

monds ;—that slight, lovely being leaning on her arm has the pearls of India wound around her brow ;—those statesmen and warriors are decorated with stars ;—the dense mass displays flowers, ribbons, and ornaments of every colour in the rainbow ; but among them all, is there, we ask, a single one who for a moment has thought of bringing with him upon his back, the hogshead of air per hour necessary for his respiration ? And if every guest present has neglected to do so, in what manner, it must be inquired, has the noble host provided for the demand ? Alas ! the massive, pictured walls around us, and richly-stuccoed and gilt ceiling over our heads, answer the question ; indeed one has only to cast a glance at them to perceive that the five hundred persons present, like those in the Black-hole at Calcutta, are conglomerated together in a hermetically-sealed box full of vitiated air.

Every minute a thousand gallons of air pass into the lungs of those present, from whence, divested of its oxygen, it is exhaled in a morbid condition unfit for combustion or animal life ; every respiration of each elegant guest, nay, even our own contemplative sigh, vitiates about sixteen cubic inches of the element ; and yet, while every moment it is becoming more and more destructive to health ; while the loveliest cheeks are gradually fading before us ; while the constitutions of the young are evidently receiving an injury which not the wealth of Cræsus will be able to repay ; what arrangements, we repeat, has the noble host made for preventing or repairing the damage he is creating ? If foul air,