

my lord,' was the answer, given in a low somewhat timid, but unflinching voice, while a deeper crimson suffused the face of the speaker. And a right good wife she made to him.

THE POWER OF FROST IN THE POLAR REGIONS.

A small bottle of pyroligneous acid froze in less than thirty minutes, at a temperature of 67 deg. minus; as did also the same quantity of 1 part of rectified spirit and 2 of water; 1 part of the same and 1 of water. Leeward Island rum became thick in a few minutes, but did not freeze. A mixture of 2 parts pure spirit and 1 of water froze into ice in three hours, with a temperature from 65 deg. and 61 deg. minus. Another mixture of 4 parts spirit and 1 water became viscid in the same time. A bottle of nitric ether, having been out all night, was thick, and the bubbles of air rose slowly and with difficulty; the mean temperature at six a. m., January 17th, being 70 deg. minus! A surface of four inches of mercury, exposed in a common saucer, became solid in two hours, with a temperature of 67 deg. minus. On the 4th of February the temperature was 60 deg. minus, and, there being at the same time a fresh breeze, was nearly insupportable. Such, indeed was the abstraction of heat, that with large logs of dry wood in the fire-place of a small room, I could not get the thermometer higher than 12 deg. plus. Ink and paint froze. I made an attempt to finish a sketch, by placing the table as near the fire as I could bear the heat; but a scratchy mark, and small shining particles at the point of the table, convinced me that it was useless. The sextant-cases, and boxes of seasoned wood, principally fir, all split. Nor was the sensation particularly agreeable to our persons; the skin of the hands, especially, became dry, cracked, and opened into unsightly and smarting gashes, which we were obliged to anoint with grease. On one occasion, after washing my face within three feet of the fire, my hair was actually clotted with ice before I had time to dry it. From these facts some idea may, perhaps, be formed of the excessive cold. —From *Captain Back's Journal*, just published.

NEW THEORY OF THE AURORA.

Sir John Ross's new theory of the Aurora Borealis was brought forward at the last meeting of the British Association. It was not generally, we believe, considered satisfactory; as, however, he had undoubtedly peculiar advantages for observing this beautiful phenomenon, we think it well to give an outline of it:—As the expedition which I commanded in 1818 did not winter in the Arctic Regions, my observations during that voyage were confined to the months of September and October, during which time the ships were moving in a southerly direction

from the latitude of 74 to 58 north, when it was observed, that from the latitude of 74 until 68, the phenomenon was seen to the southward, particularly at midnight; but when the ship had passed to the southward of the latitude of 68, it was seen to the northward. In several instances the Aurora was distinctly observed to be between the two ships, and also between the ships and icebergs; proving unquestionably that it could not be at that time beyond the atmosphere and the earth.—This indeed was the only fact which I completely established during that voyage but which was a conclusion that led me to inquire how its proximity to the earth was to be accounted for. Both at my observatory in Scotland, and during my late and long protracted residence in the Arctic regions, my attention has been particularly directed to this interesting subject, and my conclusions are that the splendid phenomenon, called the Aurora, is entirely occasioned by the action of the sun's rays upon the vast body of icy and of snowy plains and mountains which surround the poles. The rays of the sun, in the first instance, are reflected, from uneven, plain, or variegated surfaces, of the colored, icy, or snow clad substances, which are presented to them at the point of incidence by the rotation of the earth, and passing over the poles reach and illuminate clouds which are only rendered visible to us by such illumination. These clouds, having positive, negative and reflecting qualities, possess the power of producing all the surprising effects which have been observed by distributing the rays they have received; and as they receive them, in every direction, and according to the state of the atmosphere, give additional variety to the original colours as reflected from the point of incidence; and further, if due regard is paid to the properties of light, its connexion both with magnetism and electricity may be satisfactorily explained.

CURIOUS EXPERIMENT WITH A TULIP.

—The bulb of a tulip in every respect resembles the buds, except in the bulb being produced underground. It includes the leaves and the flower in miniature, which are to be expanded the ensuing spring. By cautiously cutting in the early spring, through the concentric coats of a tulip-root, longitudinally from the top to the base, and faking them off successively, the whole flower of the next summer's tulip is beautifully seen by the naked eye, with its petals, pistil, and stamina.

A blacksmith of Milan, named Ponti, has discovered that by suspending a length of chain to one of the corners of the anvil by means of a ring, the noise of the hammer may be almost entirely deadened. This discovery would be of great importance in large towns, where the noise of the hammer is so serious a nuisance.

An omnibus is about being shipped from London for Athens, which, no doubt, will astonish the inhabitants of that ancient city. Gas apparatus is shipping in the London Docks for Constantinople, for the purpose of lighting with gas a part of that capital, which hitherto has been kept in a state of complete nocturnal darkness.

HALIFAX, AUGUST 19, 1836.

The last Gazette contains a Proclamation further proroguing the Legislature of the Province to the 13th October.

MR. MICHAEL TOBIN, Junior, has been appointed Vice Consul for the Brazilian Government in the Provinces of Nova-Scotia and New Brunswick.

☉ The Mail for England, by H. M. Packet Skylark, will be closed on Saturday afternoon next, at 5 o'clock.

MARRIED.

On Monday evening by the Rev. Archdeacon Willis, Mr. James Forbes, of this town, to Miss Sophia Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr. Patrick Connor, of Dartmouth.

On Tuesday the 4th inst. by the Revd. William Cogswell, Mr. John Croxton of England, to Miss Susan Sadler, of this Town. After the ceremony was over the happy pair proceeded to Newport to spend the Honey Moon.

DIED.

On Sunday evening, at Sackville, Bedford Bason, after a lingering illness, Mr. George Parker, Senior, aged 80 years, an old and respectable inhabitant of this town.

On Tuesday morning at D. Creamer's, Dartmouth, Johanna, second daughter of the late Thomas Hollihan, in the 16th year of her age.

Yesterday morning at 6 o'clock, Mr. Charles Tillman, aged 47 years; funeral will take place on Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock, from his late residence in Dutch Town, when the friends and acquaintance of the family are respectfully invited to attend.

WILLIAM TAPPER, TAILOR,

IN tendering his sincere thanks to his numerous friends in Halifax, and the public generally, for their very liberal support since his commencement in business, begs to inform them that he has removed his Establishment from Upper Water Street, to the premises lately occupied by John Whidden, Esq., No. 8, Granville Street, directly opposite Messrs. Mignowitz & Greetham's new store, where he intends carrying on the above business in all its branches; and hopes, by unremitting attention to merit a continuance of their patronage and support.

W. T. also begs to intimate that he has received per late arrivals from Great Britain—superfine Black, Navy Blue, Invisible Green, and other shades, of BROAD CLOTHS; Kerseymeres, Buckskins, for gentlemen's pantaloons, of various colours, and a variety of RICH VESTINGS, suitable for the season; all of which he is prepared to make up at the shortest notice, and in the most fashionable style, at reasonable terms, for Cash or approved credit.

August 1836.