

livered in elegant and very pleasing language, and will long be remembered by a large and attentive audience as a work of true merit and ingenuity.

On the 14th December, the next lecture was delivered by J. H. GRAY, Esquire, on the *Life and Writings of Sir Walter Scott*. The early life, and the peculiar habits of the great Poet were touched with a master hand. Whether the romantic scenes of youth, and the strong emotions which are then produced by external causes are capable of forming a poetic mind, it is difficult to decide. It is, nevertheless, certain, that the strong impressions of youth are frequently engraved deeper in the mind, than those that follow in after life. In the present instance, the spark that had been kindled in the breast of the Scottish Bard, continued to burn with increasing splendour, until every thing that came within the scope of his mighty mind was changed into music. From his translation of "*Der Wilde Jäger*," the skill of Sir Walter rose to the splendid strains of "*The Lady of the Lake*;" in which his "genius seems to have reached the acme of its powers."

On the 21st, the subject was continued, and Mr. Gray referred to the more painful parts of the poet's history. While the author of *Waverley* was pouring upon the world "the coinage of his brain," his connection with two merchants, who became bankrupt, involved him in responsibilities to the enormous amount of 120,000*l.* The prudence, honesty, energy, and patience of this truly great man, under distressing circumstances, were very beautifully portrayed by the lecturer; and after all his just demands were nearly paid, the curtain was to be drawn, and the "child of song" to be removed from the millions he had delighted with his pen. Mr. Gray left the platform with repeated cheers, and with reason to be proud of the entertainment and instruction he had given to his delighted hearers.

Friday the 18th December, Dr. GESNER (the old and well-tried friend of the Institute) again lectured on Mineralogy. The lecturer's long table was covered with beautiful specimens of minerals, many of which belonged to New-Brunswick and Nova-Scotia. It was stated during the lecture that an amethyst from Nova Scotia was in the Crown of the King of the French, and the lecturer had found one in New Brunswick which he should use his endeavours to have presented to Her Most Gracious Majesty, to be placed in the Crown. "New-Brunswick will supply a gem for the Royal diadem." The formation of crystals, and the occurrence of minerals in the earth were adverted to, and from the Doctor's practical knowledge of the science a great deal of useful and very interesting information was conveyed without the aid of written notes. With all the Doctor's gravity, he never lets his audience off without making them shake their sides with laughter.—His anecdote of the money-digger and the mineral rod, excites our risibility even now.

25th: M. H. PERLEY, Esquire, on the *Early History of New-Brunswick*. It was stated by the lecturer that Cabot having discovered Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, probably was the first who landed on the great Continent of America, and that somewhere between Richibucto and Miramichi, the first Chris-

tian foot rested on the soil of the New World. Columbus did not reach the mainland until two years afterwards. This gives a new and important historical character to the Province.—Several very interesting extracts were read from Champlain's work published in 1613. In this, the discovering of the River St. John on the 24th day of June, 1604, is mentioned, and the scenery of the falls and river are very accurately described. An account of the Earl of Stirling's claim to all these Provinces, was also adverted to, and it would appear from the information Mr. Perley obtained in England that his claim is not altogether without foundation.

The history of the wife of Charles de la Tour is full of interest, and as the lecturer remarked, "a braver woman never lived upon these shores." But our limits will not allow us to enter upon this subject in the manner it deserves, and as we understand the lecture is to be published, we defer giving a more extended notice of it for the present. Mr. Perley deserves a great deal of praise for the research and labour he has bestowed upon this work, which will form a valuable appendage to Haliburton's *History of Nova-Scotia*, or lay the foundation of a more perfect history of this Province than has heretofore appeared.

On Monday, 4th inst., Mr. Perley concuded his very interesting subject.—As on the occasion of the first lecture, a similar interest was manifested by a brilliant and crowded audience, who testified their approbation by repeated plaudits.

Extra pages will be attached to each No. of THE AMARANTH for the insertion of Advertisements.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—An original Tale entitled "*Dark Harbour*," has been received.

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