

battlements, to expend his last drop of blood in his country's cause—Sir Walter Scott, in his description of the combat between Fitz James and Roderick Dhu, draws a beautiful simile from the ferocity with which nature arms the mountain cat when maternal affection is violated—

“Like mountain cat that guards her young,
Fall at Fitz James's throat besprung,
Received it wreck'd not of a wound,
And lock'd his arms the foe man round.”

In such instances of paternal love, certainly no subtle deductions of reason, no anticipations of future enjoyment, are the course of action. But for the inferior creatures whether solitary or gregarious nature has provided all the Benevolent affections, necessary to their respective situations: and is man the only Being destitute of these ennobling principles?—Is this exalted specimen of Divine workmanship, less amiable than the most ferocious beast of the forest?—Look at the mother as she presses the child of her affection to her bosom, and ask if reason were connected with the act. Go to the lover, when under the excitement of extravagant feeling, and inquire if this be the result of a rational regard for himself.

The truth is, that man, possessing an instinctive desire for society, has naturally the principles necessary for the harmony of social intercourse—Pope in his most celebrated poem, justly ridicules the unreasonableness of the contrary doctrine—

“While man exclaims, see all things for my use,
See man for mine, replies a pampered goose—
And just as short of reason must he fall,
Who thinks all made for one—not one for all.—”

The great distinction between the Benevolent and Malevolent affections was briefly explained in a preceding part of the lecture. As our Creator never bestowed upon us principles, naturally conducive to evil; both species of affections, under prudent restraint, are ultimately productive of advantage. Common custom therefore has, given to the term malevolent a signification altogether different from its philosophical meaning. With respect to the number of our malevolent affections, there is, among authors, a diversity of opinion. Doctor Reid mentions two principles which he considers to belong to this class—Emulation and Resentment. By Emulation is meant that laudable ambition to excel, which is so essential to improvement, and without which society would be like a stagnant pool in which the arts could not exist, for want of proper nourishment. This active power more properly belongs to the class of desires, things and not persons being the objects of its exercise. A desire of superiority rationally presupposes some other animate being that we wish to excel, and this is probably the reason why some of our best writers have included it among the affections. It is frequently accompanied by malevolent feeling, and then it receives the name of Envy. Under the co-operating influence of this desire and feeling, we exhibit a mean anxiety to depreciate the merits and swell the crimes of others, to make our own conduct appear in a more favourable light. This ill feeling does not naturally exist in the mind, but is the offspring of indulgence; and, insensibly acquiring an ascendancy over our disposition, becomes a frequent attendant upon the exercise of emulation.

Mr Stewart justly considers Resentment, as the only malevolent principle which we naturally possess. And this is either sudden or deliberate. The former is an instinctive impulse to retaliate when we receive an injury. Nature has wisely provided us with this defensive weapon as a security in danger and a protection against sudden attack. All the inferior animals exhibit it in a greater or less degree. In sudden danger Reason would come too late to our rescue, and instinctive resentment is therefore essentially necessary for our protection. The laws of England, viewing it as a natural principle, consider the death of another committed in self-defence as excusable homicide.

Deliberate resentment may rather be considered as a rational than an animal principle. Its operation is connected with reason, and it contemplates the intention, not the injury sustained. When a criminal is arraigned for the infraction of the laws of his country, it is not the act, but the preconceived malice that, in reality, constitutes his crime, and consequently in investigations of this nature, the *quo animo* is the pivot on which legal decisions turn.

On the principle of resentment which, under prudent direction, is so subservient to the interests of society are engrafted all those malignant passions that disgrace our nature. Under a high degree of excitement it assumes the form of anger,—

“Next anger rush'd, his eyes on fire,
In lightnings own'd his secret stings,
With one rude clash he struck the lyre
And swept, with hurried hands, the strings.”

When it is still more excited it receives the appellation of Revenge. Under the influence of this passion, we totally lose that self-command which is the perfection of Reason, and retaliate with unwarranted cruelty an injury received.

Hatred is a species of obstinate and settled animosity, the result of unappeased anger and determined malice—an unnatural and unkind feeling which exhibits itself in its different chamber forms, sometimes by unjust insinuations respecting the conduct and character of our enemy, at other times by secret plots, but perhaps oftener by undisguised and declared opposition.

