



Notices

CONCEPTION BAY PACKETS



NORA CREINA

Packet-Boat between Carbonear and Portugal-Cove.

JAMES DOYLE, in returning his best thanks to the Public for the patronage and support he has uniformly received, begs to solicit a continuance of the same favours in future, having purchased the above new and commodious Packet-Boat to ply between Carbonear and Portugal-Cove, and, at considerable expense, fitting up her Cabin in superior style, with Four Sleeping-berths &c.

The NORA CREINA will, until further notice start, from Carbonear on the mornings of MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY, positively at 9 o'clock; and the Packet-Man will leave St. John's on the Mornings of TUESDAY, THURSDAY, and SATURDAY, at 8 o'clock in order that the Boat may sail from the Cove at 12 o'clock on each of those days.

Terms as usual.
April 10

THE ST. PATRICK.

EDMOND PHELAN, begs most respectfully to acquaint the Public, that he has purchased a new and commodious Boat, which, at a considerable expence, he has fitted out, to ply between CARBONEAR and PORTUGAL COVE, as a PACKET-BOAT; having two Cabins, (part of the after one adapted for Ladies, with two sleeping-berths separated from the rest). The fore-cabin is conveniently fitted up for Gentlemen, with sleeping-berths, which will he trusts, give every satisfaction. He now begs to solicit the patronage of this respectable community; and he assures them it shall be his utmost endeavour to give them every gratification possible.

The St. PATRICK will leave CARBONEAR for the COVE, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, at 9 o'clock in the Morning and the COVE at 12 o'clock, on Mondays Wednesdays, and Fridays, the Packet Man leaving St. JOHN'S at 8 o'clock on those Mornings.

TERMS
After Cabin Passengers, 10s. each.
Fore ditto ditto, 5s.
Letters, Single or Double, 1s.
Parcels in proportion to their size or weight.

The owner will not be accountable for any Specie.

N.B.—Letters for St. John's, &c., will be received at his House, in Carbonear, and in St. John's, for Carbonear, &c. at Mr Patrick Kieley's (Newfoundland Tavern) and at Mr John Crute's.

Carbonear, June 4, 1834.

St. John's and Harbor Grace PACKET

THE fine fast-sailing Cutter the EXPRESS, leaves Harbor Grace, precisely at Nine o'clock every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning for Portugal Cove, and returns at 12 o'clock the following day.—this vessel has been fitted up with the utmost care, and has a comfortable Cabin for passengers; All Packages and Letters will be carefully attended to, but no accounts can be kept for passages or postages, nor will the proprietors be responsible for any Specie or other monies sent by this conveyance.

Ordinary Fares 7s. 6d.; Servants and Children 5s. each. Single Letters 6d., double ditto 1s., and Parcels in proportion to their weight.

PERCHARD & BOAG,
Agents, St. JOHN'S.
ANDREW DRYSDALE,
Agent, HARBOR GRACE.

April 30.

BLANKS of every description For Sale at the Office of this Paper. Carbonear.

ERRORS OF THE DAY.

The devoted Believers in "the march of intellect" must at intervals be almost driven to renounce their creed in despair. Errors which were supposed to have been exploded centuries ago, sometimes reappear on a sudden, and propagate themselves for a season with a rapidity which no reasoning can pursue, no ridicule arrest. Nations, worthy only of the dark ages, spring up in the glare of the supposed illumination of the present day, and resist all the efforts of the Briarean press itself to dispel them. At one time, it is a pious Hungarian prince who performs preternatural cures, at the request of the friends of the sick parties in Ireland, conveyed through that droll medium for a miracle the Hamburg letter bag! At another, it is an old dropsical impostor, whom thousands of blaspheming dupes venerate as a second virgin quick of a new Messiah! A short time since, animal magnetism was in vogue; and the strong will of certain gifted individuals was believed to have the power of entering into a mystical communication with the spirits of others, and of absolutely controlling their whole physical and mental being of them! To-day we are startled by the actual exhibition of a miracle, the "unknown tongue," on alternate Sundays, at Caledonian Chapel in Regent square, London! If at any time we are tempted to plume our selves on the fact, that the belief in ghosts and witchcraft has disappeared, we are quickly humiliated by the recollection that there are yet thousands of devout believers in the prophecies of Francis Moore physician; or by overhearing the rhapsodies of some millenarian dreamer, who as confidently gives us the date of the opening of the New Jerusalem, as if he were speaking of the New London Bridge.

PUBLIC CREDIT.—It is physically impossible on the commerce of the civilized world by the aid of a purely metallic currency—no, not though our gold and silver coins were every tenth year debased to a tenth! Why, in London alone, five millions of money are daily exchanged at the Clearing-house, in the course of a few hours. We should like to see the attempt made to bring this infinity of transactions to a settlement in coined money, in some shape or other, always has and must have, performed the part of a circulating medium to a very considerable extent. And (by one of those wonderful compensatory processes which so frequently claim the admiration of every investigator of civil, as well as of physical economy) there is in the nature of credit an elasticity which causes it, when left unshackled by law, to adapt itself to the necessities of commerce, and the legitimate demands of the market. Well may the productive classes exclaim to those who persist in legislating on the subject, and are not content without determining who may, and who may not, give credit to another, what kind of monied obligations shall, or shall not, be allowed to circulate—that is, to be taken in exchange for goods at the option of the parties—well might they exclaim, as the merchants of Paris did to the minister of Paris, did to the minister of Louis, when he asked what his master could do for them—"Laissez nous faire,"—"Leave us alone, to surround ourselves with those precautions which experience will suggest, and the instinct of self-preservation put in execution.—Quarterly Review.

GEOLOGICAL CHANGES EFFECTED BY THE SEA.

Why are certain formations called marine?

Because they result from continual deposits of shingle and sand, as may be seen on the flat coast of our eastern counties. In this manner, at Lowestoffe-Ness, as well as at Yarmouth, the sea has erected a series of natural embankments against itself. The present extent of land, thrown up by the sea, and out of the reach of the highest tides, is nearly three miles long, projecting from the base of the original cliff to the distance of 660 yards at the Ness. The respec-

tive lines of growth are indicated by a series of small embankments, perfectly defined. Several of these ridges have been formed within the memory of men now living—A rampart of heavy materials is first thrown up by a violent gale from the north-east.—Sand is subsequently blown over, and consolidates the shingle, and the process is completed by marine plants taking root and extending their fibres in a kind of network through the mass. In process of time the surface becomes covered with vegetable mould, and ultimately in many cases, is productive of good herbage.

Why are shingle beaches formed by heavy breakers?

Because every breaker is more or less charged with the materials composing the beach; the shingles are forced forward as far as the broken wave can reach, and in their shock against the beach, drive others before them that were not held in momentary mechanical suspension by the breaker. By these means, and particularly at the greatest height of the tide, the shingles are projected on the land beyond the reach of the retiring waves; and this great accumulation of land upon beach being affected at high water, it is clear the ebb tide cannot deprive the land of what it has gained. Smaller lines are formed in moderate weather, to be swept away by heavy gales: hence it would appear, that the sea was diminishing the beach; but attention will show that the shingles of the lines so apparently swept away, are but accumulated elsewhere. How often has our observation of these changes realized the homely simile of Shakespeare:—

Like as the waves make towards the pebbly shore,
So do our minutes hasten to their end;
Each changing place with that which goes before,
In sequent toil all forwards do contend.

