

THE PEARL.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, JULY 29, 1837.

THE CONSUMPTION.—WONDERFUL DISCOVERY!!!

It were an interesting problem in moral philosophy to ascertain exactly how much truth is required to neutralize a given quantity of error—and thus to ascertain how large quantities of each may be introduced into society without effecting any remove from that original happy state of ignorance which belongs to it, or of the most plausible reasons for a continuance of its boastings of large attainments of knowledge, whether of good or evil. Then by a judicious management of the process, moral light and darkness—truth and error—faith and credulity, might be made to stand in even scale; and mankind might become wonderfully more gifted, without being a whit more wise. In this issue there would be nothing to offend the eyes, nothing of a personal, nothing of an offensive nature; every fashionable folly and vice, might flourish without our being deemed foolish or vicious—every form of belief might prevail, because in admitting all we could run to no extreme—and without a simple love of injustice or falsehood, a man might practice both, by keeping on such friendly terms with honesty and truth, as to have their passport to reputation and honour, which the world will always bestow on such *deserving characters*. Some persons of small experience will be bold enough to call this double dealing, hypocrisy and other hard names, but this on their part is evidently fanatical—as is every thing that does not at any time accord with the prevailing course and custom of the world. That all persons are not so weakminded we have evident proof in that prevailing course and custom, fashion or taste; and not in that only, considered as the actions of mankind, but equally in its language and literature; in which we must see a considerable exemplification of the design, above spoken of—partially effected and drawing to its consummation, so that we may secretly hope that ere long the invidious distinctions between truth and error will be entirely done away, and that neither the bright sunshine of the one, nor the palpable darkness of the other, will more men's eyes offend, but the calm and voluptuous twilight compounded of both, steal softly over our spirits, inspire us all with bewitching sensations, and lull the earth to profound and universal repose. To this end mainly contribute, all those fascinating and adored authors who so charmingly mingle fiction with history,—theory with experiment,—and speculation with discovery, as prevents our seeing where either begins or ends, or whether in fact they begin or end at all.

'Homogeneity! All's neuter there, In sweet confusion lost!

We are led to speak thus by the article 'Important Discovery—The Consumption' in the Novascotian of June 29th quoted from the New York Daily Express; which imports to consider consumption curable by surgery, though counted by the physician immedicable. What an age of wonders! We suspect this prodigiously wonderful piece was authorized either by one who was sufficiently provoked if not abused by some of the modern daring exploits in zoetomy, or that was a proselyte to the refined and enlightened views promulgated in this *****

The statements made in the article named respecting the relative situation and function of the lungs may be proper and ingenious enough. They are said to be comparable to a pair of bladders confined within two bellows, and made to receive and remit, or *inspire and expire*, the air obtained at the nozzles—*nostrils*—by the activities of the muscles of the chest and abdomen. Either of them may then be collapsed by the pressure of external air permitted to enter the recipient and act upon its outer surface. From this simple fact, a *very simple* inference is drawn and misnamed, a discovery: viz, that hereby 'a lung may be placed at rest; and the great obstacle to the cure of consumption is removed.' And now the shout of triumph comes rolling on, and the hosts of the literati cry, 'There is hope for the consumptive patient! The plan is feasi-

ble! The greatest discovery in the art of healing, in modern times!' Does motion then ingenerate the tubercles which are the exciting cause of this disease, and impediment to the healthy functions of the lungs? And is the quiescence of an expanded, excited, and obstructed lung to be restored with all the facility of collapsing a blown bladder by the supercession of a vacuum? Then say we, we live in happy times. We will now quote a few lines from this note of discovery: 'The system of cure here proposed is founded on a careful consideration of these facts'—not on the fact that any consumption has been cured by this method. 'So long as the lung is kept continually in motion by the passage of the air through every portion of it, an ulcer or any other disease of it which may exist cannot possibly heal.' But consumption consists not in ulcers, but rather of scrofulous indurations which require action and excitation in order to their removal. Again, both ulcers and even consumptions, as well as other diseases have healed and disappeared from the lungs in numerous instances (as proved by inspection,) under the ordinary circumstances objected to.

We are next conducted to the *operation hypothetic*, one not as yet performed. Now we are told 'that this is neither difficult nor dangerous'—to the operation—but no description of it is offered. We should like to be informed whether each of the lobes is to be perforated, and at what point—whether the channel of communication is to be made good through the shoulder or the pericardium,—or that the breast or shoulder is to be amputated as a preliminary stage of the work. Also whether we may presume on the patient's retaining her ribs on the side in question in the expedient referred to so touchingly in the following beautiful lines of prose: 'To be brief, where applications, incisions, inspections &c. are required they are *easily made*. If it is found necessary to remove any diseased part it can be effected,'—say easily—for 'the operation is not half as severe as one half of those *daily performed*.' What chivalrous days! in this city—Grand Cairo! 'And as to its practicability we will not throw away reasons,'—for *they are scarce in the market*:—and you know any thing may be done to the willing—'those who are aware,'—eng: the wise 'will not wonder,'—which is the work of fools—'that a deceased lung which has ceased to perform its functions should be seized,'—by a Jackall, 'and taken out mainly from its location in the body,'—dead or alive, 'much less need they be alarmed'—Ah no we an't alarmed! because we an't going to go through the operation!

