The influence of music on the fair sex has long been acknowledged, and this advantage has proved fatal to some artists who had recourse to its fascinating powers: Mark Smeaton was involved in the *misfortune* of Anne Boleyn; Thomas Abel, who taught harmony to Catharine, met with a similar fate: and David Rizzio was not more fortunate. They were, perhaps, too much impressed with the ideas of Cloten: 'I am advised to give her musick o' mornings; *they say it will penetrate.*'

It is worthy of remark, that no woman was ever known to excel in musical composition, however brilliant her instrumental execution might have been. The same observation has been made in regard to logical disquisitions. To what are we to attribute this exception?---are we to consider these delightful tormentors as essentially unharmonious and illogical? We leave this important question to phrenologists.

WRANGLING.—Every kind of wrangling ought to be excluded from the intercourse of friends, and the entertainer or president of a company ought to chock it, at whatever expense of chagrin to the agressors.—The best rebuke that I ever heard of this sort, or ever shall hear again, was given by the late Dr. Barclay, of Edinburgh. He was a gentleman of great suavity and mildness of disposition, and hated all kind of wrangling. So there was one day he had four other professors, five college students of first rate talents, and myself, to dine with him. After the doctor's wine began to operate a little, the young men contradicted their preceptors in almost every thing, always provoking a dispute. The seniors smiled at the young men's absurdity, and dropped the subject.—But at length two of them fastened on each other, an Englishman and an Irishman, and disputed so violently that all social conversation was completely obstructed. It was about some point of moral philosophy, the decision of which did not signify a pin; so their several arguments were utter nonsense. But at length, one of them after uttering a most obstreperous sentence, gave a blow on the table with his fist; on which Dr. Barclay's little terrier, that lay below it, got up with a great bow-wow-wow! bow-wow-wow! The doctor gave it a gentle spurn, and, with a face of the utmost good nature, said, 'Haud your tongue, ye little stupid beast; I'm sure ye ken as little about it as any of them.' The reproof was successful—the gentlemen's faces both grew red, but one of them joined in the laugh till the tears ran down his cheeks. There was no more disputing that night.

We wish almost every body would keep so useful a dog, and that the human bow-wowing could be always as speedily and completely terminated.—*Hogg's Lay Sermons.*

DISCOVERIES IN THE MOON.—Whether it may be possible to discover the inhabitants of the moon is a question, which has sometimes been agitated. To such a question, I have no hesitation in replying, that it is highly improbable that we shall ever obtain a direct view of any living being connected with the moon, by means of any telescopes which it is in the power of man to construct. The greatest magnifying power which has ever been applied with distinctness to the moon, does not much exceed a thousand times; that is, makes the objects in the moon appear a thousand times larger and nearer than the naked eye. But even a power of a thousand times represents the objects on the lunar surface at a distance of two hundred and forty miles, at which distance no living beings, although they were of the size of kraken, could be perceived. Even although we could apply a power of ten thousand times, lunar objects would still appear at twenty-five miles distance; and at such a distance, no animal, even of the size of an elephant or whale, could be discerned. Besides, we must remember that we have only a bird's eye view of objects in the moon, and consequently, supposing any beings resembling man to exist in the orb, we could only perceive the diameter of their heads, as an æronaut does when he surveys the crowds beneath him from an elevated baloon. Kay, thought it were possible to construct a telescope with power of one hundred thousand times, which would cause the moon to appear as if only two and a half miles distant, it is doubtful if even with such an instrument, living objects could be perceived.—*Dr. Dick.*

EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURE.--An old gentleman, living in the vicinity of Brailsford, a few days ago, was so bewitched from the fascinating manners and persuasive tones of a lady belonging to a tribe of gipsies, that he really believed she had the necromantic power, and also the will, to multiply 180 sovereigns belonging to him to 1000. We have not heard what the douceur was to propitate the good will of the Sibyl, or whether she was to share in the proceeds of her mystic rites; but it appears the old gentleman's faith was so strong, that he trusted her with the 180 sovereigns, and as many barleycorns, begged by her direction, of six of his neighbors. This done, she and her dupe deposited, as he supposed, the money and the grain in some secret hole or corner of the house, with strict instructions from the gipsy not to look at it for three days, or the spell would be broken; but at the end of the three days she assured him, he would find 1000 sovereigns, We will not attempt to describe the agitating anxiety, and the pleasurable anticipations which the old gentleman indulged in, during the long, very long three days which intervened, before the happy moment came when he was permitted to look upon the magic gold, and, flushed with expectations, he pounced upon the parcel deposited by the gipsy—but, alas! instead of gold he beheld nothing but *lead.* His 180 sovereigns and 20 shillings in silver, had vanished—irrevocably gone; for it is feared the three days grace allowed the enchantress will carry her beyond the reach of the law.—*Derbyshire Courier.*