Why is this progressive march of beaches far from rapid?

Because it can only take place in proportion to the greater power or duration of one wind to another; moreover, the pebbles become commited in their passage, and thus the harder can only travel to considerable distances. Works are sometimes constructed to arrest beaches, either to protect land behind, or to prevent their passage round pier heads into artificial harbours, and thus engineers are practically aware of their travelling power in direction of certain winds.

Why are sandy beaches formed more rapidly than shingle?

Because the breakers have the same tendency to force sand upon the land, as in the case of shingles; but being so much lighter than the latter, sand can be transported by coast-tides or currents whose velocity would be insufficient to move shingles. On the other hand, however, smaller bodies and forces of water, can throw sand on the shore. The spray that could not transport a pebble, can carry sand, and thus it is conveyed far beyond situations where the reflux of a wave can be felt. This may be witnessed on some parts of the Sussex coast, as at Worthing. In rough weather too, the spray of the sea, with heavy rain, carries much sand, which it deposits on the fronts of houses, as may be seen upon the return of moderate weather: this effect may be witnessed on the splendid terraces of the Brighton cliffs, and its destructive working on their plaster fronts is very evident.

REMARKABLE SPECTRAL ILLUSION, In which both the Eye and the Ear were influenced.

IN A LETTER TO DOCTOR BREWSTER.

[We are induced to copy the following remarkable case of Spectral Illusion from the high authority with which it has already been presented to the scientific world, as well as for the general interest it possesses for every reflective mind. Drs. Hibbert and Brewster appear to coincide in their opinions of the additional light which the narrative throws upon the ever-to-be controverted theory of Apparitions; and the point and fairness of their reasoning will be intelligible to every reader:—]

Those who have read Dr. Hibbert's admirable work on the *Philosophy of Apparitions*, and we have appreciated the ingenious views which he has taken of this remarkable class of mental phenomena, will peruse with double interest the very singular case of spectral illusion which forms the subject of this paper.

It was communicated to me by the gentleman whose lady was under its influence, and who was himself present during the whole progress of the illusion which affected the eye. Were I permitted to mention his name, his station in society, and as a man of science, would authenticate the minutest particulars in the following narrative, and satisfy the most scrupulous reader that the case has been philosophically as well as faithfully described. The gentleman and lady, indeed, were previously well aware of the existence and nature of this class of facts, and so far from regarding the present case as at all supernatural, or even out of the ordinary course of things, they watched it from its commencement as a case of spectral illusion and have therefore impressed upon the narrative a character which does not belong to any previous case where the patient and the narrator were the same person.

On the 26th December, about half-past four in the afternoon, Mrs. — was standing near the fire in the hall, and on the point of going up stairs to dress, when she heard, as she supposed, my voice calling her by name, "—, come here, come to me!" She imagined that I was calling at the door to have it opened, went to it, and was surprised on opening it to find no one. She returned towards the fire, and again heard the same voice calling, very distinctly and loud, "— Come, come here." She then opened two other doors of the same room, but seeing no one, she returned to the fireplace. After a few moments, she heard the same voice still calling, "—, come to me, come, come away," this time in a loud, plaintive, and somewhat impatient tone. She answered as loudly, "Where are you? I don't know where you are,"—still imagining that I was somewhere in search of her; but receiving no answer, she shortly went up stairs. On my return to the house about half an hour afterwards, she inquired why I had called her so often, and where I was; and was of course surprised to hear I had not been near the house at the time.

On the 30th of the same month, at about four o'clock p. m., Mrs. — came down stairs in the drawing-room, which she had quitted a few minutes before, and on entering the room, saw me, as she supposed, standing with my back to the fire. She addressed me, asking how it was I had returned so soon. (I had left the house for a walk half an hour before.) She said I looked fixedly at her, with a serious and thoughtful expression of countenance, but did not speak. She supposed I was busied in thought, and sat down in an arm-chair near the fire, and close within a couple of feet at most of the figure she still saw standing before her. As, however, the eyes still continued to be fixed upon her, after a few minutes she said, "Why don't you speak —?" The figure upon this moved off towards the window, at the further end of the room, the eyes still gazing on her, and passed so very close to her in doing so, that she was struck by the circumstance of hearing no step nor sound, nor feeling her clothes brushed against, nor even any agitation in the air. The idea then arose for the first time into her mind, that it was no reality, but a spectral illusion (being a person of sense, and habituated to account rationally for most things, the notion of anything supernatural was out of the question.) She recollected, however, your having mentioned that there was a sort of *experimentum crucis* applicable to these cases, by which a genuine ghost may be distinguished from one conjured up by merely natural causes: namely, the pressing the eye in order to produce the effect of seeing double, when, according to your assertion, a true Tartarian ghost would be duplicated as well as every thing else; while the morbid idea being, I suppose, an impression on the retina would, or ought to remain single. I

am sorry, however, to say that the opportunity for verifying your theory was unfavourable. Before Mrs. — was able distinctly to double her vision, my figure had retreated to the window, and disappeared there.— The lady followed, shook the curtains, and tried the window, being still loth to believe it was not a reality, so distinct and forcible was the impression. Finding, however, that there was no natural means of egress, she became convinced of having seen a spectral apparition, such as are recorded in Dr. Hibern's work, and consequently felt no alarm or agitation. The appearance lasted four or five minutes. It was bright day-light, and Mrs. — is confident that the apparition was fully as vivid as the reality; and when standing close to her, it concealed of course, the real objects behind it. Upon being told of this my visible appearance in the spirit, having only been audible a few days before, I was, as you may imagine, more alarmed for the health of the lady than for my own approaching death, or any other fatality the vision might be supposed to forebode. Still both the stories were so very much *en regle* as ghost stories, the three calls of the plaintive voice, each one louder than the preceding, the fixed eyes and mournful expression of the phantom, its noiseless step, and spirit like vanishing, were all so characteristic of the *Wraith*, that I might have been unable to shake off some disagreeable fancies, such as a mind once deeply saturated with the poison of nursery tales, cannot altogether banish, had it not been for a third apparition, at whose visit I myself assisted a few days afterwards, and which I think is the key stone of the case, rendering it as complete as could be wished.

"On the 4th of this month (January, 1830,) five days after the last apparition, at about ten o'clock at night, I was sitting in the drawing-room with Mrs. —, and in the act of stirring the fire, when she exclaimed 'Why there's the cat in the room.' I asked 'Where?' she replied 'there, close to you.' 'Where?' I repeated. 'Why on the rug to be sure, between yourself and the coal-scuttle.' I had the poker in my hand, and I pushed it in the direction mentioned. 'Take care,' she cried out, 'take care, you are hitting her with the poker.' I again asked her to point out exactly where she saw the cat. She replied, 'why sitting up there close to your feet on the rug—she is looking at me: it is Kitty—come here Kitty.' There are two cats in the house, one of which went by this name: they were rarely, if ever in the drawing room. At this time Mrs. — had certainly no idea that the sight of the cat was an illusion. I asked her to touch it.— She got up for the purpose, and seemed as if she was pursuing something which moved away. She followed a few steps, and then said 'it has gone under that chair.' I told her it was an illusion.— She would not believe it. I lifted up the chair; there was nothing there, nor did Mrs. — see anything more of it. I searched the room all over, and found nothing. There was a dog lying on the hearth, who would have betrayed great uneasiness had a cat been in the room. He was perfectly quiet. In order to be quite certain, however, I rang the bell, and sent for the two cats. They were both found in the housekeeper's room. The most superstitious person could now doubt no longer as to the real character of all these illusory appearances; and the case is so complete, that I hope there will be no renewal of them symptomatic as they of course are, of a disordered state of the body. I am sorry to say Mrs. — as well as myself forgot to try in time the *exerimentum crucis* on the cat.

