

that could we draw aside the mysterious curtain which shrouds it from our senses, we might there see a theatre of as many wonders as Astronomy has unfolded, a universe within the compass of a point so small as to elude the powers of the Microscope, but where the wonder-working God finds room for the exercise of all his attributes, where he can raise another mechanism of worlds, and fill and animate them all with the evidences of his glory."

Countless myriads of microscopic animalcules swarm in every body of water, whether salt or fresh, from the Equator to the Poles, and increase with such astonishing rapidity that not only is it certain that their absolute number far exceeds that of all other animals together, but it is even probable that their collective volume is also greater. Moreover, the shelly coverings with which many of them are encased, being composed either of lime, flint, or iron, retain their shape and structure for ages after the death of their tiny inmates, and are therefore constantly forming copious deposits at the bottoms of lakes, rivers, and seas. Of extensive strata of calcareous earth, stones, and rocks, deposited in this way, many examples might be adduced; but it will be sufficient to particularize one, in order to give some idea of the number and minuteness of these creatures. The Tripoli, or polishing slate of Bilin, which occupies a surface of great extent, and is as much as 14 feet in thickness, consists entirely of siliceous cases of animalcules; and, according to Professor Ehrenberg, each cubic inch of it contains on an average 41,000 millions of individuals. Of this enormous number, occupying such a small space, let us try to obtain a more accurate conception than the mere mention of it conveys. Estimating the population of Fredericton at 5000 persons, and supposing that each could count at the rate of 100 per minute, and was able to work without intermission for twelve hours a day, they would require a period of more than three years, before by their united efforts they could reach this number.

At our meeting in the month of October, after the usual routine of business, we had the pleasure of listening to Mr.