

THE PEARL.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 13.

**FOURTH ORIGINAL PEARL.**—We present our readers, to-day with our fourth Original number, and if it is not all that we could wish or they desire, we hope it will be taken as an indication of our anxiety to please, and an evidence of the growing taste for Literature and literary composition in the Provinces. From the kind assurances of many friends, and the good opinions expressed by our cotemporaries generally, we have reason to believe that, since it came into our hands, the Pearl has maintained any reputation it might have acquired, and has drawn around it the sympathy of many of the enlightened and the good, who would lament did we cease once a week to twinkle among the lesser stars in the great firmament of letters. We are made conscious of their kindness of feeling in various ways—and were their power equal to their wishes, we doubt not the Pearl would soon secure a place in every family circle in the Colonies. On a slip received from the Montreal Transcript Office, the other day, was written—"The Editor of The Transcript prefers the PEARL to any Literary Paper on the Continent of America." In a matter of taste, of course, the Editor is entitled to his opinion—but we can only say, that if we doubt a little the grounds of the preference he would indicate, we hope yet to establish a character second to none on this side of the Atlantic. In matters of engraving and mere embellishment, we must, for some years, be behind others, but in freshness, and variety of instructive and agreeable selection—in quality, if not in quantity of original matter, in a high moral tone, and attention to all those matters which are calculated to refine the taste and ripen the intellect of the Colonist, we hope that we shall be found not behind the requirements of the population for whom we cater, and that the Colonial Pearl will yet be deemed worthy of, and enjoy, very general circulation through the British Dominions on this Continent.

We would embrace this opportunity of respectfully suggesting to those who like our Paper, how very important a little personal effort is in the first stages of such a Periodical. Only for the want of this, hundreds who would willingly subscribe at once, and lend their aid to extend its resources, may not hear of it, or have their attention attracted to its pages, for years. If each of our patrons would consent to become a literary missionary for a single hour, what a beneficial change would at once be wrought in the prospects of the Pearl. Such an effort would give it a standing, and strength, which only corresponding activity on our part would be wanting to so improve, as to place it beyond the reach of accidents and contingencies for the future.

**ITEMS OF NEWS.**—A fine Packet ship, the Poland, bound from New York to Havre, was set on fire by lightning, at sea, and destroyed. The collision occurred on the 16th of May, during heavy rain. There were 63 passengers on board, several of whom saw the electric flash descend; the explosion was similar to that of a piece of cannon. Some hours elapsed before it was discovered that she was on fire, in the hold. Exertions to extinguish the fire were unavailing, the hatches were battened down, and the smoke and gas oozing through crevices, caused the entire desertion of every place under deck. Great coolness was exhibited by all on board, the women and children were placed in the long boat, which was lashed to the vessel, two smaller boats were prepared, and thus they awaited the catastrophe. The boats could not contain all the persons on board, about fifteen would have to be abandoned to death, if no other mode of deliverance appeared. The fire burned slowly. The long-boat's company remained nearly two days and nights in her, suffering excessively from exposure, crowding together in one posture, and in danger of swamping. They were taken on board the vessel, and sail made, to get into the track of vessels bound to or from Europe. The decks became excessively heated, the sea very rough, and danger, imminently impended, when the ship Clifton came in sight, and rescued the sufferers, who soon after arrived at Boston. The Poland was seven days out when struck. The loss is estimated at about £37,000.

An explosion occurred in the Arsenal about two miles below St. Louis, 100,000 cartridges exploded, and caused a tremendous shock.

A recent fire at Ithaca destroyed property to the amount of about 50,000 dollars.

Several extraordinary disappearances of persons, in some cities of the U. States, have been accounted for, either by the return, or otherwise, of the parties.

A meeting was held at Mason Hall, on Thursday last, for the purpose of opening a subscription towards the erection of a monument to the Duke of Wellington. Committees were appointed, and other arrangements made.

