

to cover the walls with ivy, and weave his roses and honeysuckle about the door and windows, and plant his currants, and strawberries, and gooseberries interspersed with various fragrant and beautiful flowers that you cannot help regarding it as the abode of competence and happiness. Such are the cottages of *poetry*. But there is another class of tenements called cottages which strike the eye very differently. Every thing around them and in them, betrays the poverty, ignorance, and wretchedness of their occupants. The climate and the soil, perhaps, do not allow them to be quite so bleak and forlorn, as the huts which shelter similar wretchedness and degradation in our own country, but there is no poetry there. Gin and strong beer there may be, but no *poetry*.

MIRIAGE.

This interesting optical phenomenon, which is hardly known in this country, excepting by description, was lately witnessed by a large number of wondering spectators in Agar, one of the Mendip Hills in England—and the following account is given in the Bristol Mercury:—

“It was observed about 5 o'clock in the evening, and represented as an immense body of troops, mounted and fully accoutred, which appeared to move along sometimes at a walking pace, and at other times at a quick trot, with drawn swords at the ‘carry.’ For some time the figures appeared six abreast, after which they gradually diminished to two, or files. The illusion, we are informed, was so complete that the bridles and stirrups were clearly distinguishable, whilst the horses’ feet were seen to move in a perfectly natural manner.—The whole body appeared in one uniform; of a dark hue, approaching nearly to black. The phenomenon was observed for upwards of an hour, and continued till it became dark, and was witnessed by a great number of country people, who were puzzled to account for the presence of so large an army as appeared to be moving before them.—The cottagers around the foot of the hill, we are informed, were for a considerable time, in a state of consternation, imagining that the troops could be no other than a hostile force; some of them went to prayer, others proceeded to hide their little treasure, and others again entertained the thought of consulting their safety in flight and at the present time the visitation forms the only topic of discourse. With respect to the cause of these strange appearances philosophers differ, but the most received opinion is, that they are owing to the extraordinary refraction which the rays of the sun undergo in passing through masses of air in contact with a surface greatly heated: this may seem to account for their frequency in the deserts of Arabia, where they are by no means uncommon, but the solution seems

hardly satisfactory as applied to the present case, and especially when we take into account the difference in the climate of our own country and that referred to.”

QUIZZING THE SCIENTIFICS.

Dr. Hoaxum read an interesting paper on the conversion of moonbeams into substance, and rendering shadows permanent, both of which he exemplified in the establishment of some public companies, whose prospectuses he laid on the table. Mr. Bahble produced his calculating machine, and its wonderful powers were tested in many ways by the audience. It supplied to Sir John North an accurate computation of the distance between a quarto volume and a cheesemonger’s shop; and solved a curious question as to the decimal proportions of cunning and cupidity, which, worked by the rule of allegation, would produce a product of £10,000. — Professor Von Hammer, described his newly discovered process for breaking stones by an algebraic fraction. The Rev. Mr. Groper, exhibited the skin of a toad, which he discovered alive in a mass of sand stone. The animal was found engaged in an autobiography, and died of fright, on having its house so suddenly broken into, being probably of a nervous habit from passing so much time alone. Some extracts from the memoir were read, and found exceedingly interesting. Its thoughts on the ‘silent system of prison discipline, though written *in the dark*, strictly agreed with those of our most enlightened political economists. Professor Parley exhibited his speaking machine, which distinctly articulated the words ‘*Rapale! Rapale!*’ to the great delight of many of the audience. The learned professor stated that he was engaged on another, for the use of His Majesty’s Ministers, which would already say, ‘My Lords and Gentlemen;’ and he doubted not by the next meeting of Parliament, would be able to pronounce the whole of the opening speech. Captain North exhibited some shavings of the real Pole, and a small bottle which, he asserted, contained scintillations of the aurora borealis, from which, he stated, he had succeeded in extracting pure gold. He announced that his nephew was preparing for a course of similar experiments, of which he expected to know the result in October. The gallant captain then favored the company with a dissertation on phrenology, of which, he said, he had been a believer for thirty years. He stated, that he had made many valuable verifications of that science on the skulls of the Esquimaux: and that, in his recent tour in quest of subscribers to his book, his great success had been mainly attributable to his phrenological skill. for that, whenever he had an opportunity of feeling for soft places in the heads of the public, he knew in a moment whether he could get a customer or not. He said that,

whether in the examination of ships’ heads or sheep’s heads—in the choice of horses or housemaids, he had found the science of pre- eminent utility.—*Comic Annual*.

At a court martial lately held at Sheerness, on Captain Hope, the following dialogue took place between one of the witnesses and the court:—“Are you a catholic?”—“No, sir.” “Are you a protestant?”—“No, sir.” “What are you then?”—“Captain of the fore-top.”

In France there are seven thousand barristers, for whom there are about five thousand causes. There are forty thousand Attorneys, twelve thousand notaries, seven thousand magistrates, and twenty-two thousand doctors. The number of freemen in France is 184,000. [Paris Advertiser.]

The newly-invented instrument, called “The Axyrite,” has just been announced, with which, to the great dismay of the barbers, persons may shave themselves without the use of either razor, soap or water.

Sir John Ross is now at Paris, being one of the 20,000 English in that capital. Louis Philippe has conferred on him the cross of the Legion of Honor. The King of Denmark and the Grand Duke of Baden, have each given him a valuable snuff box, set with diamonds.

A NEW INVENTION. An English clergyman, at Brussels, has invented a motive power, which promises to rival steam. It is founded on the compression of fluids. Eight pails of water it is computed would be sufficient to carry a vessel to the East Indies.

It is astonishing, says the New-York Star to see the activity going on in the burnt district, over one thousand men are at work, and already have the frame of many stores been laid. Two hundred and two stores are now in the course of erection, that number was actually counted this morning, every day adds to the number.

A splendid steamship of 1000 tons and 300 horse power, to be called the Auckland, has been contracted for by Government at Glasgow to navigate the Red sea. The contractor is Robert Napier. She is to be of the most magnificent description, and fitted out as a man-of-war vessel.

DIED.

At Boston, Mr. William Carver, a native of Halifax, N. S. aged 29.

At Boston, William Morris, Esq. aged 78.—In Watertown, near Boston, Mr. Henry Gilman, aged 41; both of Halifax, N. S.

On Tuesday morning, of Whooping Cough, Ellen Halliburton, daughter of Mr. —avid Allison, aged, 13 months.

REMOVAL.

The Subscriber has removed his Printing Establishment to the building north of M. Donald’s Tobacco Manufactory, and nearly opposite Bauer’s wharf—where all kinds of JOB PRINTING, will be executed at the shortest notice. He hopes by punctuality, and moderate charges, to merit a further share of public patronage.

H. W. BLACKADAR.

April 15, 1836.