"Mrs. — has naturally a morbidly sensitive imagination, so strongly affecting her corporeal impressions, that the story of any person having suffered severe pain by accident or otherwise, will occasionally produce acute twinges of pain in the corresponding parts of her person. An account for instance, of the amputation of an arm, will produce an instantaneous and severe sense of pain in her own arm, and so of other relations. She is subject to talk in her sleep with great fluency, to repeat poetry very much at length, particularly when unwell, and even to *cap verses* for half an hour together, never failing to quote lines beginning with the final letter of the preceding, till her memory is exhausted.

"She has, during the last six weeks, been considerably reduced and weakened by a tiresome cough, which has also added to her weakness, by preventing the taking of a daily tonic, to which she had been for some time accustomed. She had also confined herself from this cause to the house for some weeks, which is not usual with her, being accustomed to take a great deal of air and exercise. Her general health has not been strong for some time past, and a long experience has proved, beyond a doubt, that her ill health is attributable to a disordered state of the digestive organs. These details are necessary for a complete understanding of this case which strikes me as being one of remarkable interest, from combining the characters of an ordinary ghost story with those of an indubitable illusion; as well as from the circumstance occurring to a person of strong mind; devoid of any superstitious fancies, and to be implicitly relied on for

the truth of all the minutest details of the appearances. Indeed, I do not recollect any well authenticated and recent instance of *auricular* delusion like the first of those I have related; though, of course the warning voices and sounds which have frightened so many weak persons into their graves, must have been of this nature. Mrs. — tells me that about ten years ago a similar circumstance happened to her, when residing at Florence, and in perfect health. While undressing after a ball, she heard a voice call her repeatedly by name, and was at that time unable to account for the fact.

"January 10, 1830."

ORIGIN OF THE DUTIES ON SPIRITS.

During the latter part of the reign of George I. and the earlier part of that of George II, gin-drinking was exceedingly prevalent; and the cheapness of ardent spirits, and the multiplication of public houses were denounced from the pulpit, and in the presentments of Grand Juries, as pregnant with the most destructive consequences to the health and morals of the community.— At length, ministers determined to make a vigorous effort to put a stop to the further use of spirituous liquors, except as a cordial or medicine. For this purpose, an act was passed in 1739. Its preamble is to this effect:—"Whereas the drinking of spirituous liquors or strong waters has become very common, especially among people of lower and inferior rank, the constant and excessive use of which tends greatly to the destruction of their health, rendering them unfit for useful labour and business, debauching their morals, and inciting them to perpetrate all vices; and the ill consequences of the excessive use of such liquors are not confined to the present generation, but extend to future ages, and tend to the destruction and ruin of this kingdom." The enactments were such as might be expected to follow such a preamble. They were not intended to repress the vice of gin-drinking, but to root it out altogether. To accomplish this, a duty of twenty shillings a gallon was laid on spirits, exclusive of a heavy license duty on retailers. Extraordinary encouragements were at the same time held out to informers and a fine of £100. was ordered to be rigorously exacted from those who, were it even through inadvertency, should vend the smallest quantity of spirits which had not paid the full duty. Here was an act which might, one should think, have satisfied the bitterest enemy of gin. But instead of the anticipated effects, it produced those directly opposite. The respectable dealers withdrew from a trade proscribed by the legislature; so that the spirit business fell into the hands of the lowest and most profligate characters, who, as they had nothing to lose were not deterred by penalties from breaking through all its provisions. The populace having in this, as in all similar cases, espoused the cause of the smugglers, and unlicensed dealers, the officers of the revenue were openly assailed in the streets of London and other great towns; informers were hunted down like wild beasts; and drunkenness, disorders and crimes, increased with a frightful rapidity. "Within two years of the passing of the act," says Tindal, "it had become *odious and contemptible*, and policy as well as humanity forced the Commissioners of Excise to mitigate its penalties." During the two years in question, no fewer than 12,000 persons were convicted of offences connected with the sale of spirits.— But no exertion on the part of the revenue officers and magistrates could stem the torrent of smuggling. According to a statement made by the Earl of Cholmondeley in the House of Lords, it appears, that at the very moment when the sale of spirits was declared to be illegal, and every possible exertion made to suppress it, upwards of SEVEN MILLIONS of gallons were annually consumed in London, and other parts immediately adjacent! Under such circumstances, government had but one course to pursue—to give up the unequal struggle. In 1742, the high prohibitory duties were accordingly repealed, and such moderate duties imposed, as were calculated to increase the revenue, by increasing the consumption of legally distilled spirits. The bill for this purpose, was vehemently opposed in the House of Lords by most of the Bishops, and many other Peers, who exhausted all their rhetoric in depicting the mischievous consequences that would result from a toleration of the practice of gin-drinking. To these declamations it was unanswerably replied, that whatever the evils of the practice might be, it was impossible to repress them by prohibitory enactments! and that the attempts to do so had been productive of far more mischief than had ever resulted, or could be expected to result, from the greatest abuse of spirits. An instant stop was put to smuggling; and if the vice of drunkenness was not materially diminished, it has never been stated that it was increased.—*Edinburgh Review.*

POPISH RELICS.

Ere the bright dawn of the Reformation lighted upon England, the furniture of churches appears, from ancient records, to

have been of a splendid description; an vast sums are stated to have been lavished upon the images of saints, &c. Great Saint Mary's Chapel, Cambridge, is in the possession of an inventory of the goods and chattels possessed by that ancient edifice in the 19th year of Henry VII., of which the following is a transcript:—

- "Item—A coat of tawney damask-purpled with velvet, appertaining to our Lady.
- "Item—A coat for her son, of the same satin, purpled with black velvet, and spangled with gold.
- "Item—A relic, called a box of silver with the oil of St. Nicholas.
- "Item—Another little box of silver with a bone of St. Lawrence.
- "Item—A shoe of silver for the image of our Lady, and a piece of a penny, weighing in all two ounces in a box.
- "Item—An image of our Lady and her Son, of copper and gilt, with a crystal stone.
- "Item—A collar of gold for to hang about our Lady's neck, of nine links in the collar.
- "Item—A cap of black velvet, with fine pearl, for our Lady's son.
- "Item—Two maces for St. Edmund.
- "Item—Three small crowns for St. Katherine.
- "Item—A cross and staff for St. Nicholas."

The orthography of this extract has been modernized, but the *idiom* (if any) has been retained.

THE ORNITHORHYNCHUS PARADOXUS.—The following interesting fact in natural history was communicated by Dr Weatherhead, to the committee of science of the Zoological Society, at their last meeting.