The Nova Scotia Philanthropic Society held their annual fete at the Prince's Lodge, on Monday last. The Society have chosen the day, and place of meeting, with due taste. The 8th of June is the anniversary of the landing of Governor Cornwallis and the first settlers of Halifax. The Lodge is endeared by having been erected by the Duke of Kent, and used by him as a country residence. It thus unites some of the romance and circumstance,

which make it so interesting. Added to this, the Lodge is situated on the borders of Bedford Basin, surrounded by secluded and picturesque scenes. The Society, and their guests, numbering upwards of two hundred, proceeded to their destination in the Sir Charles Ogle Steam-boat. One party left at eleven o'clock, the other at two. The day was fine, but rather warm. Athletic and other games, occupied the interval between dinner and returning home. The weather has been unusually dry, and sultry, and rain is much desired for the various crops. An interesting meeting of the Halifax Temperance Society took place on Monday evening last, in the old Baptist Meeting house. The meeting was addressed by Beamish Murdoch, Esq.—Rev. Dr. Twining, Rev. Mr. Knowlan, Mr. Brown, Jun., and others. Seventeen new members took the pledge. The cause, happily, appears to be making visible progress in Halifax. It has done wonders, through all the ramifications of society, in a less palpable manner, by influencing the habits and customs of the community.

**MUSIC IN OUR SQUARE.**—On Tuesday afternoon the fine band of the 23rd Regt. occupied the south area of the Province Building, in front of the office of the Pearl, and we had nothing to do but throw open windows, and pursue our labours, while they were discoursing most exquisite music. Here now, thought we, is one of the cheap luxuries, which, because every body can enjoy it, for nothing, nobody sufficiently values. Put a fine Military Band in any one of five hundred Provincial Towns in England or Scotland, to play for an afternoon, and what a turn out there would be of the beauty and fashion of the place, to listen to the sweet sounds! But in Halifax, that which can be heard on parade every fine morning in summer, and at Mason Hall almost every evening in winter, comes at last to be listened to with comparative indifference. We observe that strangers, and especially persons from the United States, are always more attracted by the Bands than the townspeople. We remember an American lady, whom, a few summers ago, nothing could tempt to forego her morning's ramble to the parade. But, with the exception of a few dozen of boys and girls, clinging around the Iron Railings, there were scarcely any listeners on Tuesday, to the Band of the 23rd. A few officers there were, but finding nobody to chat and flirt with, they moved off, and left the musicians almost alone in their glory. It is really very kind of the Commanding Officers of the different Regiments in garrison to allow their Bands to furnish these semi-weekly treats to the citizens, and it would really be but a fair return of the compliment for those who can spare an hour of an afternoon, to promenade around the square, and show that they appreciate what is intended for their amusement, and what certainly does add vastly to the rational attractions of the Town. We cannot but wish, however, that the Bands would give us more of those stirring national airs, and delicious melodies, which, to the ears of English, Irish, and Scotchmen, and those of their descendants, are infinitely more acceptable than the foreign pieces which are performed so frequently, but which few feel, and a still smaller number understand. They "discourse music" indeed, sweet and harmonious, but not eloquent. The soul is not stirred, no sentiments are excited, a pleasing, confusing maze passes across the ear, and all is over. Is this the end of Music? Should it be its highest aim? Should not the test of the art be, like that of its sister arts, Painting and Poetry, the giving of delight to the greatest number, popularity founded on nature, rather than the captivating some few "professors" who are conscious of difficulties have been surmounted, and are pleased at the mere triumph, considering the effects as secondary, if considering them at all.

**DANCING.**—A lady who has highly amused the European public, by exhibiting the graceful and extraordinary attitudes and movements, of which the human body is capable, has arrived at New York, and caused quite an excitement there. She is named Fanny Elssler, and judging from the sums she has been paid in Europe, the honours she has received, and the dignified personages she has attracted, we may conclude that her abilities, in her line, are very unusual. The facts in her case form a curious demonstration of the vagaries of fashion, and of taste, and of the various modes in which luxury exhibits itself. A tulip, at one time, may represent the value of 100 guineas, because it is of a rare kind, and the rich vie with each other, as regards the possession of botanical beauties. A musician will receive more for a few performances on one string of a violin, than a man who unites the qualities of sage and poet, for producing a series of volumes, which have cost him years of labour, and which combine much of the wisdom of Minerva with the eloquence of Apollo. A dancer will amass a splendid fortune, and become famous in two hemispheres, while tens of thousands of her sex, who walk quietly on their feet, have to encounter incessant care and labour, for a mere solitary living. All this may not be evil, but it seems trenching on evil; and like that kind of extreme self-indulgence which proceeds retrogression, in individuals and nations. As regards Fanny Elssler, in New York, it appears that she has been receiving about £200 a night for each night that she has performed.