CHANGE OF HAIR—There are several instances of the hair having suddenly been changed from its natural color from a strong affection of the mind. The Duke of Sully, in his memoirs, relates that Henry IV. told the Marquiss de la Force, that when he heard the edict commanding all Hugenots to attend mass on pain of punishment, the mustachoe turned white on that side of his face which he was leaning on his hand. A more general effect happened to a man in one of the western islands, who was decending a rock to gather sea fowls' nests. While he was suspended in the air by a rope, he was attacked by two eagles who had their eyrie in the crag, and making a stroke at them with his dirk severed the rope over his head to a single ply; he immediately made the signal to be drawn up, and was recovered in safety, but when he reached the summit of the rock, his hair had turned grey with fear. It was told of Mr. Palmer, once postmaster in Ireland; that having suffered some reflections upon the Duke of Portland, and having vainly demanded satisfaction from that nobleman, in the night he refused to fight, his hair was entirely turned grey. A similar change happened to the Count de Las Cases on the night after he learnt of the banishment of the Emperor Napoleon to St. Helena. It is told of a German nobleman, that on the night of his condemnation to death, his hair turned as white as flax. A less rated and more ignoble instance was Maccoul, the robber of Paisley Bank, and supposed murdered of Bigby, whose hair in the last three months of his life, changed from jet black to silver grey.

Health is certainly more valuable than money, because it is by health that money is procured; but thousands and millions are of small avail to alleviate the protracted tortures of the gout, to repair the broken organs of sense, or resuscitate the powers of digestion. Poverty is, indeed, an evil from which we naturally fly; but let us not run from one enemy to another, nor take shelter in the arms of sickness.—*Johnson.*

THE PEARL.

HALIFAX, FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 31, 1838.

PLANTING POTATOES WHOLE.

We do not profess to have any extended knowledge of the science of agriculture; our experience on the subject is exceedingly limited; still it has at times engaged our thoughts, and a few works on some of the branches of husbandry we have had the pleasure to peruse. Scanty, however, as is our information of the nature of tillage, the interest we feel in the agricultural affairs of the province, induces us to present our readers with a few remarks on the culture of potatoes. From the earliest period of the history of the province, it appears the usual custom has been to cut the potatoes previous to planting them, and in general, it must be admitted, the plan has succeeded tolerably well. Of late years, however, a new disorder has arisen amongst potatoes, generally known by the name of the *dry rot*, a disease which seems to call for a change in the established mode of planting. So long as this disorder continues, the husbandman, to secure himself from the risk of an entire failure, *must plant his potatoes whole.* The necessity for this alteration in the mode of planting is as follows:—the dry rot is a disease which eats away the moisture of the potatoe and at length causes it to crumble into dust; when therefore a potatoe is cut and put into the ground, each cut has to contend with the disorder tending to affect the moisture, and also with the *air and soil*, having the same influence. With these powers to oppose, the piece of potatoe is very generally destroyed. But when the potatoe is planted whole, the *strong rhind* preserves it in a great measure from the injurious effect of the atmosphere and ground, and it has but the disorder itself to overcome, and which it is generally enabled to do, and to shoot forth its stems before the dry rot can have advanced sufficiently to kill it. It is true that sometimes even the *whole potatoe will fail*, but in that case the farmer may console himself with the certain belief, that if he had planted it in cuts, they would inevitably have failed likewise. We may not be right in our view of the necessity of planting potatoes whole, but whether or not, we think it can be demonstrated that *nothing is ever lost by* following this method. That many who have commenced on this system, may not, for a while, make it answer as well as planting their seed in cuts, is quite natural to suppose. The plan is new to them, but when a further practice shall have given them experience, there can be little doubt but they will find it satisfy their most enlarged expectations. The two great things to be observed in planting potatoes whole, are, to have THE ROWS VERY WIDE APART, and the potatoes planted VERY CLOSE TOGETHER, the greatest distance not more than *seven inches apart.*

On all these points however we subjoin two documents, the first from the "British Farmer's Magazine," by the late T. A. Knight, Esq. President of the Horticultural Society of England, and the other from a correspondent of the "Gardener's Magazine."

