

cellent foundation for a member of Parliament, that a future bishop should be complete master of Greek tragedies and comedies, that a knowledge of the amours of the gods and goddesses, and of the impurity of the classical writers, is the best ground work for a parson, and that a country magistrate should read the four first books of Euclid. If it is suggested that a judge should have studied law in all its branches, a parson theology, and a member of Parliament, history and jurisprudence, they cry out against such a system as full of mischief. Why, then, should not a future farmer be taught weaving, a weaver instructed in the care of cows, a linen-draper learn how to thrash corn, a Newmarket jockey mature his skill at a tailor's board, and a tailor finish his education at Newmarket! If such a system would be ridiculous amongst plebeians, what can make it more ridiculous amongst aristocrats? The fact is, *the system is established*: it is the interest of a swarm of useless men to keep it so, who would be ruined if it were altered; and, therefore to prove that what is, is right, they have recourse to sophistry and to arguments which no rational person would listen to. As long as the Mass was profitable at Cambridge, thousands of volumes were written to prove it the perfection of divine and human wisdom: but, setting aside all the logic, used to persuade us of the virtue of things as they are, we should do well always to consider the *argumentum ad crumenam*, or the purse-argument, which will be found to be the clue of this blessed labyrinth.

TAXATION.—The obnoxious light in which direct taxes to the Government are viewed, not only in this province, but throughout North America, is almost incomprehensible to one accustomed to the financial systems of Europe. A mail-carrier, a personage equivalent to the mail-coachman of England, expressed to me, pithily, the ideas of the many on this subject. "Sixteen years ago, I came from the old country to Upper Canada: I soon thought I could do better, and tried all the great towns of the States, as far as Philadelphia. They may talk of their liberty, but I found none there; it was as bad as in England; for I was taxed for every thing.—Well, I thought I'd make trial of this country, and here I'm suited; we have no taxes to pay, and no man can shake a finger at us."—"Friend," said I, "how much did you pay for that respectable Benjamin I see thrown over the seat?"—He named the sum.—"I gave just half that price for mine in England:—do you see now how you pay taxes?" He could not comprehend.—"Well, we don't hear any thing of them," was his conclusion; and a happy conclusion it is, which leaves a provincial population of 140,000 perfectly satisfied, in the conviction that they enjoy the unalloyed sweets of political freedom.—*Moorson's Letters upon Nova Scotia.*

FISHERIES.—The fisheries are undoubtedly the branch of industry that produces the staple exports of Nova Scotia. Viewing their importance in a purely national light, namely, as the means of affording an abundant supply of hardy seamen for the defence of the country, I cannot say that this appears to me so great as is usually imagined. I ad-

mit that they contribute indirectly to the supply, inasmuch as every additional vessel freighted by the Halifax merchant for a foreign port, is a proportional increase to the maritime strength of Britain; but the fishermen themselves, being generally possessed of small farms, will not voluntarily be induced to enter the sea-service; and, being more scattered along an unfrequented coast, and not under the same obligations of resorting to the great ports as those of the same calling at home, they are far less accessible to the odious powers of compulsion. Moreover, their fishing is conducted in boats and small vessels, which are but ill-adapted to render them efficient seamen. The fisheries are, however, a most important source of national wealth, and are every year rising into more efficient operation. In 1743 the fisheries of the Island of Cape Breton alone, then in possession of the French, produced nearly a million sterling. This fact is sufficient to prove what immense returns might and will be drawn from this source. Equally with the resources of Nova Scotia, the development of these has been retarded by many adventitious circumstances: those engaged in the pursuit were persons of the poorest description, who, commencing without any thing, in fact, but the power of bodily labour, had to procure credit in the first instance, and then fight up-hill under an accumulation of debt for their fit-out, their annual equipment, and their winter-stores, which keeps the greater part of them at this moment in arrear on the books of the merchant.

Again, it must be confessed, there appears a want of energy, of spirit, and of activity, which is probably the more apparent from its contrast exhibited in the enterprise of the American fishermen from the New England shores. Before the shallops of Nova Scotia are yet afloat in their harbours, the small craft from Marble Head and Cape Cod are off the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and on the Great Banks, ready to take advantage of the very first moment that the ice will permit for commencing the season. Many frivolous reasons are alleged, such as the want of encouragement, low price of the markets, and so forth; but I fear the cause must rather be sought, first, in that natural indolence which induces a man to rest satisfied if he can "make out," without being at the trouble of bettering his condition; and secondly, in these people having arrived at, and remaining in, that state which, in ignorance of the great principle of the division of labour, makes a man depend partly on land, partly on water, for his subsistence, instead of attending wholly to the one, while his neighbour looks wholly to the other.—This state of things however will improve with the general improvement of the country: as the means of each party become less shackled, we shall see greater liberality on the one side, and more spirited exertion on the other. Much attention has been latterly paid to the subject by the Colonial Legislature, and a more regular system introduced: premiums have also been allotted; but as these are in the shape of a direct bonus upon the quintal, I doubt whether they will not benefit the merchant who does not want it, rather than the fisherman who does. The local advantages are all on our side, compar-

ed with those possessed by any other people; and unless these advantages are rendered nugatory by ignorance, we shall still keep them in every foreign market.—*Ibid.*

Lieutenant Farewell, of the Navy, was induced, for the sake of carrying on a trade with the natives, to fix himself at the bay of Natal, on the coast of Natal, on the coast of Africa, under the sovereignty of a chief named Chaka, one of the most inhuman and monstrous characters that ever existed.—The account of him by the Lieutenant appears scarcely credible. He puts to death men, women, and children who oppose him; he keeps twelve hundred concubines, and those of whom he becomes tired, he distributes among his officers. He suffers no one to see him eat or drink; his chiefs approach him in a crawling attitude; and if any one should laugh, or smile, or cough or sneeze, he is put to death. One ugly person having disturbed the serenity of his features, he called out, "Take that man away and slay him, he makes me laugh."

Facetiæ &c.

A wealthy parent, whose education had been sadly neglected, was advised by a friend to pay particular attention to the education of his eldest son, a lad apparently of considerable promise. The father acted upon this, at least in his opinion; for, shortly before his son left college, he called upon the friendly counsellor, and, showing him a letter, said, "There Mr—, look at that! You know I've spent oceans of money—a whole fortune on the lad; he's now two-and-twenty. This is a letter from him, and what do you think? S' help me G—, if he doesn't spell SHUGAR *without* the H!"

A wag, on being told that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had taken off half of the duty on soap, observed, that, though he did not like a reforming government doing things by halves, yet still it was one step towards improving the people; and we should no longer hear the phrase "*unwashed* artificers" applied to the "lower order," they would, in future, be termed "*half-washed* artificers."

LIVING WITHOUT BRAINS.—As the late Professor H— was walking near Edinburgh, he met one of those beings usually called fools. "Pray," said the Professor, on accosting him, "how long can a person live without brains?" "I dinna ken," replied the fellow, scratching his head; "how long have you lived yourself sir?"

"What did Mr — die of?" asked a simple neighbour. "Of a complication of disorders—two physicians, an apothecary and a surgeon," replied his friend.

COMING TO THE POINT.—A young lady, while walking with a gentleman, stumbled, and when her companion, to prevent her fall, grasped her hand somewhat tightly, "Oh, sir," she simpered, "if it comes to that, you may ask my papa."

A Cheshire farmer was lately asked by the minister how it was that when he preached the farmer always fell asleep, but when a stranger preached he was all attention. The farmer replied, "Why, sir, when ye preach, I know aw's right, but when a stranger comes I canna trust him, and so I keeps a good look out."