

THE PEARL.

HALIFAX, FRIDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 8, 1839.

IMPROVEMENT OF HALIFAX.—Halifax has been improving in appearance, pretty regularly, during some years past, without exhibiting any very sudden change in any one particular point. One almost forgets now what the town was about ten years ago, but a retrospection, and a walk along some of the streets, would present a striking contrast. Argyle street, near the Methodist Meeting House,—Granville street, from Romans' corner to the Ordnance,—as they were in 1829, need only be alluded to, to suggest the effect of improvements since then. The part of Granville street, just mentioned, has grown from a sudden declivity bordered by a few out-of-the-way shops, and some tumble-down private dwellings,—to a fine level street, noted as one of the neatest and best business portions of the town.—But a period much less distant than 1829, may be taken, to mark the advance of out-door improvements.

Within the last and the present year many evidences have appeared, that somewhat of the attention which should be directed to these matters has been given. We may make the following enumeration, at random :

The lower parts of the town in the vicinity of Lower Water street, have at length been attended to. A foot or two of materials judiciously laid on, have made dry pleasant roads, and gentle slopes, of places which were rugged, and very miry deformities. Lower Water street itself, in its most crowded part, has been changed from a surface like that of a "broken sea," to a good level road; much to the delight, we should suppose, of its inhabitants, who, in worse times, beside the danger of being lost in some of the cavities if they attempted crossing the street, must have had a horrid jarring in their ears, from the continued bumping of trucks and box carts, as they jolted from one paving stone to another.

In the most improved part of Granville street, just alluded to, the houses are improving month by month, and that vicinity is becoming, in appearance, more and more like a very respectable part of one of the old thoroughfares of European cities. Already, in this place, one splendid stone mansion attests the spirit of the mercantile class, and another just completed, does as much for the mechanical,—while a gay and prosperous industry marks every house in the line.

That part of Upper Water street which joins the Ordnance establishment, and which has gained the significant appellation of *Razor Row*, bears evidence of the commercial keenness of its inhabitants. One after the other, the houses and shops and stores have become modernized, and new establishments have been created, until the place which seemed particularly unsightly and dull a few years ago, is now noted for its neat lively appearance. This Row, we believe, commences southerly, with a *shaving* establishment, and terminates, northerly, with an extensive *leg-iron* store, so that each flank, *literally*, well supports the name which the centre has earned by the *spirit* it has evinced.

Continuing this line, many improvements appear in particular spots in Upper Water street, until the thoroughfare opens on that greatly beneficial alteration, the Campbell Road, and, in the midst of a picturesque situation, the eye rests on the commencement of the Richmond settlement, the mansion, and cottages, and stores and wharfs,—promising seeds of future animation and, we trust, of comfort and prosperity.

The burnt district, near the Ordnance, is already, in part, covered with good buildings, others are in rapid course of completion, and the block promises to be one of the most uniform and business looking in the Town; this is something gained, when we recollect the non-descript varieties that were swept away by a night's conflagration. The line of buildings going up, at this part, fronting Hollis street, are to be kept in countenance, we understand, by a row of respectable houses which are projected for the opposite side. When this is completed, it will form a fitting finish to what only requires slight embellishment to form a magnificent artery of the Town,—Hollis street.

Other parts of Halifax exhibit, in the houses, and the thoroughfares, and the side paths, very gratifying proofs of the growth of attention and taste in these matters, which have a very sensible effect on the comfort and character, and consequently on the prosperity of a community. We will just allude to the lowering and levelling in the vicinity of the South Barracks,—to the new aspect which much of the property has gained, on the line from these Barracks to Water street,—to the new streets and erections in the Spring Garden suburb,—to some excellent and substantial stores and wharfs recently completed,—to the houses and cottages which have sprung up in Pleasant street,—to the noble promenade, presented by the South Campbell road,—to the reclamation of the area of the Province Building, from its wilderness and forlorn and filthy state to comparative neatness and beauty—and, better than all, to the bustling groups which give an unusual air of liveliness to the business parts of the Town, and which intimate that we are about commencing somewhat of the city character so long desired, instead of the listlessness and depression so long a matter of complaint.

With all this, strangers might not think that Halifax has much to brag of,—we only speak now of the *advance* made, and do not at all intimate that we have arrived at a state wherein we should rest, but at one which affords encouragement for the future, by showing what a little past exertion has accomplished.