ON POTATOES,

By T. A. Knight, Esqr.

In a letter which I published last autumn, I stated that I had obtained a produce of potatoes equivalent to 887¼ bushels and 3 lbs., (each bushel weighing 90 lbs.) per statute acre, and I then expressed an intention which I now fulfil, of pointing out the means by which such an extraordinary crop was obtained, and by which, of course, other crops of equal magnitude may be again obtained; and I look forward with confidence to obtaining in the present year a produce equivalent to 1000 bushels per acre of potatoes of first-rate quality.

The first point to which I wish to direct the attention of the cultivator of the potatoe is, *the age of the variety;* for it has long been known, that *every variety cultivated, gradually becomes debilitated, and loses a large portion of its powers of producing; and I believe that almost every variety now cultivated in this and the adjoining countries, has long since passed the period of its age at which it ought to have resigned its place to a successor.*

No variety should ever be cultivated which uselessly expends itself in the production of seeds, nor even of full grown blossoms, unless it possesses some valuable redeeming qualities.

The distance of the intervals between the rows should be regulated wholly by the length required by the stems in each peculiar soil and situation. If the utmost length required by the stems be four feet, let the intervals between the rows be four feet also; and if the variety be of dwarfish habits, and its longest stem does not exceed two feet, intervals of two feet will be sufficient.

The rows should be made from *north*, to *south*, that the mid-day sun may be permitted fully to shine between them, for every particle of living matter found in the tuberous root of the potatoe plant, has been generated in the leaves, (which act only when exposed to light,) and has *descended* beneath the soil.

Each set should weigh *at least six ounces*, and they should never be placed at greater distances from each other, than six inches from centre to centre, and a preference should be given to *whole potatoes*, when such can be obtained. If the growth of the plant be very dwarfish, four inches between the sets from centre to centre, will be preferable; and if the form of the potatoe be long and kidney shaped, a good deal of advantage will be gained by placing them to stand upon their ends, that end which joined the parent plant placed downwards.

The largest produce will generally be obtained from varieties of rather early habits, and rather low stature, there being in very tall plants much time necessarily lost in carrying the nutriment, which has been absorbed from the soil, up into the leaves and down again, in the state of living sap, to the tuber.

Varieties which have strong stems and erect form, are to be preferred, because such are least subject to fall upon, and shade the foliage of each other.

It is much more advantageous to incorporate the manure with the soil by means of the spade or plough, than to put it in with the sets; for in the latter case, a large majority of the roots, during the summer and autumn, do not derive advantage from it.

Early planting is, under almost all circumstances, best; and the period, except for some very peculiar varieties, should never be later than the middle of the month of April.

I possess, though at present in small quantities necessarily, many new varieties, which promise to prove valuable both on account of the quantity and quality of their produce, and I shall be happy as soon as I have the power, to make them useful to the public. I obtained, in the last year, from some of these under culture with the plough, (the soil being shallow, and naturally poor, and manure not having been given, in more than ordinary quantity) a produce equivalent to more than 650 bushels of potatoes, of first rate excellence per acre, and a good deal larger produce from others of inferior quality, but I have not any reason to believe that I possess any variety which, either in quality for immediate human food, or in quantity for affording food to the inferior animals, has reached, or ever approximated the greatest state of excellence which the potatoe is capable of acquiring.—*British Farmer's Magazine.*

A correspondent of the "Gardener's Magazine," writing upon the above question, recommends that potatoes should be planted whole; and adds,—"As a testimony, I will state an experiment of mine in 1828. I planted four plants, containing two eyes to each; four, the crowns containing, perhaps, five or six eyes each; four small whole potatoes (what are here termed chats); four large whole ones, or what are termed ware potatoes. Now, for the weight of the produce of each kind: the produce of the first four roots weighed 8lbs.; that of the second four, 11lbs.; that of the