Some scraps from a New York paper will tend to show the extravagance which reigns on this subject. They are as follows: The evening of the fourteenth of May, 1840, was a memorable one in the annals of the stage, in this country, for it was on that

night that the incomparable Fanny Elssler made her first courtesy at the Park Theatre. Never can we forget the sensation that was produced when the inimitable daughter of the Graces came bounding before us like a spirit from another sphere. All that we had imagined of poetry—of music—of sculpture—of refinement—elegance and beauty—were realized. The colours of the rainbow—the delicacy of the flowers—the purity of the crystal waters—have nothing more radiant, exquisite, or transparent, than the gossamer floatings of this glorious creature. We shut our eyes, even now as we write, and the whole scene is before us. The dense audience—the multitudinous seas of human faces—the playing of handkerchiefs—the showers and garlands of flowers—the shouts of the arena—and, above all, the aerial spiritings of the goddess, with her sweet smiles and sunny features—her brief but earnest expression—"many thanks—my heart is too full for words," are still before us like a spell! We are poor—we are poets—we have little in possession, and less in perspective, but we would not forego the glories of that evening for any consideration that occurs to us. The performances were a Polish Dance, and the ballet of *La Tarantule*. In the first all was nature, grace, and unadorned simplicity; but, in the second, she gave a meaning, and a finish to every movement, gesture and expression, that astonished, delighted, and electrified the spectators.

The writer of the above need not inform us that he is a poet, and poor. None but a poet could indulge in such rhapsodies on such a subject; and one so led away by his feelings, has not much chance of becoming rich, in the matter of not world that surrounds ordinary mortals. Had he said, "a spirit from another hemisphere," there would be prose and probability, but to imagine a more than mortal spirit appearing for the amusement of the Opera House goers, was indeed laying "a flattering unction to their souls." The "transparency of the gossamer floatings" of a dancer, is a fine specimen of exquisite nonsense, into which the poor poet has been beguiled by the enchantress; but he evinces the truth of the adage, that "a man's mind is his Kingdom," by declaring that no "consideration" could give pleasure equal to the glories of "that evening." It is easy to put such a one in the "third heaven" of earthly enjoyment, and if he cannot command much, he can command a little to appear a vast deal. The writer of the above, fearing to be thought too extreme in his description, gives a scrap from another American authority, who witnessed Fanny's gyrations in Paris, as confirmatory of his own opinions.

This second authority describes her as pirouetting six feet high,—springing round until she becomes invisible,—and moving her feet so rapidly that they could no more be counted than the spokes of a rail wagon going express. These are extraordinary performances, if true, yet, after all, they do not remind one very much of the acts of "a spirit from another sphere."

There can be no doubt, however, that this actress unites many of the graces of her profession, and that she forcibly exhibits what wonders training and practice can effect in the human subject, when nature is propitious.

**LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION.**—This institution continues its meetings and debates throughout the summer. Last Monday evening an animated discussion occurred on the question "Whether the American Revolution had a beneficial or injurious effect on the present British Colonies."

On the beneficial side it was assumed:—First, that the revolt of 1776, had obtained for the present Colonies the benefit of the act 18th, George 3d, by which the King and Parliament of Great Britain renounced the claim to taxation, and guaranteed to the Colonists their inalienable right of property.

Secondly, that the attention of the Mother Country being withdrawn from the revolted Colonies when they had succeeded in gaining their independence, the remaining Colonies became objects of greater solicitude and fostering care; and have consequently progressed more rapidly in improvement and prosperity, than they would, had their resources continued to be obscured by the exclusive attention, which must have been directed to older, more populous, and more important Colonies. And thirdly, that as regards Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, much had been gained, by the influx of Loyalists, who had left the States on account of their preference for Monarchical institutions, and had brought to these Colonies wealth to enrich them, and education to elevate and refine the character of their inhabitants.

On the other side of the question it was argued that the war of the revolt exercised a most serious and injurious effect upon the British North American Colonies. The question was asked, in what position would these Colonies have stood, had the revolution never taken place? The real point in issue, was not, whether the British North American Colonies possessed greater political liberty and more Commercial advantages and immunities now, than they did immediately preceding the war; but whether, if that war had not occurred, they would not, in common with the other New England Colonies, (now the Republic of America,) have succeeded in obtaining equal laws and institutions. If the question would admit of so wide a scope, the injurious consequences of the revolution could easily be proved by statistical returns laid on the table of the House of Commons by the present Governor General. To this replies were made:

It was decided by a large majority, that the American Revolution had been beneficial to the Colonies. *Communicated.*

[We had to abbreviate the Notice of the Literary and Scientific Association, to meet the space vacant at the time of its reception.]