For the last five-and-twenty years naturalists in Europe have been striving to obtain the carcass of the impregnated female *Ornithorhynchus paradoxus*, for the purpose of ascertaining its mode of gestation, but without success; for it is by dissection alone the hitherto doubtful and disputed point concerning the anomalous and paradoxical manner of bringing forth and rearing its young can be satisfactorily demonstrated.— This long-sought-for desideratum is at length attained. Through the kindness of his friend, Lieutenant the honourable Lauderdale Maule, of the 39th regiment, Dr Weatherhead has had the bodies of several ornithorhynchi transmitted to him from New Holland, in one of which the ova preserved; establishing, along with other curious circumstances ascertained, the extraordinary fact, that this animal which combines the bird and the quadruped together in its outward form, lays eggs and hatches them like the one and rears and suckles them like the other.—*Proc. Zool. Soc.*

WATCHING FOR THE SEAL.—Margaret of Valois, Queen of Navarre, being present at the death-bed of one of her maids of honour, continued to fix her eyes on the dying person with uncommon eagerness and perseverance till she breathed her last. The ladies of the Court expressed their astonishment at this conduct, and requested to know what satisfaction her Majesty could derive from so close an inspection of the agonies of death. Her answer marked a most daring and inquisitive mind. She said that having often heard the most learned doctors and ecclesiastics assert, that on the extinction of the body the immortal part was set at liberty and unloosed, she could not restrain her anxious curiosity to observe if such separation were visible or discernible; that none had she been able in any degree to discover. She was suspected of Hugonotism, and was so devout as to compose hymns.

PARTY SPIRIT.—Fuller did not think party madness; for, he says such men as will side with neither party "hope, though the great vessel of the state be wrecked, in a private fly-boat of neutrality, to wait their own private adventure safe to the shore.— But who ever saw dancers on ropes so equally poise themselves, that at last they fall not down and break their necks?"

ALL ON ONE SIDE.—Major Grose told me that when he was quartered in Dublin, he ordered an Irish sergeant to exercise the men in shooting at a mark. The sergeant had placed a pole for them to take aim, stationing a certain number on one side, and an equal number on the other, in direct opposition. The Major happened to reach the spot just as they were about to fire, stopped them, and expressed his surprise that the sergeant should have placed them in so dangerous a position, as they must necessarily wound, if not kill each other. "Kill each other!" said the sergeant, "why, they are all our own men." As the men so contentedly remained in the dangerous position, it may be inferred that they were as wise as the sergeant. This story illustrates that of Lord Thomond's cooks, which when the keeper let loose, were fighting each other, — much to his surprise he said, as they belonged to one person, and were "all on the same side."

DUELLING IN FRANCE.—Mr. G——, a young English *militaire* of fashion and spirit, not a great while since, had the fortune to fight a couple of duels in Paris, under circumstances rather curious. He was acquainted with a French gentleman, whom nature had endowed with more tongue than with discretion and good principles;—in fact, it came to the ears of Mr. G——, that the loquacious Gaul was a revolutionist in politics, a professed atheist in religion, and (how could it happen otherwise?) a man devoid of the most ordinary principles of honour, probity, and social decencies. He was in the habit of slandering and vituperating, in the most violent manner; and, in the well-thronged *cafés* and *salons* of the French capital, not only his *bon ami* Mr. G——, but everything and everybody *English*, until our young officer, provoked by his insolence beyond all patience, taking the advice of a friend, challenged him. The Gaul, affecting to be highly irritated, at first protested that "he would never consent to *degrade* himself by fighting any of the English;" and, with horrid imprecations, parodied *Caligula's* memorable malice, by wishing that "all the cursed members of that nation were but one body, which he might destroy at a shot!" However, that no imputation might rest on his courage, he consented to meet his adversary—for whom, by the way, he expressed the most thorough contempt—next morning, at the *Bois de Boulogne*.— They met; and this miserable man received the reward of his perfidy and malice, by a ball through his heart!

Some days after this affair, Mr. G—— being grossly insulted by another French gentleman—a notorious duellist, and, if we mistake not, an ally of the deceased—felt himself obliged to notice the affront in a similar manner. Monsieur ——— treated the challenge with supreme contempt, begged to assure Mr G—— that he was a dead man if they met, but professed himself much at his service if he was really bent on quitting this world, and though the most appropriate spot for so doing would be the *Champs d'Élysées*. Thither next morning the parties repaired. Mr. G—— found his antagonist already on the ground, and amusing himself by firing at a mark: viz.—his glove, attached to the branch of a tree, which he shot at with such precision as to send his bullet, at every successive trial, through the aperture in the glove made by the first. Monsieur was, in truth, a splendid and formidable marksman. Mr. G——, in preparing for the duel, happening to cast his eyes on his adversary, perceived that he had slyly placed his arm in such a position, as must ensure, on the *honourable* gentleman's fire, the fulfilment of his vaunt to make him "a dead man." No time was to be lost; the young Englishman's life depended upon despatch; and, instantly firing, he proved himself as good a marksman as Monsieur ———, by sending his ball, with the utmost precision, through the wily manœuvre's elbow, from whence it passed into his side; and he dropped down, disabled, if not dead. Thus did British spirit twice humble, in a remarkable manner, French insolence and presumption.

SPIRIT DRINKING.—The direful practice of spirit drinking seems to have arrived at its acme in the metropolis. Splendid mansions rear their *dazzling heads* at almost every turning; and it appears as if Circe had fixed her abode in these superb haunts. Happy are those who, like Ulysses of old, will not partake of her deadly cup. If the unhappy dram-drinker was merely to calculate the annual expense of two glasses of gin per day, he would find a sum expended which would procure for him many comforts, for the want of which he is continually grumbling. If this sum is expended for only two glasses of spirits, what must be the expense to the habitual and daily sot, who constantly haunts the tap-room or the wretched bar? to say nothing of the loss of time, health, and every comfort.

Dr. Willan, says—"On comparing my own observations with the bills of mortality, I am convinced that considerably more than one-eighth of all the deaths which take place in persons above twenty years old, happen prematurely, through excess in drinking spirits."

Spirits, like other poisons, if taken in a sufficient quantity, prove immediately fatal. The newspapers frequently furnish us with examples of almost instant death, occasioned by wantonly swallowing a pint or other large quantity of spirits, for the sake of wages, or in boast.

Dr. Trotter says—"We daily see, in all parts of the world, men who, by profligacy and hard-drinking, have brought themselves to a goal; yet, if we consult the register of the prison, it does not appear that any of these habitual drunkards die by being forced to lead sober lives." And he contends, that "whatever debility of the constitution exists, it is to be cured by the usual medicinal means which are employed to restore weakened organs. But the great difficulty in these attempts to cure inebriety is in satisfying the mind, and in whetting the blunted resolutions of the patient; and this is, doubtless, more easily accomplished by a gradual abstraction of his favourable potations."

Dr. Lettsom mentions a person who usu-

ally drank twelve drams a day; but being convinced of his approaching misery, took the resolution to wean himself from this poison. He always drank out of one glass, into which he daily let fall a drop of sealing wax. By this means he had twelve drops less of spirit every day, till at length, his glass being filled with wax, his habit was cured.

