

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE MIND.

MAN is capable of great mental culture. — His Creator has raised him in the scale of beings—blessed him with reason and judgment — and, made him capable of so enriching his mind with the treasures of knowledge and wisdom, as to be fitted for extensive and permanent usefulness, and great enjoyment in this life. But the mind needs cultivation. In its native state, it has justly been compared to the unpolished marble; and there is no greater difference between the block just taken from its bed, and the one over which the artisan has passed his skilful hand, than exists between the unimproved mind, and the one well instructed, and finely polished and decorated by science, and an acquaintance with men and with things. Proper education and knowledge will bring out the powers of the mind, give to them a right direction, and show to man the superiority of his own soul, and the exalted position that he is designed to occupy among the creatures formed by the Great Creator.

As Mental Culture is essential to the full développement of the intellectual powers, it should be the aim of all, but especially of the youth, to improve their minds by reading and study, and the use of such sources of instruction, and knowledge, as they can secure. And all may improve their minds. Where this is not done, in countries such as our own, it is more for the want of the desire, than it is for the want of the opportunity, or the means.— Some, it is true, have greater privileges than others, in this respect; but where there is a strong thirst for knowledge, all obstacles will be surmounted, and this inestimable treasure will be secured. If the time wasted, by most persons, were but devoted to the pursuit of knowledge and the improvement of the mind, in various ways; it would vastly increase the amount of learning, and useful intelligence and knowledge among mankind. Let the youth of Canada be deeply impressed with the correctness of this remark, and properly employ their time in the great work of improving their minds, and it will tell, both upon their happiness and usefulness.

ASIATIC CHOLERA.

DOES any person start at the heading of this article, and begin to conclude that the dreadful disease named is not a fit subject to be written upon in a magazine; let that individual pause a while first, and hear what we have to say upon the subject. Situated as we have been for the last four weeks, in the midst of the ravages of the cholera, which has swept off not less than four hundred persons in that time in this city; it would be remarkable if the subject should not be fresh in our thoughts; and unfeeling, a stoick, indeed, must that person be who can remain unmoved where there is so much human suffering and death. Whole families have been consigned to their last resting place, in the course of a few days—parents have been called to part with all their children—children have been deprived of both their parents; ties indeed the most sacred; and bonds the most affectionate, have been severed in an hour! Nor has this destroyer confined his attacks to the ranks of the intemperate and profligate; many of strictly temperate habits and good moral character have been among his victims. We have just received a note to attend the funeral of the third member of a respectable and pious family who has been removed by this disease within the last 48 hours; all of whom were married persons; and one or two more members of this family, are also attacked, and at this moment suffering all the pain and apprehension common to this most mysterious and malignant contagion!

Were none but the low and sunken in sin, made the victims of cholera, others might indulge in presumption, and consequently, not be brought to acknowledge their dependence upon the Divine being, or rightly to consider that the lives of all are in His hands, and that their only safety and wise course is to trust in Him at all times. The most skeptical can scarcely fail of being convinced that this is a judgment from Heaven, sent upon the people of numerous nations of the earth, on account of their sins. Not so much perhaps as a punishment; but used by the infinitely wise Being as a means to awaken a slumbering church, and to lead his enemies every where.