

up her train, and precedes to the residence of Mr. Matthew Elphinstone, who keeps an excellent house, with a well-furnished table, and where Aunty is so familiar, and where she also visits so frequently, that Mrs. Matthew Elphinstone uses no ceremony with her, and treats her as almost one of the family. On this day, unfortunately for Aunty, Mrs. Matthew Elphinstone has got a friend from the country to spend the day with her, and another female acquaintance, who does not like Aunty, neither does Aunty like her. Aunty steps into the kitchen, and has a chat with the servant girls; for she must be talking, and she cannot get it out before the strange lady. "What a purpling thing you wear o' Mrs. Peters's is turnin', and what a hauchte madam the mither o' it is!" She sees what is preparing for dinner, and makes her calculations accordingly.—Mrs. Matthew Elphinstone, she begins to suspect, is rather shy, and so she resolves to be magnanimous for once—to refuse a dinner! Wonderful woman! Self-denial that shames the Spartan virtue! In the next house to which she goes, she of course takes care to blazon the extraordinary fact.

Mr. William Elphinstone, another of her nephews, is a wine-merchant; and as he is regular in attendance at his place of business, Aunty very often pops in upon him. She has been so fortunate to day as just to catch him a short time before his dinner hour, and as his dwelling house is directly across the street, she is sure of an invitation to take pot-luck. She enters the cellar, and is shown into Mr. William's counting room. She throws herself into a chair. "Heck, William, I'm perfectly tired—never was sae wearie a' my days! It's a perfect day's journey to come your length frae my house!" "Ay, it's a wearisome walk, Aunty," says William; "but a wee thocht o' whisky's the best thing I ken for keepin' up the spirits when they're like to stak wi' fatigue"—and Aunty is accordingly presented with a glass, sizeable to her heart's content of the best unadulterated Islay. While sipping this, she relates to her nephew portions of the history of the forenoon, with her own commentaries on what has passed under her observation. "I was in Matthew's this forenoon; I just gaed up to see how a' the weans were. Oh, she's a proud, saucy woman, you wfe o' Matthew's! There was a muckle hizzie there, ane Jean Cameron, and that Miss Patterson (she's never out the house), and Matthew's wife sat clavin' to them, and never let on she saw me nee mair than I was a dog." "That wasna by ordinar' ceevil o' her," edges in Mr. William, at the same time pressing her to take off her glass. "Na, ve needna insist on me, for I'll na tak it. Ceevil! Na, I'm sure I sat for mair than two hours, and she ne'er sae muckle as asked me to taste, until I raise to come away, and then she says, 'Wul ye no stop an' tak your dinner wi' us, Aunty?' Atweel I'm for nee dinner," says I, "for I have an errand wast the toon, and I haena a minute to stop." Weel, all I cam, and here I am—and I'm perfectly tired, I declare!" "Toon your glass, Aunty," says Mr. William, "and we'll awa ower and get a bit pick o' dinner. I ken there's to be a drap fine sheep's head broth, and I'm saro you're fond o' them." "Na, Willie, there's no a house I can gang to wi' sae muckle pleasure as your an; and I waldna gie a spoonful o' broth o' your wfe's makin' for a' the broth I ever suppit i' my life. But I mauna drink a' this, it will tak my head."—"You'll no be the waur o' ae glass, Aunty," says William. "Atweel I canna be the waur o' no glass surely," says Aunty; "na, I bin' it has done me gude already. Weel, it's no ill for a body enber, when they can tak it in moderation; but, atweel, I never saw you the waur o't, William, a' the times I've been in your hoose. I see naebudy like you, you're sae kind and sae purpose-ake; and there's the mistress—she's a nice body—oh, she's a kind cratur!—and she's sae attentive too, and sae hamely in her way! I can speak to her wi' far mair freedom than any o' a' the rest o' our freen is." The secret of all this is, that Mr. William has not been long married, and that he keeps an "excellent bottle," of which his young wife is by no means stingy.

Aunty thus secures a hearty dinner in Mrs. William's, and the grateful repast being finished, she entertains the young good wife with scandal about her friends or relations, or flatters her about her child. For instance, "I was ca'm' on John Wilkinson's wife the ither day"—a distant relative—"and she was unco keen that I should stop till John com in, and get dinner wi' them; but I saw they had little enough for themselves. I could see, too, that although she requested me to stop, it was in such a way as to say—'Aunty, ye may gang whaur ye like.' She had naething to set before a body but a drap second day's broth, and a bit nip o' beef stekm' on a bane." Then again: "That's a wonderfu' fine bairn o' yours—here's an apple till him; I bought a bawbee's worth as I was comin' along the road. Na, he's a nice thrivm wean, and he kens me already—he cries Aunty whenever he sees me. He's a real promise' wean; I think there's something no common about him."

If Mrs. William should appear inclined, and 'press' well, Aunty will stay with her to tea. If not, she comes away, and of course experiences very little difficulty in making out that entertainment somewhere else, and probably something in the way of supper to boot. At the close of the day's campaign, she returns to her own house, commences on the morrow a career similar in its main features, though with a different series of friends. And thus does Aunty make her way through the world, an object of mingled ridicule and civility, tolerated rather than entertained, denounced as one taking advantage of the bare principle of hospitable courtesy to impose herself where she is not wanted, yet half acknowledged, amidst all the grumbings which she occasions, to contribute, by her follies, her scandal, and her threadbare devices, nearly as much amusement as annoyance.—*Chambers's Edinburgh Journal.*

FOREIGN.