"In the drunkard," says Dr. Willan, "the memory and the faculties depending on it, being impaired, there takes place an indifference towards usual occupations, and accustomed society or amusements. No interest is taken in the concerns of others—no love, no sympathy remain; even natural affection to nearest relatives is gradually extinguished and the moral sense obliterated. The wretched victims of a fatal poison fall at length, into a state of fatuity, and die with the powers both of body and mind wholly exhausted. Some after repeated fits of derangement, expire in a sudden and violent phrenzy; some are hurried out of the world by apoplexies; others perish by the slower process of jaundice, dropsy, &c."

BET-ROOT SUGAR—The quantity of sugar obtained from beet-root last year, in one hundred sugar-houses in France, was about one-fourth of the entire consumption of sugar houses in that kingdom. The production of last year has doubled that of the two preceding years, and the speculation has turned out very profitable. It is also stated that to supply the entire consumption of France, it would only be necessary to plant with beet root one twenty-eighth part of the land now lying fallow.

An apple tree, at St Valery, in France, owing to the imperfect organization of its blossoms, never bore fruit till last year, when the owner impregnated the bloom with the pollen of the blossoms of other trees. All the blooms so treated produced fine fruit, whilst those which were not brought into contact with the blossoms from other trees, remained barren.

NAVAL STEAM CANNON—This stupendous machine of war does not, as Jonathan would say, "progress," for none of the experiments have succeeded. In one of them the apparatus was placed about forty paces distant from a wooden figure, to represent the hull of a man of war. The projectiles thrown were about four pounds calibre, and remained fixed in the thickness of the wood. A four pounder was afterwards fired off at the same distance, and the ball penetrated the figure.

There appears nothing more accidental than the sex of an infant, yet take any great city or province, and you will find that the relations of males and females are unalterable. Again a part of the pure air of the atmosphere is continually consumed in combustion and respiration: living vegetables emit this principle during their growth; nothing appears more accidental than the proportion of vegetable to animal life on the surface of the earth, yet they are perfectly equivalent, and the balance of the sexes, like the constitution of the atmosphere, depends upon the principles of unerring intelligence.

In the progress of society, all great and real improvements are perpetuated; the same corn which four thousand years ago, was raised from an improved grass by an inventor under the name of Ceres, still forms the chief food of mankind; and the potato perhaps the greatest benefit that the old has derived from the new world, is spreading over Europe, and will continue to nourish an extensive population when the name of the race by whom it was first cultivated in South America is forgotten.

When man measures the works of the divine mind by his own feeble combinations, he must wander in gross error; the infinite can never be understood by the finite.

The tree of knowledge is grafted upon the tree of life and that fruit which brought the fear of death into the world budding on an immortal stock becomes the fruit of the promise of immortality.

PARIS REFUGE FOR THE DESTITUTE.—It was stated some time ago that a subscription was being raised in Paris for an institution to do away with mendicity in that capital. We are glad to find, by a recent letter, that the subscription filled rapidly, and that a large building is now ready for the reception of beggars, of both sexes, after an examination by a commissary of police, to ascertain that they are unable to obtain work, or too infirm to perform it. Immediately after their admission they are required to bathe, and are then decently clothed; their old clothes, if not entirely worn out, being sent to be cleaned. They are well fed on bread, soup made from the gelatine of bones, and the quality of which is said to be excellent; and each person has an iron bedstead, pailasse, a woollen mattress, a bolster, two blankets, and a pair of sheets. There are now two hundred beds of this description, and the building is capable of containing

four hundred. The men and the women are kept separate; and every one who is capable of labour has work to do, according to his or her profession—the surplus of earnings, after deducting the expenditure, which is on the lowest possible scale, serving as an accumulating fund for individual benefit.—The daily food of each consists of a pound and a half of bread, soup, and vegetables; and on Sundays their is the addition of meat, with little indulgences, according to the state of health of the inmates. This benevolent institution, which is calculated to provide for four hundred persons, who had no other means of subsistence than begging, has been erected with a subscription amounting to less than £16,000 sterling.

(From the Morning Herald, Dec. 1.)

BANKS—IRELAND.

A preliminary meeting of gentlemen in London, interested in the establishment of the Agricultural and Commercial Bank of Ireland, was held on Sunday, at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, Strand, for the purpose of advancing the interests of the Bank in this country.

A long and interesting discussion took place upon the present position of affairs in Ireland, and the difficulty of finding in that country a circulating medium, for the encouragement of manufacturers, commerce, and agricultural produce. It was stated that the principle of this establishment, as distinguished from that of the proposed National Bank, was that the National Bank was solely conducted by a managing committee in London, by whom the capital was to be raised, and the Bank to be entirely controlled.—The object of the Agricultural and Commercial Bank was to have the management in Ireland, and the Directors exclusively local, with such securities as would ensure to the subscribers in this country an attention to their interests and an equal participation in the profits. The main objection to the proposed National Bank was stated to be that, while its supporters in Ireland avowed that they would not subscribe until a million was paid up through its conductors in London, they, at the same time, acknowledged, to use the language of the meeting at Cromer, on the 9th ult.—"that they considered a Bank established on the principles recommended by Mr. O'Connell entitled to support as a measure, not only to benefit trade and agriculture, but for the free avowal of political sentiments." That the connection between political and commercial affairs had ever proved incompatible; inasmuch as political opinions can be no criterion of mercantile responsibility, and would exclude the assistance of many whose respectability must ensure success. That the funds subscribed, as well as those to be deposited in the National Bank (which would be in cash) were to find their way to London, while the whole of the business of the Bank was to be carried on by a paper currency. That while the Agricultural and Commercial Bank wish to give every encouragement to the introduction of British capital, and to afford every possible security, by allowing each subscriber an equal voice in the conduct of their affairs, they object to the management of a Bank being managed at such a distance as to preclude not only a knowledge of its local interests, but to make it liable to the objection that it is conducted by judgment, solely acquired by experience gained by the management of affairs in a sister country.

The Chairman after congratulating the meeting on the unanimity of their sentiments, expressed his hope that the establishment of this Bank would have a tendency to remove those feuds which had so long distracted this productive, but divided country.

THE STAR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 1855.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—The communication signed "B" has been received.—The writer must be aware that we do not publish anonymous communications, unless we know the name of the author; particularly when they are of a personal nature.—We, however, agree in the main with our anonymous correspondent; that little D has not scrupled to play a double part before now, and would do so again, if it were not that he is kept, like many others of his kind, in a wholesome fear of the slavish discipline of his G—F—.

The following Bills have passed the lower House, and have been sent to the Legislative Council. A Bill to limit the duration of the Colonial Parliament to Four years.—A Bill for the erection of a Light House on Harbour Grace Island.—A Bill for regulating the width of the Streets in Carbonear, and a Bill to prevent Caplin from being used as Manure. These four judicious and necessary measures were introduced into the

House by **ROBERT PACK, Esq.**, one of our Conception Bay members, who certainly deserves the thanks of his constituents, for as much as that in the midst of the confusion and clamour caused in the House by the pseudo-patriots, his business-like habits, and single eye to his immediate duties, have enabled him to do so much, where others have been doing nothing, and to redeem his pledge with respect to Triennial Parliaments; for, after having repeatedly, in former sessions, sent his Triennial Bills, without avail to the Legislative Council. He has now with more appearance of success, sent a Quadrennial Bill for the approval of that body.