Much remains to be done in the path of improvement. We may be pardoned for suggesting one or two matters, which if not undertaken soon or to be conducted continuously, will most probably be completed by slow degrees and as a matter of course, as the town makes progress; but is it not time that Halifax should attempt something direct in these matters, as most other towns, comparable with it for size and wealth, do? The back streets above Argyle street, although much better than they were some years ago, are not what they should be, and present a very straggling and uncomfortable appearance to the eye of one who is not in the daily habit of witnessing their condition. Long lines of miserable looking houses, marked by several praiseworthy exceptions, is the general characteristic. These thoroughfares, together with the upper street, which seems in part given up as a kind of outlawed district, should exhibit, chiefly, lines of neat, small houses and cottages, where those engaged in the business of the town might reside, instead of extending a mile away, north and south,—and where they might enjoy retirement, and air, with proximity to the centre. The upper street, if it were thoroughly cleansed from some of its present characteristics, might have a line of neat cottages along its whole length, which would form pleasant and healthful places of residence. Fronting the green slopes of Citadel Hill, possessing many advantages of air and view and nearness to town and country, this might be made a very favorite suburb, instead of being a place to be shunned, as at present.

One matter, in the ornamental way, should be particularly remembered, this is the improvement of the much neglected "Parade." Here is a spot, in a central situation, which affords excellent opportunity for something similar to the squares of embellished cities every where. Those who have visited London or Paris, or continental cities, know what delightful places these openings form;—the regular lines of good mansions,—the fine level spaces, so pleasing to the eye, after being pent up in crowded streets,—the shrubs, and trim walks, and flowers, which adorn the centres, and which form most agreeable retreats for the nursery maids and children of the surrounding houses. Much need not be attempted for the Parade, and yet much might be effected,—and the area might be preserved to the inhabitants, instead of being scrapped away as some of the original space has been. Let a spacious oval grass plot occupy its centre, relieved by some of our native, beautiful shrubs; let a gravel walk bound this; let each of the angles of the area be occupied by a group of evergreens trees, the whole speckled by some of the hardier flowers, and surrounded by a neat, substantial fence. Thus, at a small expense an improvement could be effected, creditable to the town, pleasing to all who looked on it,—and particularly embellishing to the houses in the vicinity, which would soon assume a much more respectable appearance, and rise in value. One boundary of this area, would be the College front,—the other, the road in front of St. Paul's, removing the Engine-house trespass,—the third and fourth, the Post office, and upper side, lines, greatly improved,—and thus "Parade Square" would be an ornament to Halifax.—Suppose this done, and the splendid fortifications at Fort George completed, where could a more romantic and picturesque street-view be found, than that seen from the foot of George's street; the spacious and fashionable and busy thoroughfares, the expanse and verdure of the Parade,—the street beyond, rising the hill,—and above all, the green glacis of the fort, the old Town Clock in its new position, the battlements and the flag staffs. Already, the soldiers pacing along the battlements just mentioned, dwindled to pigmies by distance yet distinctly traced against the sky, and looking down from their quiet post on the bustle of the town, form part of a very picturesque sketch;—what the view will be when the fortification works are completed, and the Parade contributes its foliage, may be imagined.

There is another feature of old cities which might be introduced easily and with good effect. We mean what are called obelisks; these are ornamental erections, in the shape of pyramids, pillars, &c., surrounded with railings and shrubs,—and placed at the more open spaces which occur where streets meet or cross each other. The green spot in the street above the north end of St. Paul's Church,—and similar places, might be mentioned, as fit for these; although it must be acknowledged that the appropriate sites for such ornaments are but few in Halifax. Those obelisks are generally made to support three or four lamps for gas lights;—a luxury which Halifax may aim at, by and bye, when it becomes ashamed of being immured in cimmerian darkness, from five in the evening to seven next morning, during half the nights of winter.

