

and the post-mortem examination of the body of the third, were found to correspond with the annunciations of the somnambulist; 3. That the different modes of treatment which she prescribed, do not exceed the limits of that circle of remedies with which she might have been acquainted, nor the order of the things which she might reasonably recommend; and, 4. That she applied them with a species of discernment."

The literary labours of the Committee here draw near their termination, and after a repetition of declarations relative to the care and distrust with which they have throughout proceeded, they add the following general opinion on the subject which has so long occupied their attention:—"We may add, that we are far from thinking that we have seen all that magnetism is capable of presenting; we do not, therefore, pretend to desire you to admit, as an axiom, that there is nothing positive in magnetism beyond what we have noticed in our report. Far from setting limits to this part of physiological science, we hope, on the contrary, that a new field has been opened up to it; and, warranting the authenticity of our own observations, presenting them with confidence to those who, after us, may wish to engage in the investigation of magnetism, we shall only deduce from them the following conclusions."—These conclusions we do not feel it necessary to give. They are precisely such as the facts now before our readers appear to justify all impartial men in drawing, and no other. One or two sentences, however, may be appropriately added to what we have already extracted. Thus, the committee say:—

"We only saw one person who fell into somnambulism upon being magnetized for the first time. Sometimes, somnambulism was not manifested until the eighth or tenth sitting."

"While in the state of somnambulism, the patients, whom we have observed, retained the use of the faculties which they possessed when awake. Even their memory appeared to be more faithful and more extensive, because they remembered every thing that passed at the time, and every time they were placed in the state of somnambulism."

"Upon awaking, they said they had totally forgotten the circumstances which took place during the somnambulism, and never recollected them. For this fact we can have no other authority than their own declarations."

"Considered as a cause of certain physiological phenomena, or as a therapeutic remedy, magnetism ought to be allowed a place within the circle of the medical sciences; and, consequently, physicians only should practise it, or superintend its use, as is the case in the northern countries."

The "Appendix" subjoined by Mr. Colquhoun, contains many curious and interesting statements relative to (in so many words) the faculty, during catalepsy and somnambulism, of seeing and reading with the stomach, fingers, and toes. Start not, gentle reader. After what we have already herein recorded, you may justly be astonished at naught. The report of the French Committee commands us to give attention to much which has hitherto been published, and thrown aside with contempt by disbelievers in animal magnetism. The nature of the almost incredible transference to which this appendix relates, can hardly be better described in few words than we find it in the following passage, extracted from a note at page 225:—

"Van Ghert, in his account of the magnetic treatment of the Demoiselle B., mentions a similar circumstance. In that case, he observed the transference of the faculties to the pit of the stomach; and the patient gave the following description of her feelings:—"When you fix your thoughts intensely upon me, I can see everything; at these times, the eyes and the brain leave my head, and take up their residence beside the stomach. Wonderful as this may appear, I assure you that it is true. When I am startled or you are disturbed, then the eyes and the brain return to my head."

#### CAPTAIN BACK'S EXPEDITION.

The following letter has been received from Captain Back, (being the first time

since he left Montreal, where he may be said to have commenced his undertaking,) and is now published for the information of the numerous friends and subscribers to his expedition:

"Norway House, Jack River, July 19."

"My dear M.,—I wrote to you last, from Montreal; since which I am happy to inform you my progress has been unimpeded by accident, though attended with more expense than it was possible to foresee. On arriving at the Sault St. Marie, (I love the name,) which we effected ten days earlier than the light canoe of the last season, we were informed that there was such a deficiency of provisions in the Indian country that it would be necessary to take a supply at once as far as Lake Winnipeg. This obliged me to purchase another canoe, to get across Lake Superior, and from this establishment I received the two north canoes prepared for the expedition by the Company.