We have before referred to the necessity of erecting a Light House on Harbour Grace Island; this is likely to be obtained through his instrumentality.

Carbonear will never be a Town worthy of notice, while the streets present their present appearance.

The proprietors of land near the main-street, urged by a false notion of gain, have built their houses so near to each other on the opposite sides, that any thing like safety in case of fire, is totally out of the question, the buildings are therefore less valuable than they would be, if the streets were wide. The Street Act will only operate on lands not yet built upon; and on lands becoming vacant by future occurrences, such as fire &c. The Caplin Bill was introduced in consequence of petitions for it, from *Port de Grave, Bay Roberts, and Harbour Grace*. We noticed this subject on the 4th instant. We had not then arrived at a conclusion satisfactory to ourselves.

The question involves so many complicated, and contending interests, that we are still undecided; notwithstanding our having given our best attention to the two, long, clear, and able letters on the subject, in last weeks "MERCURY." One thing, we think, that the Law should not come into operation for one year at least, so as to give to the people time to provide some other sort of manure for the succeeding season; for if it were to be put into sudden operation the present summer, one half at least, of the support of the people in this place, would be cut off at one fell swoop. Mr. Pack has also, we understand, been engaged in the introducing of a Bill for the disfranchisement of the Barrister's Corporation.

We think that this was on many accounts called for. From the paucity of legal practitioners at the bar, it should for some time longer have been open to competition. The public would have the benefit of any talent that such competition would call into action; and would have a greater scope to choose, among the professional men, whom they would like to rely on for the *tutorship* of their sons, and the care of their son's moral character.

Mr. Pack in the last session of the Colonial Parliament, got a law passed for regulating the Cutting of Channels in the Ice in the different Harbours &c. of this Island.

This Harbour and many other Harbours in this Bay were free of Ice until after the beginning of March. Meetings were called in this place, *Harbour Grace, Bay Roberts, &c.* for the purpose of appointing Committees to carry the Ice Bill into operation, if it were necessary. But the Harbours being then without Ice, the meetings were not sufficiently attended to do any thing effectually. Men, even short-sighted, as it regards the future, thought that laws for Cutting Ice were foolish, and unnecessary, when no Ice was to be seen on the harbours. So it remained until half the Sealing schooners had sailed, when a gale of Easterly wind accompanied with severe frost, filled the harbours with Ice, and kept in the remaining schooners.

No voluntary considerations will create a complete unanimity amongst a whole community, so as to cause them to concentrate their united power, to the accomplishment of a given purpose. If any thing could do it, it would be the present prospects of those whose schooners are frozen up in harbour. But we find many, on whom nothing can operate in making them contribute to the common good, but penal laws and coercive measures.

An improved, novel, and very effectual method of breaking up the ice, has been adopted in this Harbour.

There thirty-seven schooners, (about one-third of those fitted out here,) kept in by the ice. The crews of them, (with the exception of three or four schooners, the crews of which did not attend,) to the amount of

about five hundred men, assembled together, a large lighter, or lumber boat was procured, to which was fastened three or four strong tow-lines, a large spar fastened under each bow, the boat loaded with a number of men, the greater part of whom were in the stern, so as to raise her bow out of water; the great body of the men were ranged ahead of her on the ice, and dragged the boat from one end of the Harbour to the other, breaking up the ice into channels in different directions to the distance, when put together, of about eleven miles.

The mouth of the Harbour was by this means cleared of ice on Monday; and the rest of the Harbour so much broken up, that if the westerly wind continue, it will enable all the schooners to go to sea. The ice in the Harbour, having drifted in from seaward, and being in many places thick, heavy, and frozen together, it would have been quite impracticable to cut it in the usual way with saws &c.

Indeed the new method of breaking it up by means of a heavy boat, will, in future, do away with the sawing system altogether, and will, when the Ice Bill is brought into operation, do away with any difficulty that has been hitherto experienced, in getting vessels out to the ice, when they are frozen up in Harbour. Much praise is due to Mr. WILLIAM HIGHTON TAYLOR, and Mr. WILLIAM GILES, for their exertions in getting the ice broken up in the Harbour.

The four schooners, whose crews did not attend on Monday morning, for the purpose of hauling the boat, were the *Dolphin, Margaretta, James, and St. Ann*. The crews of those vessels were working at them getting them into the channel.

Notices

THE Subscriber having been appointed by the Worshipful the Bench of Magistrates of the Northern District, **SURVEYOR OF LUMBER** for the division of *Carbonear and Western Bay*, agreeable to the Act 4th of William IV., chap. 9th sect. 12th, hereby gives Notice that all Persons Selling or Purchasing Tun Timber, Plank, Board, Shingles, and other Lumber, which may hereafter be imported into Newfoundland for Sale, or being the Produce of this Colony, shall, previous to the delivery thereof, apply to him to Survey the same, otherwise they will incur the penalty provided by the above Act.

LORENZO MOORE,
SURVEYOR.

Carbonear, Feb. 25, 1855.

THE EXPRESS PACKET-MAN will continue, as usual to go round the BAY during the Winter months.

Rates of Postage—Single letters 1s.
Double do. 2s.

And Packages in proportion.

ANDREW DRYSDALE,
AGENT HARBOR GRACE.

PERCHARD & BOAG,
AGENTS, ST. JOHN'S

Harbor Grace, February 13, 1855.

KELLYGREWS PACKET.

JAMES HODGE
OF KELLYGREWS,

BEGETS most respectfully to inform his Friends and the Public, that he has a most safe and commodious Four-sail BOAT, capable of conveying a number of PASSENGERS, and which he intends running the Winter, as long as the weather will permit, between KELLYGREWS, and BRIGUS and PORT-DE-GRAVE.—The owner of the PACKET will call every TUESDAY morning at Messrs. BENNETT, MORGAN & CO'S. for Letters and Packages, and then proceed across the Bay, as soon as wind and weather will allow; and in case of there being no possibility of proceeding by water, the Letters will be forwarded by land by a careful person, and the utmost punctuality observed.

JAMES HODGE begs to state, also, he has good and comfortable LODGINGS, and every necessary that may be wanted, and on the most reasonable terms.

Terms of Passage—
One Person, or Four, to pay Twenty Shillings Passage, and above that number Five Shillings each.

Not accountable for Cash, or any other valuable Property put on board.

Letters will be received at *Bennett, Morgan & Co's.* at St. John's.
Kellygrews,
January 14, 1855.

MY VERY PARTICULAR FRIEND.

"Are you struck with her figure and face?
How lucky you happened to meet
With none of the gossiping race
Who dwell in this horrible street!
They of slanderous hints never tire;
I love to approve and commend,
And the lady you so much admire,
Is my very particular friend!

How charming she looks—her dark curls
Really flow with a natural air,
And the beads might be taken for pearls
That are twined in that beautiful hair:
Then what tints her fair features o'erspread,
That she uses white paint some pretend;
But believe me she only wears red,—
She's my very particular friend!

