

a singularly precautionary character, for the use of the unfortunate invalid, who did not expect them, who had never solicited them ; and when she expresses to him her very natural surprise at this act of gratuitous attention, he infers an insinuation on her part, which her words do not certainly convey, and exclaims : "Do you think they would be wicked enough to put any thing in them which could harm you !" Some dust or filth is *said*, though not seen, to have got, no one knows how, into the bowl containing the preserves, which he professes to remove by inserting his own soiled fingers into them, and this little pantomime terminates by the sick woman desiring that they should be thrown away. The bowl was then in his hands, having taken it from his wife's, and he then casts away that small but important remnant, which would have gone far to establish his innocence, or rivet his guilt. After eating of the preserves she becomes seriously ill, with violent and continued reaching, severe bowel complaint, and spitting and vomiting of blood, for which, instead of sending for a medical man, he procures and administers *hot rum punch* which he prepares himself, having something else in his hand which he puts into it, and then gives it to the suffering invalid. During the five days of her severe and painful illness we do not hear much of him ; he appears not generally to have been absent from the house, but is not often in attendance at the sick bed ; but whenever it is necessary to prepare hot rum punch for a woman vomiting blood, or to superintend the disposal of an insignificant and valueless quantity of *innocuous* apple preserves, he is ever the presiding genius. On the last evening of her life he is away, knowing that she is dying, and leaves her to the tender care of her neighbours. He professes to go in quest of a minister of religion, but calls at Boulé's, who was at his own house, and twice at Thériault's to ascertain the hour,—an important inquiry in the breast of a man whose bosom partner for