

of my parents, am I reduced to the most painful dilemma to which a feeling and delicate mind could possibly be exposed. Educated in a manner that incapacitates me from procuring my own maintenance, I am denied the common privilege of my less hapless sisters ; that of living beneath the protection of my father's roof ; and am compelled either to seek abroad for that sustenance I have never been instructed to earn, or to unite myself to one from whom my heart recoils, and relinquish for ever the only languid hope that flatters with imperfect visions of distant happiness my benighted imagination.

But it must not be, I tremble at the

very thought : and so, in my humble opinion, ought the ungenerous being who calls himself my lover. A man of proper spirit, or even of common delicacy, would surely cease to press his suit to a persecuted woman, who has already informed him that her affections can never be his.

Alas ! what can an a helpless female expect from the man who accepts, from the tyranny of parental violence, that hand which ought to be bestowed by the inclinations of the consenting heart alone ? Such, sir, is my case, such the hapless situation of the persecuted

DELIA.

FOR THE NOVA-SCOTIA MAGAZINE.

ON THE STUDY OF BOTANY.

THERE is no one branch of philosophy, the study of which has been, or can be, of more extensive and universal benefit to mankind than that of botany. The animal creation, man not excepted, is altogether dependent on vegetables for the whole of its food ; 'tis by them also that we are clothed ; and not only the necessaries, but by far the greater part of the comforts and even elegancies of life, are found in them. All sorts of vinous liquors, however great the variety, are nothing but so many different combinations of vegetable juices ; to them we are chiefly indebted for that great variety of elegant and beautiful dyes that diversify the drefs of all sorts of people : But there is no end of enumerating all the benefits that men receive from vegetables ; suffice it, therefore, to say, that however great and numerous the benefits are which men at present receive from them, and however many the vegetables whose virtues have been discovered to be beneficial to mankind, that there are, doubtless, many yet undetected whose hidden virtues, if laid open, might administer much to the comfort and happiness of mankind. To discover and lay open these things is the province of botany : Botanists have already done much ; they have, as it were, laid open the way, and furnished a key for unlocking the secrets of vegetable nature ; they have discovered many of those natural orders in which vegetables were ranged at their creation ; they are now able by the fructification only, or which is the same thing, by the blossom and fruit, to point forth the general nature of many

plants ; to tell what may be ventured upon safely for food, and what not, even among plants which they never saw before : The following instances may serve to illustrate this : 1st, Such plants as have in their blossoms three stamina, and two styles enclosed with a husk, are esculent ; of this kind are almost all the grasses ; the plants are food for cattle, and their seeds, the smaller ones for birds, and larger, such as wheat, rye, &c. for men ; none of these were ever found to be poisonous. 2d. All such as have papilionaceous, or butterfly shaped blossoms (of which the blossom of the pea is a good sample) are nutritious ; of this class are all sorts of peas, beans, vetches, peaslings, &c. also, lucern, fount-foin, and every species of clover ; the plants of this kind are all good for cattle, hogs, &c. the seeds, the larger ones for men, and smaller for birds : Some also of this class have large tuberous roots which are esculent, and will make bread ; some of these are found growing wild in this province : none of this class are poisonous. 3d. All such as have a gaping blossom of one petal, divided at the mouth into an upper and under lip, with four stamina, two of them longer ; one style, divided at the top and four naked seeds, are odoriferous and cephalic ; of the same natural order are such as want two of the stamina, but the blossom agreeing in every other respect. Thyme, marjoram, hyssop, lavender, catnip, and every species of mint ; also sage, rosemary, and many others, come into this order. From whatever part of the world a blossom of the above kind was brought, though we never saw