

VULGAR ERRORS RESPECTING THE BAROMETER.—The barometer has been called a weather glass. Rules are attempted to be established, by which, from the height of the mercury, the coming state of the weather may be predicted; and we accordingly find the words "rain," "changeable," "fair," "frost," &c., engraved on the scale attached to common domestic barometers, as if, when the mercury stands at the height marked by these words, the weather is always subject to the vicissitudes expressed by them. These marks are, however, entitled to no attention; and it is only surprising to find their use continued in the present times, when knowledge is so widely diffused. They are, in fact, to be ranked scarcely above the Vol Stellarum or astrological almanac. Two barometers, one near the river Thames, and the other on the heights of Hampstead, will differ by half an inch, the latter being always half an inch lower than the former. If the words, therefore, engraved upon the plates are to be relied on, similar changes of weather could never happen at these two situations. But what is even more absurd, such a scale would inform us that the weather at the foot of a high building, such as St. Paul's, must always be different from the weather at the top of it. It is observed that changes of weather are indicated, but by its change of height. One of the most general, though not absolutely invariable, rules is, that where the mercury is very low, and therefore the atmosphere very light, high winds and storms may be expected. The following rules may generally be relied upon, at least to a certain extent:—Generally the rising of the mercury indicates the approach of fair weather; the falling of it shows the approach of foul weather. 2. In sultry weather, the fall of the mercury indicates coming thunder; in winter, the rise of the mercury indicates frost; in frost, its fall indicates thaw, and its rise indicates show. 3. Whatever change of weather suddenly follows a change in the barometer, may be expected to last but a short time. Thus, if fair weather follow immediately the rise of the mercury, there will be very little of it; and, in the same way, if foul weather follow the fall of the mercury, it will last but a short time. 4. If fair weather continue for several days, during which the mercury continually falls, a long continuance of foul weather will possibly ensue; and again, if foul weather continues for several days, while the mercury continually rises, a long succession of fair weather will probably succeed. 5. A fluctuating and unsettled state of the mercurial column indicates changeable weather. The domestic barometer would become a much more useful instrument if, instead of the words usually engraved on the plate, a short list of the best established rules, such as the above, accompanied it, which might be either engraved on the plate or printed on a card. It would be right, however, to express the rules only with that degree of probability which observation of past phenomena has justified. There is no rule respecting these effects which will hold good.—Dr. Lardner.

THE LATE SIR D. WILKIE.—On Friday Mr. Haydon delivered a lecture at the Mechanics' Institution, treating of the great power of Wilkie as an artist, and of his character as a man. It appears that, when not more than five or six years old, Sir David began to show indications of his peculiar talent. An amusing instance occurred on the occasion of a lady visiting his father, when little Wilkie, being missed from the immediate circle, was found endeavouring to sketch a large nose, for which she was remarkable. For want of proper materials, he would draw eyes, mouths, and noses with a tarred stick upon the wall. His father at first objected to allowing his son to follow the art as a profession, and sent him to Graham's school, in Edinburgh, where he made considerable progress. Sir David, it appeared, made money enough in Scotland by painting portraits, to bring him to London, and he related to Mr. Haydon the anxiety he felt to come to town, and the rapture he was in when sailing up the Thames, and seeing, for the first time, the rolling of a London sky. Mr. Haydon spoke of the intimacy which existed between Mr. Jackson, Sir David, and himself, when students at the academy, and gave the distinguishing marks of their characters. Jackson was the lively and good-natured; Wilkie the reserved, meek, and mild; Haydon, like a soldier in the art. The lecturer also gave some professional anecdotes concerning early productions, and the treatment Wilkie received from noble patrons. Mr. Angerstein was the first who paid him a reasonable price; eight hundred pounds being the price he gave him for the "Village Merrymaking," now in the National Gallery. During the time he was painting this picture, he had very bad health; indeed as we all know, his health was never very strong. Mr. Haydon seemed to think Sir David spoiled, as an artist, by being introduced into fashionable and high life, which distracted his attention from those beautiful domestic subjects which exercised his early pencil; and he thought it would have been beneficial to him to have been sent to live again in his native country, where he first found such delightful objects for observation. In the course of his discourse Mr. Haydon read a letter, which was one of the last Sir David indited, addressed to Sir R. Peel, from Jerusalem, in which he gave an interesting description of the place and of the inhabitants. Sir David appears from this letter to have had it in contemplation to exercise his talents on Scripture subjects. The importance he felt of visiting the localities of the sacred events, to enable him adequately to represent them, was the motive which induced him to undertake the journey.

THE MANUMOTIVE.—A self-propelled chaise called by this name, the property and invention of Mr. A. G. Guinness, the Civil Engineer of Dublin, has been running through our streets, to the great astonishment and amusement of the inhabitants and visitors. In appearance it resembles an ordinary Bath chair, with the exception that the wheels are much higher than the body. Underneath the seat is a well, in which the machinery is hidden. Its powers of velocity appear to be very great; but the most wonderful property connected with it is the facility with which it is made to turn. We saw it in North Street on Friday evening. It ran down the street into Castle Square, and thence curvetted into East Street at a most tremendous pace, and with the most perfect ease; and we have little doubt, if its powers can be made as available on acclivities as they are upon nearly level roads, that railroads will speedily be at a discount.—Brighton Guardian.