Among the most desirable objects for the improvement of Halifax, must be reckoned a supply of water for the inhabitants of the town. The recent scarcity of this necessary of life, pleads strongly on the subject. The few who have never-failing wells and pumps can but poorly appreciate what other classes suffer in

this respect. It is pitiable to see boys, and girls, and poor women, wandering about the streets, making deplorable expenditure of time and labour,—dispirited and exhausted—moving from pump to pump, clanking the handles of the useless machines, and evincing more joy over a muddy pailfull, than the epicure does over his choice wine. This may be styled a disgraceful and degrading state of things,—to provide a supply of water is a duty of those who have public arrangements in charge, and well might this apathy be shamed by the accommodations of many places which we are wont to call barbarous and among the dark corners of the earth. This very serious evil, to many house and room keepers, should not, surely, be overlooked, because it is felt, chiefly, by the poorer of the people. The monarchs and municipal rulers of other countries, delighted to provide magnificent conveniences for copious supplies of this rich blessing of heaven. These were luxuries in which all could participate. The fountain from which the labourer filled his picher, was embellished by the great masters of Architecture and Statuary, and the crystal volume of water spread a delicious coolness about its marble rim, which was a treat to nobles during the sultry beams of summer. We here might so far emulate this spirit, that good homely pumps should appear at convenient distances, and should communicate with reservoirs which would bear a few hours sun or frost without exhaustion.

Some, at least, of these suggestions, are not altogether so far-fetched as to be entirely inappropriate. We expect, and with reason, future seasons of much activity, and fruitful in public advances. The Steamers, from Halifax, to Britain, the U. States, the western shore, the West Indies, and Newfoundland, must cause a much altered state of things, and must have beneficial results, as rays of light directed from many points to one, adorn and illumine. By these vast, modern conveniences, we expect many strangers to visit the town, and some to settle down among us. We should take some little trouble to give the place a prepossessing appearance, to cause outward matters to reflect some credit on the inhabitants, and to have some influence in causing visits, or occasional additions to the fixed part of the community. Government is doing its part in this work; when Citadel Hill is finished, it will be a source of much confidence and interest,—it will combine many mathematical and natural beauties,—and will give an air of importance and romance to the whole town. Our harbour also, is of first rate attraction; why should not some efforts be used to make the town, as regards neatness, uniformity and embellishment, not unworthy of its natural position, and its military consequence?

NEW WORKS BY THE AUTHOR OF THE CLOCKMAKER.—The Colonial Publisher has, this week, announced two New Works of home manufacture, by the celebrated Samuel Slick, of Slickville, and which are to appear simultaneously in London, Philadelphia, and Halifax. The first of these is, "The Letter Bag of the Great Western; or, Life in a Steamer. Dulce est desipere in Loco."

The character of this work, may be guessed from the character of the author, and the following table of Contents: "Preface—1. Journal of an Actress; 2. Letter from Cato Mignonette (the colored steward) to Mr. Lavender; 3. Do. from Captain Haltfront, of the 40th Regt. of foot, to Lieutenant Fugleman; 4. Do. from a Midshipman of H. M. S. Lapwing to an officer of the Inconstant; 5. Do. from John Skinner (butcher) to Mary Hide; 6. Do. from one of the Society of Friends to her Kinswoman; 7. Do. from a New Brunswicker to his Friend at Fredericton; 8. Do. from an Abolitionist to a Member of Parliament; 9. Do. from a Cadet of the Great Western to his Mother; 10. Do. from a Lawyer's Clerk; 11. Do. from a Traveller before he had travelled; 12. Do. from a Stoker; 13. Do. from a Stockholder of G. W. to the Secretary; 14. Do. from a Servant in search of a place; 15. Do. from a French Passenger; 16. Do. from an Old Hand; 17. Do. from the Son of a Passenger; 18. Do. from Elizabeth Tegg to John Buggins; 19. Do. from an American Citizen; 20. Do. from the Professor of Steam and Astronomy to the Directors; 21. Do. from Moses Levi to Levi Moses; 22. Do. from a Servant emigrating to Astoria; 23. Misdirected Letter, No. 1—A Colonist to his Father; 24. Misdirected Letter, No. 2—A Colonist to his Brother; 25. Do. from a Doctor; 26. Do. from a Coachman on the rail road line; 27. Do. from the Author."

A third Series of The Clockmaker, is also in preparation, but the heads of chapters have not been given in the Prospectus, which has been circulated. We have had the good fortune, however, to see some portions of both works, and believe that they will not detract from, and do much to extend the already high reputation of Mr. Haliburton, as a humourist; and a close observer of Men and things.

APPLES.—We regret to learn that there is a very great scarcity of apples, in the western Counties this autumn. A friend from Annapolis, assured us the other day that most of the orchards, which did not lie immediately under the shelter of the North or South mountains, had yielded but little fruit—that in fact many farmers who are in the habit of sending two and three hundred Barrels to market, would not have five to send. Of course if