Then her voice, how divine it appears,
When carolling 'Rise gentle Moon;
Lord Crotchet last night stopped his ears,
And declared that she sung out of tune,
For my part, I think that her lay
Might to Malibran's sweetness pretend;
But people won't mind what I say,—
I'm her very particular friend!

Then her writings—her exquisite rhyme
To posterity surely must reach,
(I wonder she finds so much time,
With four little sisters to teach!)
A critique in Blackwood indeed,
Abused the last poem she pen'd,
The article made my heart bleed,
She's my very particular friend!

Her brother despatched with a sword
His friend in a duel last June;
And her cousin eloped from her lord,
With a handsome and whiskered dragoon;
Her father with duns is beset,
Yet continues to dash and to spend—
She's too good for so worthless a set,
She's my very particular friend!

All her chance of a portion is lost,
And I fear she'll be single for life—
Wise people will count up the cost
Of a gay and extravagant wife.
But 'tis odious to marry for pelf,
(Though the times are not likely to mend)
She's a fortune besides in herself—
She's my very particular friend!

That she's somewhat sarcastic and pert,
It were useless and vain to deny,
She's a little too much of a flirt,
And a slattern when no one is nigh.
From her servants she constantly parts,
Before they have reached the year's end,
But her heart is the kindest of hearts—
She's my very particular friend!

Oh never has pencil or pen
A creature more exquisite traced;
That her style does take with the men,
Proves a sad want of judgment and taste:
As if to the sketch I give now,
Some flattering touches I lend,
Do for partial affection allow—
She's my very particular friend!

ANCIENTS AND MODERNS, OR THE TOILETTE OF MADAME DE POM-DOUR.

(FROM THE FRENCH OF VOLTAIRE.)

Mad. de Pomp.—Who may this lady be with aquiline nose and large black eyes; with such height and noble bearing; with mien as proud, yet so coquetish who enters my chamber without being announced, and makes her obeisance in a religious fashion?

Tullia.—I am Tullia, born at Rome, about eighteen hundred years ago; I make the Roman obeisance, not the French, and have come, I scarce know from whence, to see your country, yourself and your toilette.

Mad. de P.—Ah, Madam, do me the honour of seating yourself. An arm-chair for the Lady Tullia.

Tullia.—For whom? me, madam? and am I to sit on that little inconmodious sort of throne, so that my legs must hang down and become quite red?

Mad. de P.—Upon what then would you sit?

Tullia.—Madam, upon a couch.

Mad. de P.—Ay, I understand—you would say upon a sofa; there stands one, upon which you may recline at your ease.

Tullia.—I am charmed to see that the French have furniture as convenient as ours.

Mad. de P.—Hah, hah, madam, you've no stockings! your legs are naked, but ornamented however, with a very pretty ribbon, after the fashion of a sandal.

Tullia.—We knew nothing about stockings, which as a useful and agreeable invention, I certainly prefer to our sandals.

Madam de P.—Good Heavens, madam I believe you've no chemise!

Tullia.—No madam, in my time nobody wore them.

Mad. de P.—And in what time did you live?

Tullia.—In the time of Sylla, Pompey, Cæsar, Cato, Cataline; and Cicero, to whom one of your *protoges* has made mention in barbarous verse. I went yesterday to the theatre, where Cataline was represented with all the celebrated people of my time, but I did not recognize one of them; and when my father exhorted me to make advance to Catalina, I was astonished! But madam you seem to have some beautiful mirrors; your chamber is full of them; our mirrors were not a sixteenth part so large as yours; are they of steel?

Mad. de P.—No, madam, they are made with sand, and nothing is more common amongst us.

Tullia.—What an admirable art! I confess we had none such! And oh! what a beautiful painting too you have there.

Mad. de P.—It is not a painting, but a print done merely with lamp-black; a hundred copies of the same design may be struck off in a day, and this secret immortalizes pictures, which time would otherwise destroy.

Tullia.—It is indeed an astonishing secret! we Romans had nothing like it!

Un Savant.—(A literary man there present, taking up the discourse and producing a book from his pocket, says to Tullia:) You will be astonished, madam to learn, that this book is not written by hand, but that it is printed in a manner similar to engravings; and that this invention also immortalizes works of the mind.

The Savant presents his book, a collection of verses dedicated to the Marchioness, to Tullia, who reads a page, admires the type and says to the author:

Tullia.—Truly sir, printing is a fine thing and if it can immortalize such verses as these, it appears to me to be the noblest effort of art. But do you not at least employ this invention in printing the works of my father?

The Savant.—Yes madam, but nobody reads them; I am truly concerned for your father, but in these days, little is known of him, save his name.

(Here are brought in chocolate, tea, coffee and ices. Tullia is astonished to see, in the middle of summer, cream and strawberries iced. She is informed that such congealed beverages are obtained in five minutes, by means of the salt-petre with which they are surrounded, and that by continual motion is produced their firmness and icy coldness. She is speechless with astonishment. The dark colour of the chocolate and coffee somewhat disgust her, and she asks whether these liquids are extracted from the plants of the country?—A duke who is present replies:

Duke.—The fruits of which these beverages are composed, come from another world and from Arabia.

Tullia.—Arabia I remember; but never heard mention made of what you call coffee; and as for another world, I only know of that from whence I came, and do assure you, we have no chocolate there.

Duke.—The world of which we tell you, madam, is a continent; called America, almost as large as Europe, Asia, and Africa, and of which we have a knowledge less vague, than of the world from whence you came.

Tullia.—What! Did we then, who styled ourselves masters of the world, possess only half of it? The reflection is truly humiliating!

The Savant.—(piqued that Tullia had pronounced his verses bad, replies drily:) Yes, your countrymen who boasted of having made themselves made themselves masters of the world, had scarce conquered the twentieth part of it. We have this moment at the further end of Europe, an empire larger in itself than the Roman: it is governed, too by a woman, who excels you in intellect and beauty, and who wears chemises; had she read my verses, I am certain that she would have thought them good.

(The Marchioness commands silence on the part of the author, who has treated a Roman lady, the daughter of Cicero, with disrespect. The Duke explains the discovery of America, and taking out his watch, to which is appended, by way of trinket a small mariner's compass, shows her how, by means of a needle, another hemisphere is reached. The amazement of the fair Roman redoubles at every word which she hears, and every thing which she beholds; and she at length exclaims:)

Tullia.—I begin to fear that the moderns really do surpass the ancients; on this point I came to satisfy myself, and doubt not I shall have to carry back a melancholy report to my father.

Duke.—Console yourself, madam, no man amongst us equals your illustrious sire; neither does any come near Cæsar, with whom you were contemporary, nor the Scipios who preceded him. Nature, it is true creates, even at this day, powerful intellects, but they resemble rare seeds, which cannot arrive at maturity in an uncongenial soil.—

The simile does not hold good respecting arts and sciences; time, and fortunate chances, have perfected them. It would for example, be easier for us to produce a Sophocles, or an Euripides, than such individuals as your father, because theatres we have, but no tribunals for public harangues. You have hissed the tragedy of Cataline: when you shall see Phædrus played, you will probably agree that the part of Phædrus, in Racine, is infinitely superior to the model you have known in Euripides. I hope also, that you will probably agree our Molière surpasses your Terence. By your permission, I shall have the honour of escorting you to the opera, where you will be astonished to hear song in parts; that again is an art unknown to you. Here madam is a small telescope, have the goodness to apply your eye to this glass, and look at that house which is a league off.

