

# THE HALIFAX Monthly Magazine.

VOL. III.

JUNE, 1832.

No. 25.

[For the Halifax Monthly Magazine.]

## PUBLICATIONS IN NOVA-SCOTIA.

*The Witch of the Westcot, and other Poems, by Andrew Shiels.—*  
*Epitome of the Laws, by Beamish Murdoch, Esq.—History of*  
*part of New Brunswick, by Mr. Cooney.—Baptist and Metho-*  
*dist quarterly Magazines.*

THE Works above enumerated have been issued from the Halifax Press, within the last few months. We rather unwillingly undertake a brief review of them here, as may be considered our duty to do; premising that our wish is to give an unbiassed unprejudiced opinion of each, resolved not to flatter, and hoping to avoid cause of offence.

Before we commence our task, we would congratulate the Country, on the increasing activity, and improving execution, of its Metropolitan Press. It is a sure sign that intellect and general prosperity are on the advance. In a dearth of either, other things beside the preparation and encouragement of literary works are attended to.

The poetical volumes of Nova-Scotia—as may be expected—would occupy but a narrow shelf in the library. *The Rising Village, The Accepted Sigh, and The Witch of the Westcot.* We know of no others. Fugitive poetry has appeared in considerable quantities in periodicals, and interspersed with other matter, but we speak now of volumes, small or large, professedly devoted to Poetry. Some persons may think this paucity of little consequence; but we may rest assured, that where the better feelings of our nature are found, in connection with imagination and intellect above mediocrity, there Poetry will not be wanting.

Poetry is but the harmonious arrangement of strong and beautiful thoughts; which being impressed on the mind by a contemplation of interesting objects, it feels impelled to relate to others, either in spoken or written language.

Shiels' Poems make an octavo volume of 213 pages, of which,