

between one new moon and another occupies about 29 days and a half—12 of these lunations or changes of the moon, were supposed to complete the circle of the year, or to be equal to one revolution of the earth round the sun. But this was found to be incorrect, the solar year occupying 365 days and a quarter, while the twelve lunations employed only 354. Julius Cæsar, about 45 years before Christ, ordered these 11 days to be distributed among the months, and hence, to fill up the number 365, some were made to consist of 30 days, others of 31, and February of 28 only.—This arrangement was found to be incomplete, as it did not include the 5 hours, 48 min. and 51 sec. or nearly 6 hours which, in addition to the 365 days from the year. To remedy this deficiency, as in four years the extra hours would make a day, he ordered that in every fourth year another day should be added to February.

FOR THE MIRROR.

—: *et vereor quo' se agrestia vertant*  
*Hospitia*

MR. EDITOR,—If you have never passed through our country, you of course have not had the felicity of experiencing the hospitality of its good inhabitants. But Sir, if you will take my word for it, there is perhaps not under the sun, a country where virtues of hospitality are more scrupulously practised than in Nova-Scotia. Are you a stranger passing through the land, with no other recommendation than a foreign, at least strange aspect, and a good coat, you are sure upon arriving at some country Inn, to be saluted by some good natured looking people, whose main business appears to be, to extend the rites of hospitality to the stranger; immediately an introduction ensues between yourself and them (for who can resist a frank manner, and a smiling face?) and as a matter of course you have the pleasure of visiting almost all the *visitable* people in the place, and are enraptured by the various scenery exhibited to you by your very kind entertainers. Now some misanthrope may object to this generous trait in the character of my countrymen, he may tell you with infinite self-importance that he would not receive such uncalled for attentions, that he does not wish to see all the country belles, nor does he need any guide to point out to him the beautiful scenery—but I think if our misanthropic objector were to go through the length and breadth of the land, he would at every halting place, be quite a willing to receive all the attentions that could be lavished upon him, as yourself or myself Mr. Editor.

Another very substantial part of the hospitality of our countrymen, consists in the inviting and abundant fare with which their tables are loaded. If it were not for fear of

being charged with having a little of the gourmand propensity, I should here enter into a description at length of the various luxuries with which I have seen some of our country tables covered.—But no fear of opprobrium shall deter me from telling what I have seen on a tea table, in some of our inland villages—and now let no one think that I give the list to excite his sensual appetite, but rather, as charity would suggest, let him believe that I mention these things only, that the kind providers may have their reward—and now Sir, what would you think of seeing not a thin slice of bread and butter and a little cup of coffee handed round by some surly waiters, but a large table spread out with toast, rolls, muffins, biscuit, jumbles, gingerbread, pound cakes, plumb cake, sponge cake, cheese, dried beef, preserves of two or three kinds, and tea and coffee!! Don't you think such a pleasant array, as this, would inevitably put to flight all forms and misanthropy, and while the full mouth dilated the full heart would expand with gratitude for the numerous gifts of a bountiful providence? Suppose yourself seated at a table laid out in this style, the first query put to you will be, Mr. Bowes will you take a cup of tea or a cup of coffee? Do you take sugar and cream Sir? Then again from the other side of the table the eldest daughter perhaps with a sweet simper will ask you with voice bland as the zephyr—Mr. Bowes will you have some of the preserved Quince, or some of the preserved plumbs? Perhaps you will take some of the cherries,—or would you prefer a little of the apple? Then again, half a dozen hands are ready to offer you the toast, bunnis, muffins, and biscuit which are scattered over the table in rich profusion. One of the sons will say to you—you will take a piece of this cheese surely; it was made in Annapolis and is so good that I can safely recommend it to your palate. Then again comes the dried beef, nor must the various cakes pass without their honor, till at last you find it is almost time to cry for quarter. But then comes the most pleasant part of the entertainment—the host who has perhaps contented himself till this critical time, with addressing you in monosyllables, and ever and anon pushing a plate towards your already *well blockaded* cup, begins to cry out—What not done already! come my dear Sir, do muster up a little appetite! I have only commenced! come do take a small peice of this plumb cake! A little piece of this cheese cries a youngster from the other side. Some more of the quince simpers the daughter! Another cup of coffee squalls the mother, at nearly the highest note of a rather shrill voice! It is in vain that you protest that you have eaten with uncommon appetite, that you have done ample justice to the good viands—eat you must at least one piece more of cake, one piece more of cheese, a little of the quince, and take ano-

ther cup of coffee. After this grand and decisive movement of the host, hostess and family you begin to congratulate yourself on escaping any farther importunity. But don't flatter yourself too soon. Importunity you must yet receive, and as the finale you will hear sundry remarks upon the delicacy of your appetite—your being such a *very small eater*, and the fears that are entertained of a *decline* unless you learn to play your part better at the tea table. As another mark of hospitality you receive on retiring an invitation to come and see them at any time, always happy to see you Sir, adds the hostess! Some of those censorious people who delight in finding fault, say that many sad mistakes have taken place from the very great readiness with which strangers are received in the circles of the country, and many an amusing anecdote they have to tell of the blunders committed, but Mr. Editor, you and I look upon the goodness of heart that dictates such a hospitable course of conduct, without censuring the excess that may sometimes attend it. And if any person would find fault for the future, we will point them to the groaning tea table, to the courteous family, and to the general invitation and the ever ready welcome.

Yours, &c.

O.

POPULATION OF THE WORLD, &c.

The number of people in the world is estimated to be between eight and nine hundred millions, or about forty-four times the population of Great Britain and Ireland. By the actual enumeration of most of its states, Europe is found to contain about one hundred and ninety millions—throwing aside the exaggerated account given by the Chinese to Lord Macartney, of the population of their empire, Asia cannot be supposed to contain above four hundred millions; Africa, one hundred and sixty-millions; North and South America, sixty millions; and the islands not included in any of these divisions, about forty millions; making in all, eight hundred and fifty millions.

The most populous empire in the world is that of China. Great Britain, including all her dependencies, comes next, and is little inferior to it. In India, her subjects and allies amount to one hundred and twenty-three millions; of whom more than two-thirds are subjects. Her dominions at home, with colonies and subjects in other parts of the world, swell the aggregate to almost one hundred and fifty-millions—a number not perhaps surpassed by the Roman empire at the height of its power. The Russian is probably the most extensive empire the world ever saw; but it cannot boast of a third part of this enormous population.

*Density*—The average density of the population in these divisions is such, that the