Tullia.—Immortal gods! the house is now at the end of the telescope, and appears much larger than before.

Duke.—Well, madam, it is by means of such a toy that we have discovered new heavens, even as by means of a needle, we have become acquainted with a new earth. Do you see this other varnished instrument, in which is inserted a small glass tube? by this trise, we are enabled to discover the just proportion of the weight of the atmosphere. After much error and uncertainty, there arose a man who discovered the first principle of nature, the cause of weight, and who has demonstrated that the stars weigh upon the earth, and the earth upon the stars. He has also unthreaded the light of the sun, as ladies unthread a tissue of gold.

Tullia.—What sir is it to unthread?

Duke.—Madam, the equivalent of this term will scarcely be found in the orations of Cicero. It is to unweave a stuff, to draw out thread by thread, so as to separate the gold. Thus has Newton done by the rays of the sun, the stars also have submitted to him; and one Locke has accomplished as much by the Human Understanding.

Tullia.—You know a great deal for a duke and a peer of the realm; you seem to me more learned than that literary man who wished me to think his verses good, and you are far more polite.

Duke.—Madam, I have been better brought up; but as to my knowledge it is merely commonplace. Young people now, when they quit school, know much more than all the philosophers of antiquity. It is only a pity that we have, in Europe, substituted half a dozen imperfect jargons, for the fine Latin language, of which your father made so noble a use; but with such rude implements we have produced, even in the *belles lettres*, some very fair works.

Tullia.—The nations who succeeded the Romans must needs have lived in a state of profound peace, and have enjoyed a constant succession of great men' from my father's time until now, to have invented so many new arts, and to have become acquainted so intimately with heaven and earth.

Duke.—By no means, madam, we are ourselves some of those barbarians, who almost all came from Scythia, and destroyed your empire, and the arts and sciences. We lived for seven or eight centuries like savages, and to complete our barbarism, were inundated with a race of men termed monks, who brutified in Europe, that human species which you had conquered and enlightened. But what will most astonish you is, that in the latter ages of ignorance amongst these very monks, these very enemies to civilization, nature nurtured some useful men. Some invented the art of assisting the feeble sight of age; and others by pounding together nitre and charcoal, having furnished us with implements of war, with which we might have exterminated the Scipios, Alexander, Cæsar, the Macedonian phalanxes, and all your legions! it is not that we possess warriors more formidable than the Scipios, Alexander, and Cæsar, but that we have superior arms.

Tullia.—In you, I perceive united the high breeding of a nobleman and the erudition of a man of literary consideration; you would have been worthy of becoming a Roman Senator.

Duke.—Ah madam, far more worthy are you of being at the head of our court.

Mad. de P.—In which case this lady would prove a formidable rival to me.

Tullia.—Consult your beautiful mirrors made of sand, and you will perceive you have nothing to fear from me. Well sir in the gentlest manner in the world, you have informed me that your knowledge transcends our own.

Duke.—I said madam, that the latter ages are better informed than those which preceded them; at least no general revolution has utterly destroyed all the monuments of antiquity: we have had horrible, but temporary convulsions, and amid these storms, have been fortunate to preserve the works of your father, and of some other great men: thus the sacred fire has never been utterly extinguished, and has in the end produced an almost universal illumination. We despise the barbarous scholastic systems, which have long had some influence among us, but revere Cicero and the ancients who have taught us to think. If we possess other laws of physics than those of

your times, we have no other rules of eloquence, and this perhaps may settle the dispute between the ancients and the moderns. (Every one agreed with the duke. Finally they went to the opera of Dastor and Polux, with the words and music of which, Tullia was much gratified, and she acknowledged such a spectacle to be much superior to that of a combat of gladiators.)

LACONICS.

(From the fourth edition of the Work of that Title.)

The southern wits are like cucumbers, which are commonly all good in their kind, but at best are an insipid fruit: while the northern geniuses are like melons, of which not one in fifty is good; but when it is so, it is an exquisite relish.—*Berkeley.*

There is some help for all the defects of fortune; for if a man cannot attain to the length of his wishes, he may have his remedy by cutting of them shorter.—*Conley.*

Fear sometimes adds wings to the heels, and sometimes nails them to the ground, and fetters them from moving.—*Montaigne.*

When I reflect, as I frequently do, upon the felicity I have enjoyed, I sometimes say to myself, that were the offer made true, I would engage to run again, from beginning to end the same career of life. All I would ask should be the privilege of an author, to correct in a second edition, certain errors of the first.—*Franklin.*

I do not call him a poet that writes for his own diversion, any more than that gentleman a fiddler who amuses himself with a violin.—*Swift.*

Pleasure of meat, drink, clothes, &c., are forbidden those who not how to use them; just as nurses cry pah! when they see a knife in a child's hand. They will never say any thing to a man.—*Selden.*

There be that can pack the cards, and yet not play well: so there are some that are good in canvasses and factions that are otherwise weak men.—*Bacon.*

A poet hurts himself by writing prose, as a race horse hurts his motions by drawing in a team.—*Shenstone.*

I cannot imagine why we should be at the expense to furnish wit for succeeding ages, when the former have made no sort of provision for ours.—*Swift.*

Reserve is no more essentially connected with understanding, than a church organ with devotion, or wine with good nature.—*Shenstone.*

Those beings only are fit for solitude, who like nobody, are like nobody, and are liked by nobody.—*Zimmerman.*

Satire is a sort of glass, wherein beholders generally discover every body's face but their own;—which is the chief reason for that kind of reception it meets in the world, and that so very few are offended with it.—*Swift.*

Fools are often united in the strictest intimacies, as the lighter kinds of woods are the most closely glued together.—*Shenstone.*

Old sciences are unraveled like old stockings, by beginning at the foot.—*Swift.*

If parliament were to consider the sporting with reputation of as much importance as sporting on manors, and pass an act for the preservation of fame, there are many would thank them for the Bill.—*Shenstone.*

It is with wits as with razors, which are never so apt to cut those they are employed on, as when they have lost their edge.—*Swift.*

Exile is no evil: mathematicians tell us that the whole earth is but a point compared to the heavens. To change one's country then is little more than to remove from one street to another. Man is not a plant, rooted to a certain spot of earth; all soils and all climates are suited to him alike.—*Plutarch.*

EARLY RISING.—The celebrated John Wesley, who became by habit an early riser says, "That the difference between rising at five and seven in the morning for the space of forty years, supposing a man to go to bed every night at the same hour, is equivalent to an addition of ten years to his life."

EPITAPH FORMERLY IN A CHURCH-YARD IN BRISTOL.

Ye witty mortals! as you're passing by,
Remark, that near this monument doth lie,
Center'd in dust,
Described thus:
Two Husbands, two Wives,
Two Sisters, two Brothers,
Two Fathers, a Son,
Two Daughters, two Mothers,
A Grandfather, a Grandmother, a Granddaughter,
An Uncle and an Aunt—their Neice followed after.
This catalogue of persons mentioned here
Was only five, and all from incest free.

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