Jealousy originates in a real or supposed injury inflicted by another, and inflames the mind to unreasonable resentment. If a rival's imagined superiority induces us to suppose that he has gained that approbation which we wish exclusively for ourselves, a deadly animosity begins to rage in our bosom against the supposed offender. The object of our dearest affection, is frequently made the victim of this unhallowed feeling. Shakespeare beautifully delineates its exciting causes and effects in the tragedy of Othello the Moor. It is a passion which well deserves the name of temporary madness—

“Thy members, Jealousy, to nought were fix'd
Sad proof of thy distressful state
Of differing themes the veering song was mix'd
And now it courted love, now raving call'd on hate.”

Such is the nature of malevolent affections, when vitiated by criminal indulgence. Even the more gentle exercise of criminal resentment is attended by an uncomfortable feeling; and how do we accumulate our miseries by allowing it to assume a vicious character! If, indeed, the abuse of our affections stamps our conduct with absurdity, we should certainly endeavour to subject them to rational control. The Benevolent affections, in particular, form the brighter colours in the picture of life, at which we should accustom ourselves frequently to look; and not like Byron seek the shades of retirement to indulge in gloomy, misanthropic feeling, and ponder on the miseries of unappreciated talent and slighted affection.

COLONIAL.

[From the Quebec Gazette.]

AGITATION IN CANADA.

Montreal, Monday, December 7th,

Three quarters past three o'clock,

“SIR,—As the *Mercury* has struck the constitutional flag,—for what reason I cannot divine,—it is the conduct of Lord Gosford or “the great body of the people.” The conduct of Lord Gosford in granting ‘cheerfully’ every thing demanded by the Assembly, has created the greatest sensation here. The storm has been gathering for the last few weeks, and this day it broke out with a vengeance. Flags with constitutional mottoes have been preparing for the last ten days, and this morning pedestrians were seen in every part of the town and suburbs, with labels in very large characters, ele-

vated on poles, with “Britons! to your post!” “Attend at Tattersall's at two o'clock,” &c., It is impossible to give you the slightest idea of the bustle that was visible through the city and suburbs during the whole of the forepart of the day. Before the hour of meeting arrived, flags and banners were seen issuing from all the principal streets, preceded by Irish and Scotch pipes and other musical instruments. Among the mottoes on the banners, we noticed “Savourneen Deelish!” “The King and the British Constitution!” “The King!—Canada shall not be lost nor given away!” “Britons will never be the slaves of traitors!” “England, Ireland, and Scotland, forever!” “Three huzzas for the British Constitution!” “We demand the establishment of Registry Offices!” &c. The concourse of persons at the meeting was immense, and the cheering so loud that it was impossible to hear the speakers. The Secretary read the Report, which was well received. On the first Resolution being put, there was some misunderstanding: Mr. J. C. Grant, to whom the task of introducing it was assigned, made some objections to it, and it was proposed by Mr. A. Ferrie, and passed unanimously. Mr. Grant explained, and excused himself by stating that he had not time to read it. The other resolutions are now being passed, and the meeting will not be over till late.

Resolutions adopted by the Legislative Council on Saturday the 19th December, 1835, as reported by the Special Committee on the Trade of the Province, and to whom had been referred the petition of Messrs. Wilson and Rait, delegates of St. Andrews, and the Quebec Rail Road Association:—

1st.—Resolved, that a Rail Road between the Port of St Andrews in the Bay of Fundy, which is open at all seasons of the year, and the Port of Quebec, would greatly diminish the disadvantages under which this Province labours from the severity of its climate and the consequent periodical interruption of the navigation of the River St. Lawrence.

2nd.—Resolved, that the opening of such communication between the Ports before mentioned, would promote the settlement of the country, greatly facilitate the intercourse between this Province and the United Kingdom, extend the interchange of commodities between the British Possessions in America, increase the demand for British Manufactures, and the means of affording additional employment to British shipping.

3rd.—Resolved, that for the foregoing reasons, it is highly expedient to promote and facilitate the views of the St. Andrews and Quebec Rail Road Association, and that so soon as the Legislature of the Province of New Brunswick shall have passed an Act to establish a Rail Road between St. Andrews and the Province line, every facility ought to be given to the enactment of a Law of a similar nature upon conditions as favorable as may have been granted to any Rail Road Company within this Province.

4th.—Resolved, that an humble address be presented to his Excellency the Governor in Chief, praying that his Excellency will be pleased to transmit the above Resolutions to the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department as the opinion of the Legislative Council upon the subject to which it has reference, and praying also that his Excellency will be pleased to recommend the subject to the favourable consideration of his Majesty's Government, if his Excellency shall think fit so to do.—*Quebec Gazette.*

HALIFAX, Dec. 30.

A subscription list for Dr. Gesner's work on Geology and Mineralogy, is kept at Belcher's Book store.