Next thing comes a cure for the tooth-ache. We are told it is infallible! R. Fill your mouth with ice or cold water and sit on a good clear fire till it boils! Don't be alarmed, it's a good, thorough cure, they say infallible! But being rather sceptical we doubt this: as a reason, suffice it to say that we once knew a person who tried it before dressing in the morning, and fasting, but through pain and blame, and weakness coming on before the heat had well reached his mouth, the experiment laudable as it is, failed, and actually made him worse than before. Now we were thinking that the novel chest boring operation might fall through from similar causes; but softly says our friend, 'were the operation the *most terrible*, as it is the *most trifling*, there would be no cause for apprehension,'—I guess not, 'that a system in so low a state as that of a consumptive would not be able to bear the shock,' *that's true*. 'Persons reduced to the very confines of the grave by any long protracted disease in one of the extremities,'—lungs—*this is coming to the point*. Proceed—'undergo amputation better.' Ha. Ha. Ha. 'The danger of the operation is less—the pain is less'—it is in fact,—the operation—less the patient!

Pity it is that money's so scarce that we can't form a company for tunnelling across the Atlantic, it is a thing we long to see accomplished, a deeper scheme you will seldom get a hearing of—and if accomplished it would do more good than all the steam navigation and rail roads in the world. What that we know of would produce unanimity, commerce, the arts and sciences, or even religion like it—that we don't know. But then people are so weak handed, and weak minded, and full of palsy and

fitful objections—and simply and foolishly because they have never seen a thing done, they think it never can be done, and so never set about it. In conclusion we return thanks! hearty thanks, to our discoverer for his laudable attempts to illustrate our principles, and get the better of such puerile fears, and antiquated prejudices.

MISS MARTINEAU.—The work of this gifted lady, entitled 'Society in America' is meeting with a strange fate in the United States. Professedly an admirer of republican institutions, she is regarded by republicans with malice and all uncharitableness. Her comments on the fundamental principle of their constitution, that all men are free and have equal rights, are too stern and uncompromising for our democratic neighbours. The time will come when they will no longer endure sound doctrine. Already the groans of their abused captives and the clanking of their fetters, are musical in their perverted ears, compared with the fair and sober interpretation of their much boasted and annually trumpeted charter of independence. O shame to humanity! While the accursed chain of the oppressor rattles in their hands and the love of tyranny reigns in their hearts, are they rending the heavens with their vociferations of freedom—themselves revelling in all the sweets of liberty, but with their feet on the necks of thousands of their miserable slaves. An Algerine with all his savage and blood-thirsty disposition was a perfect model of consistency to such a revolting character as this! And yet such is your genuine republican of the United States—a freeman yet a despot—incessantly prating about his rights and yet shamelessly claiming

'To buy and sell, to barter, whip and hold
In chains, a being of celestial make.'

himself a being of mighty pomp and consequence, his slave not worthy to be considered as belonging to the common brotherhood of man. Verily we cannot but sigh over such monstrous inconsistency. And Miss Martineau has dared to flash the truth in their face—the stigma of infamy already upon them, she has rendered deeper and more indelible—she has cried aloud and spared not—and now she is branded by free Americans as a *fanatical abolitionist*. Never before was such high dignity conferred upon her—such a badge is ornamental and honourable, and especially when placed upon you by the advocates of slavery. For ourselves we should desire no greater honour than this!

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.—An accident of a truly melancholy nature, happened at the Steam Mill, in Chatham, on Saturday morning last.

Two lads, George Ford, aged 15, and John Kelly, aged 17 years of age, while playing, it is supposed, near one of the shafts connected with the cross-cut saws, the clothes of the former became entangled thereon, and on finding this to be the case, he clasped Kelly in his arms, when both were whirled round with the machinery. Ford must have met with an instantaneous death, as his head at every revolution of the shaft, came in contact with one of the beams of the building, and the other lad was dreadfully maimed and bruised. The physicians were in immediate attendance, and in the course of the day, it was found necessary to amputate Kelly's right leg, at the thigh. He now lies in a very precarious state, with but slight hopes of his recovery.

An inquest was held on the body of the first named unfortunate youth, before M. Cranney, Esq. one of the Coroners of the county, when a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.—*Miramichi Gleaner*.

BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.—We learn that this useful Institution has already been of signal benefit to these Colonies. Owing to the stoppage of the great American Banking Houses in London, a large amount of Bills drawn by the Canada Banks and by two of the chartered Banks in this city, were refused payment. The moment the Directors of the Bank of British North America found such to be the case, they, for the credit of the Colonies, immediately stepped forward and relieved the protested Bills.

We understand the Manager of the Halifax Branch is already there, and that the officers for the Branch in this city are on their way out.—*St. John Courier*.

LOWER CANADA.—The Provincial Legislature is summoned to meet on the 18th August. Some outrages are said to have been committed in the rural districts, upon those who adhere to the Government, by the supporters of