

**How to Split Rocks.**—In the granite quarries near Serirugapatam, in the East Indies, says the American Ploughboy, the most enormous blocks are separated from the solid rock by the following neat and simple process. The work men having found a portion of the rock sufficiently extensive, and situated near the edge of the part already quarried, lays bare the upper surface, and marks on it a line in the direction of the intended separation, along which a groove is cut with a chisel, about a couple of inches in depth. Above this groove a line of fire is kindled, and this is maintained till the rock below is thoroughly heated, immediately on which a line of men and women, each provided with a pot of cold water, suddenly sweep off the ashes, and pour the water in the heated groove, when the rock at once splits with a clean fracture. Square blocks, of six feet in the side and upwards of eighty feet in length, are sometimes detached by this method.

Another method made use of in some countries of Europe is by means of electricity, or lightning. But one of the most curious things we have read in a long time is the following account of a French way of making millstones.

When a mass sufficiently large is found, it is cut into a round form, several feet high, and the question then arises, how to divide this into pieces of a proper size for millstones. For this purpose grooves are chiselled out, at distances corresponding to the thickness intended to be given to the millstones, into which grooves wedges of dried wood are driven.

These wedges are then wetted, or exposed to the dew, and next morning the block of stone is found separated into pieces of a proper size for millstones, merely by the expansion of the wood, consequent on its absorption of moisture; an irresistible natural power thus finishing, almost without any trouble, and at no expense, an operation which, from the peculiar hardness of the texture of the stone, would otherwise be impracticable but by the most powerful machinery, or the most persevering labor.

HALIFAX, SEPT. 30, 1836.

**FIRE.**—On Tuesday morning between 12 and 1 o'clock, a fire broke out in Mr. Morrissey's Brewery, Albermarle Street, and spread to such an alarming extent, that before 3 o'clock it destroyed nearly the whole block, leaving only a few houses standing on the southern end; indeed fears were entertained that the fire would reach the opposite block in Grafton Street, and to the great exertions of the inhabitants, and the most valuable assistance of the Army and Navy may be attributed the safety of the surrounding property; owing to the long continuance of dry weather, scarcely any water could be obtained in the neighbourhood, and the Engines were of little or no service until water was obtained from the harbour, this was accomplished by forming lines on George Street down to the Market Wharf, and having an Engine placed on Ryan's wharf, communicating with a line of Engines on Duke Street which supplied each other by Hose until the water was carried up to the scene of conflagration.—Too much praise we think cannot be given to the Army and Navy for their unrewarded exertions on all such occasions.—We have not heard the estimated amount of the loss sustained by the sufferers by this disastrous fire.

**FIRE AT QUEBEC.**—"One of the most extraordinary fires," (says the Quebec Gazette) "which has occurred at Quebec for the last fifty years, broke out on Saturday, (the 10th inst.) about noon in the gable or roof of the stores on the Queen's Wharf, occupied by Messrs. Strain, Langevin & Co and D. Vass & Co. merchants." Ten dwelling houses and six stores, with the greater part of their contents have fallen a prey to the flames. Unfortunately the tide was out and 4 schooners were totally consumed, with the greater part of their cargoes, consisting of pork, flour and wheat, two others were partially destroyed. The insurance will suffer to an amount exceeding £10,000. The total loss is estimated at from £65,000 to £75,000.—Times.

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. McConnachie, appointed to Lochabar and St. Mary's, and the Rev. Mr. Fraser, Missionary to Cape Breton.

CORONERS' INQUESTS.

Yesterday an inquest was held on the body of Julia Jones, wife of a pensioner residing in Albermarle street, found dead in her bed about 1 o'clock, p. m. There appeared no violence on the body; but from external appearances, and the evidence of Dr. J. C. Hume, intoxication was considered the cause of her death, and the jury returned a verdict—"That the deceased died from suffocation, and not from any hurt, force or violence."—[Recorder.]

A Coroner's Inquest was held at Advocate Harbour, in Parrsboro', on the 5th inst., before C. E. Ratchford, Esq. Coroner, on view of the body of a man, found dead in the sea near to the shore, at high water mark, some days previous. Motives of humanity had induced the inhabitants to bury the deceased before any inquisition was taken, but as it was supposed by some individuals that this might have been the unfortunate person said to have been murdered by Laramore and Potit, it was deemed advisable to disinter the body, in order to ascertain if the skull had been fractured. After a careful examination by Doctor Geimer, the bones of the head were found to be unimpaired. Verdict.—Cause of death unknown.

When the body was first discovered, both the legs to the knees, both hands, and the under jaw were gone, and the flesh in a highly putrid state; having apparently lain in the water a considerable length of time. The deceased had on a homespun flannel shirt, with unbleached cotton collar, buttoned with a metal button; a pair of home-made trousers of mixed colours, having black filling and white warp; knit home-made suspenders; a black stock, cloth vest, with stripes passing round the body, patched on the left pocket with home-made cloth; and a single breasted round jacket of felled home-made cloth, having a rolling collar and metal buttons. In the right pocket there was a jack-knife, and in the left a light colored silk purse with one ring upon it, containing seven shillings and sixpence in silver, and three pence in coppers.

**NOVA-SCOTIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.**—This recently formed Institution, the first meeting of which took place on the 5th of August, now has upwards of 200 members.—A general Meeting was held on the 17th inst., to frame laws and appoint officers. Any person may become a Member by paying 10s. entrance, and 5s. yearly. The object of the Institution is to promote and improve the cultivation of the best kind of fruits, vegetables, shrubs, trees, flowers &c.

**MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.**—The Institute will open on the first Wednesday in November.—Open Lecture by John Young, Esq. "On the Influence of Science upon the Arts and Operative Classes."—It is proposed to establish Initiatory Classes connected with the Institute, and the sum of £20 with fees, is offered for a "Teacher in Practical Geometry and its application to Architectural and Mechanical Drawing." The Committee will receive applications for the above until the 20th October.

**MECHANICS LIBRARY.**—The Annual Meeting of the Halifax Mechanics Library, will be held on Tuesday evening next, at 8 o'clock, at the Library Room.

MARRIED.

On Sunday evening, by the Rev. James Macintosh, Mr. Alexander McLeod, to Miss Ann Pierce, both of this town.

At Boston, Sept. 22, by the Rev. Mr. Taylor, Mr. Thomas S. Barry of Liverpool, N. S. to Miss Haskell, of that city.

DIED.

On Sunday morning, George, infant son of Mr. P. Biery, aged 3 months.

On the 18th inst., Mary-Ann, infant daughter of Mr. John Tempest, aged 20 days.

SILVER PLATE, JEWELRY, &c.

The Subscriber tenders his grateful acknowledgements to his friends and the public, for the liberal encouragement he has heretofore received, and begs leave to inform them, that he continues to manufacture SILVER PLATE, of all descriptions, of the purest quality, on very low terms.

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May 13, 1836.