"We arrived at Fort Alexander on the 6th of June, which, for heavy canoes, is considered as being remarkably quick, the despatch canoe from Montreal having only got there one day earlier. The letters that you and I saw at the Hudson's Bay House in December last, together with others of mine to Governor Simpson, were in that canoe, and consequently but a short time before me. I had thus to apprehend that the arrangements relating to the expedition could not have been completed from the want of the necessary information; and therefore the importance of seeing the Governor myself was evident, and on the 10th of June, I had the pleasure at Fort Alexander. I then heard that the supplies were nearly all at Cumberland House; but, as we could not by any exertion procure the men required for the expedition at Montreal, it was necessary for me to come to this port to complete their number. And now I am sorry to say we are obliged to pay very high wages; besides which, I have lost full 300 miles by this delay, unavoidable in itself.

"It is the opinion of the senior gentlemen here, then, that the only method that we can adopt to get my two large heavy boats to a wintering ground is for me to go in a light canoe myself, and find out the exact situation and the best route to the Thiboo-ee-cho, which I hope to do by the time the boats arrive at the Athabasca, where there shall be a guide to conduct them to me.—Now, my dear friend, though I must do this to ensure my operations next year, yet it will swell our expenses to more than I contemplated, and you cannot conceive how feverish I am at the thought of getting beyond the £7,000, for it is certain this sum will scarcely carry us to three years, whereas an additional £1,000 would be amply sufficient. Pray see, then, what can be done, and make me quiet about this.

"I am now in the midst of business and annoyance—hiring and repairing my boats. I shall write again to the committee on this occasion you are the only person in England to whom I propose writing, therefore make my kind regards to them, and especially to those who have been so kind and are interested in my undertaking. Yours ever,

#### NEW MODE OF TRANSFERRING POWER.—

We will speak of one piece of machinery which has been long known and is just struggling into existence, but which, like some unexpected blessing, will go to countries not yet so far advanced as our own. [It is, the mode of transferring power. As our object is to convey information in the simplest form, we will first state one or two admitted facts, from which the reader will follow the chain of reasoning; the air presses on every square inch exposed to it the weight of 15lbs. It is clear, that if a vacuum be formed on one side of a surface, the edges of which fit so close to an external box as to prevent any air passing, that if the vacuum be perfect, the number of pounds pressing on the side opposite to the vacuum will be fifteen times the number of square inches of the area. On that simple principle depends the whole working of this beautiful machine. Power cannot be created. There must always be a primary power, and the result of it will be less than it, by the amount of the friction of the parts of the machine. Suppose a mountain torrent so situated as to be useless for the purpose of a manufactory from the difficulty of approach, the power of that torrent can be conveyed any number of miles down the glens, through swamps, over hills, to the manufactory conveniently situated. Water-wheels are conveyed to the most accessible place of the torrent, and there erected and made to work exhausting pumps; to these exhausting pumps a pipe is attached, which may be made of iron, or even strong pottery, so that it is air-tight, and can bear the external pressure of 15lbs. on the inch. This pipe communicates with the slide of an engine, similar to that used for steam, (on a small scale, and even on a large, Whitty's vibrating engine works admirably,) the pipe being exhausted of air, whatever air is on the side of the piston rushes to fill up the vacuum in the pipe, which is continually exhausted by the pumps worked by the water-wheels. The air is at the same time permitted to enter on the other side of the piston; thus the pressure is obtained. The communication with the vacuum is then changed to the side which contains the air, which immediately becomes a vacuum, and the air entering on the opposite side, the reciprocating motion is obtained, and converted in the usual way into a rotary. Thus at the distance of miles, the primary power is transferred by this simple, yet truly philosophical principle. The ocean tide is a never-failing power, and may be made to work all the machinery of a kingdom. Let us suppose the tide in the Thames or the Mersey thus used; every warehouse might be supplied with an engine, even every floor, and by the touch of a finger, the heaviest goods might be raised. As a certain quantity of power was required to raise them, so a considerable portion of that power may be redeemed on their being lowered again. When the power is not in action in any particular warehouse, waste as in a steam engine, is not going on but a virtual accumulation of power in the vacuum is being made more perfect. This is a beautiful and simple method of conveying the power of their cargoes in half the time and at half the expense. Had the proprietors of the