The intelligence from Spain is very important, as it regards that unhappy country. The Constitution of 1812 had been proclaimed in most of the Provinces considered in the Queen's interest, and forced upon her Majesty by the common soldiers at Madrid. The revolution was complete; the chiefs of the Administration fled, and General Quesada, after in vain attempting to oppose its progress, was taken in his flight, and brutally murdered. A French force, on its way to co-operate with the British Legion was countermanded by its Government, on receipt of the above news. The Legion was it appears, in a very disordered state—a body of 150 had entered the French territory, having previously deserted to Don Carlos, who would not receive them, choosing rather to suffer imprisonment in France, than to return to their former service, though under a promise of having their desertion overlooked. General Evans it is said, on the garrison of St. Sebastian proclaiming the Constitution, declared if they insisted on this measure, he would withdraw the Legion from the garrison.—*Halifax Times.*

FROM RIO GRANDE.—The brig William Henry, Captain Windsor, arrived at Boston on Saturday, from Rio Grande having left there the 21st of July. At Rio Grande, the situation of things, especially in the interior, is by no means enviable. The civil war has now continued seven months—and has produced a ruinous effect on the trade and prosperity of the country.

The rebels were in the neighbourhood of Rio Grande, (where they had been for 40 days) 700 to 1000 strong, and had made several unsuccessful attempts to enter the city. The entrenchments were attacked on the night of the 19th of July, during a blunder storm, and after a brisk firing of two hours, the rebels retired.

On the 19th June the rebels, about 700 in number—attacked the fortifications at Port Alegre, and were repulsed with great loss in killed and wounded.—*Portland Argus.*

FROM FLORIDA.—We have papers of a late date direct from Florida, which represent the country in any thing but a happy condition. The Creeks are still joining the Seminoles in great numbers. Middle Florida is in a very alarmed and excited state.—*New York Express.*

The report of Santa Anna having escaped, it appears is untrue.

COLONIAL.

HALIFAX MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—The Institute will be opened on the first Wednesday in November next, and the following list of Lectures, as arranged by the General Committee, is published for the information of Members.

Nov. 2. Opening Lecture by John Young, Esq., "On the influence of Science upon the Arts and Operative Classes."

Nov. 9. Dr. Gesner "Upon the extent and formation of the Coal Fields in Nova Scotia." Nov. 16, and 23. Mr. A. McKinlay, "Upon Chemical Affinities, illustrated by experiments." Nov. 16. (Tuesday.) The Rev. James Robertson, A. M. of Bridgetown, "Upon the tendency of Scientific pursuits, as exhibited in the Moral, Social, and Commercial relations of the age."

Dec. 7. The President, Mr. G. Young, "Upon a practical System of Education fitted for the Province of Nova Scotia, so as to insure a taste for Literature and Science."

Dec. 14. The Rev. Dr. Twining upon the Moral use of Science.

Dec. 21. J. Leander Star, Esq. "Upon the importance of the diffusion of Wealth in advancing the prosperity of a young country."

The Committee are happy to state that both the Rev. Dr. McCulloch, and Rev. Mr. Smith, of Stewiacke, have promised to read lectures during the progress of the course. The above list is published thus early that the junior Members may prepare themselves by a course of reading upon the subjects of the several essays.

At a committee meeting, held on the evening of Sept. 3, the following resolutions were adopted unanimously.

That the Annual Subscription, for Members, 7s. 6d. be payable at the time of receiving tickets.

That Ladies' and Minors' tickets be 5s. each, to be provided thro' members, and to be transferable to members of the same family only.

That in taking out a Member's ticket, the person shall sign his name to the rules of the Institute in presence of the Secretary or other officer.—*Novascotian.*

The Rev. Mr. Martin, after an absence of upwards of a year, returned in the Acadian, which arrived on Sunday morning last from Greenock. It appears by the Scottish Guardian, that he devoted much of his time in his native country to the promotion of the interests of the Churches in this Province, connected with the established Church of Scotland. The Rev. Gentleman has been accompanied hither by the Rev. Mr. M. CONNACRE, appointed to Lochaber and St. Marys,—and the Rev. Mr. FRASER, Missionary to Cape Breton.—*Halifax Gazette.*

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.—This town (Halifax) was visited on Tuesday morning by one of the most destructive conflagrations which have occurred here for several years. The fire broke out a little after midnight in the premises occupied as a Brewery, by Mr Peter Morrissey, in Albemarle Street—and before any effective assistance arrived, had obtained such an ascendancy, as rendered it impossible to arrest its progress until two thirds of the entire square in which it originated were destroyed. It was nearly four o'clock before the flames were extinguished. Mr Morrissey is, we believe, a very severe sufferer—his property was insured for £1500, but this sum will cover but a small portion of his loss. Dr. Head lost two houses uninsured. Mr Steel a house uninsured. Property owned by Mr Lockyer, supposed to be insured. A house owned by Mr John Esson, insured for £250. Estate of Mitchell, (carpenter,) house insured. Mrs Thomas—house insured for £600. The African school house was pulled down. A great number of poor people were turned into the street by this calamity, and a good deal of property was destroyed, by persons occupying houses in the neighborhood moving to prepare for the worst.—*Novascotian, September 28.*

AVON BRIDGE.—The scaffolding and other work which had been erected within the last fortnight, fell with a great crash on Wednesday morning last. Thirty men were precipi-