage, although experiencing very severe weather, in 16 days; bringing the great number of 143 cabin passengers! All her births, 130 in number, were engaged before she arrived out. The *London Times* says, “So numerous were the applications, and of course the number disappointed; that premiums of twenty guineas were offered and would have been given for berths on the first refusal of vacancies from parties who by any accident might be prevented from going.”

The *Great Western* made her passage out in 13½ days. The *Royal William*, in 14½. She was to leave Liverpool, on the 20th inst. and may be shortly expected here.

Upon the eighty-seven passengers home, and the 130 out, at 40 guineas passage money per head in the saloon, and 35 guineas cabin, each way, the Directors of the *Great Western* will have received, therefore, upwards of £8,000 exclusive of the benefit derived from the conveyance of goods, of which the *Great Western* brought from New York, to the extent of about 200 tons measurement.

By this arrival, papers to the 7th inst. from London and Liverpool, and to the 8th from Bristol, are received. The most cheering intelligence is furnished from various sections of the country, that the weather for harvesting, has been beautiful, and that nearly, if not quite, an average crop of grain may be expected. The speculators in bread stuffs we hope have now received an irrecoverable damper to their ungenerous and onerous enterprise.

The *New York Journal of Commerce*, in speaking of the effect of this news on the market, says:—“The best brands of Ohio, and good brands of Genesee Flour, are offered at \$9, and several hundred barrels have been sold. The decline from the highest price is fully 50 cents; Corn has fallen back to 100c.; Rye 100. a 112c.”

Messrs. *Curling and Young*, of Limehouse, the builders of the *British Queen*, have begun a steam-ship of 2000 tons; being 400 tons more than the *British Queen*; she is not to be so long as that vessel, but much wider.

The *King and Queen of Belgium* arrived at Ramsgate on the 4th of September, and were received at the pier by the Duke of Wellington and a deputation from the inhabitants; they left Ramsgate the next morning for Windsor.

**OBITUARY.**—The London papers announce the death of Sir John Nicoll, the distinguished Admiralty judge, at a very advanced age; of Sir William Maxwell, formerly colonel of the 29th regt. of foot; of General Onslow; and of the Earl of Annesley.—Also of Dr. Barnes, an eminent professor at Cambridge, aged 93. He was considered one of the best living Greek scholars.

Money in London was 2½ on the very first bills, and discounting had been extensive.

There is no material change in the price of cotton.

H. M. Packet *Reindeer*, arrived at Falmouth Sept. 5th, and the *Hope* packet from Rio Janeiro on the same day, with \$750,000 in specie.

The manufactory of *C. Macintosh & Co.* at Manchester, was destroyed by fire August 25th, and five men perished in the flames. Loss of property £20,000, Insurance £5000.

**BRISTOL, Sept. 8.—State of Trade.**—*Leeds*—The demand in both halls for cloths is stationary, owing chiefly to the small stock of black cloth on hand. Great activity prevails in the warehouses.

**Claims on the Portuguese Government.**—A commission is, we understand, about to be appointed to sit in London for the examination and settlement of all the outstanding claims against the Portuguese government.

**Naval Prospects.**—It is reported that brevet rank will very shortly be introduced into the navy—that the power heretofore used by the Board of Admiralty, of striking officers off the list (without any investigation into the nature or merits of the charges brought against them), is to be annulled, and that officers wishing to retire from the service will be permitted to do so in the same