

debarred from personal panegyric, where conspicuous merit deserves it. So far from aiming any cut, if any slash were found in the coat of a man whose public spirit and enterprising genius are an honour to the country, I would rather seek to darn it. The inestimable advantages of our water-works, the convenience of public baths, are pledges of still greater improvements, for which we shall probably be indebted to the same quarter. If narrow-mindedness in other quarters had not prevented it, sewers would have been formed at the time the water-pipes were laid down; water-closets would have come in vogue; and the noisome dust of summer would have been laid by proper water-carts. I will venture to predict that, if the present generation in Montreal are ever illumined by the noble discovery of gas lights,* it will be the same hand that will also bestow that benefit.

I expect that Corinna, Trifletta, Cunegonda, and Scandelezza, will also all be claimed, (Althea's cap being made on purpose, will fit nobody but herself,) but, protesting against the personal application of all generalities that appear in these lucubrations, I will fearlessly proceed and distribute my caps at every one's service that will be a customer.

* This discovery appears to have been made upwards of a century ago, but to have been completely lost sight of, and only of very late years applied to practical purposes. In the Philosophical Transactions, (Lowthorp's abridged edition, London, 1705. vol. 5. p. 577.) is a narrative of a voyage to Virginia, by a Mr. J. Clapton, in which, speaking of the violent storms of thunder and lightning he experienced in that country, the author says, "Durst I offer my weak reasons, I might here consider the nature of thunder, and compare it with some sulphureous spirits which I have drawn from coals, that I could no way condense, yet were inflammable; nay, would burn after they had passed through the water, and that seemingly fiercer, if they were not overpowered therewith. I have kept this spirit a considerable time in bladders; and though it appeared as if they were only blown with air, yet, if I let it forth, and fired it with a match or candle, it would continue burning till all were spent."²