NEW DISCOVERY.—A gentleman distinguished in the scientific world is at present engaged in the investigation of a new mode of taking portraits, which, unlike the Photographic process, will not be subject to the variations of solar light and atmospheric influence, and which consequently will not be liable to failure in any instance. The discovery of fixing the shadow of the sitter on a polished plate is justly deemed the wonder of the present age; but the improvements which have been made in the process, and more especially the

investigation above alluded to, convince us that the art is yet in its infancy. We understand the new invention has been secured to the discoverer by patent, and will shortly be brought into general operation. The mode of taking portraits by the Photographic process is from solar light and the application of electricity, and the atmosphere in some mysterious manner acting on the rays of light as well as on all electrical experiments, occasioned failures which the most experienced were unable frequently to overcome,—hence the necessity of attempting some mode of securing a perfect light in an atmosphere of a certain temperature, which, when accomplished, will prove a most valuable acquisition, not only to the inventor but to the public at large.—Correspondent of Liverpool Mail.

FURTHER PARTICULARS OF "THE HUNTERS' SOCIETY."—Sir G. Arthur, the late Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, was the first who succeeded in discovering the existence of this band; and it was his measures that the very formidable plan which was to have been carried into effect in the fall of 1838 was defeated. But disunion among the Unionists, more than British bravery or foresight, was the real cause of its proving abortive. The reader must know, that the only point on which all the branches of this Association agree, is hatred to Great Britain. Apart from this, no strong bond exists amongst them. The greater portion of the Canadian hunters agree only with the Americans as far as hostility to England is concerned. They wish to throw off English supremacy, without having any desire to become Americans.....Papineau, Morin, Viger, are the leaders of this party, and it includes nearly the whole of the Lower Canada sections, with the exception of the Cote's and Nelson's parties, which are for an union with the United States, and have the most partisans in the districts of Montreal, and on the border of the river Richelieu. Again, amongst the Americans there exists a difference of opinion as far as an union is concerned. They all want the free navigation of the St. Lawrence and of the St. John, the northwest territory, and the whole of the country to the west of the Rocky Mountains, but they are not prepared to say that a northern set-off for Texas will not be necessary. Why, then, not take Texas into the Union? say the southern lodges.....At the elections, the watchword is given from the chief and it is here, that this association threatens to become most mischievous and dangerous, as it is most likely they will succeed in getting the ascendancy in all the eastern and middle states. Regarding this body only in a military point of view, one is struck at the first moment by their large number; but yet it would be a very bad calculation to suppose that their physical strength corresponds to their numbers. The writer is of opinion that, with the utmost exertion, the association could not at any single point concentrate 2,000 men; and that it can only be imposing as auxiliary to some well pronounced movement. * * * The escape of the political prisoners from the citadel of Quebec, one of the strongest places in the world, shows how extensive and general was the adhesion to the Hunters' interests. The three principal prisoners were thirty-four days in the upper town of Quebec, whilst the whole garrison was visiting every corner of every room, house, cellar, and even every coffin. Many a time they were obliged to change their quarters seven or eight times a day, and, in spite of the tremendous reward, they were not betrayed. Since the failure of the movement in 1838, the Council of the Hunters came to the decision of waiting for occasions, and of making as many as they could, in order to acquire a better organization, and to be prepared for any event. They resolved to extend and increase the number of lodges, and to organise intercourse and political connexions in Europe. Papineau and Le Veque being at Paris, it was proposed to appoint them plenipotentiaries, and, in fact, Papineau was even received by Marshal Soult in private audience. To England an Irishman and a Scotchman were sent, M'E.—and S-g., to see what could be done with the Charlists. We have heard a great deal about the report of these two gentlemen which we cannot repeat, as we have no proof in our hands, and to reveal only part of the truth would commit some persons VERY DEEPLY. It was at their suggestion that subscriptions to the Irish Repeal fund were begun in America, which of course will increase considerably if the Council of Hunters should approve of that peaceable mode of sympathising agitation.—Morning Chronicle.

AN INDIAN DOCTOR.—Several hundred spectators, including Indians and traders, were assembled round the dying man, when it was announced that the "medicine-man" was coming; we were required to form a "ring," leaving a space of some thirty or forty feet in diameter around the dying man, in which the doctor could perform his wonderful operations; and a space was also opened to allow him full room to pass through the crowd without touching any one. This being done, in a few moments his arrival was announced by the death-like "hush—sh—" through the crowd; and nothing was to be heard, save the light and casual tinkling of the rattles upon his dress, which was scarcely perceptible to the ear, as he cautiously and slowly moved through the avenue left for him; which at length brought him into the ring, in view of the pitiable object over whom his mysteries were to be performed. Readers! you may have seen or read of the Witch of Endor—or you may imagine all the ghosts, and spirits, and furies, that ever ranked amongst the "rank and file" of demonology; and yet you must see my painting of this strange scene before you can form a just conception of real frightful ugliness and Indian conjuration—yes, and even more: you must see the magic dress of this Indian "big bug" (which I have this day procured in all its parts) placed upon the back of some person who can imitate the strides, and swells, the grunts, and spring the rattles of an Indian magician. His entrée and his garb were somewhat thus:—he approached the ring with his body in a crouching position, with a slow and tilting step—his body and head were entirely covered with the skin of a yellow bear, the head of which (his own head being inside of it) served as a mask; the huge claws of which, also, were dangling on his wrists and ankles; in one, hand he shook a frightful wrattle, and in the other brandished his medicine spear or magic wand; to the rattling din and discord of all of which he added the wild and startling jumps and yelps of the Indian, and the horrid and appalling grunts, and snarls, and growls of the grizzly bear, in ejaculatory and guttural incantations to the good and bad spirits, in behalf of his patient; who was rolling and groaning in the agonies of death, whilst he was dancing around him, jumping over him, and pawing him about, and rolling him in every direction. In this wise, this strange operation proceeded for half an hour, to the surprise of a numerous and death-like silent audience, until the man died; and the medicine-man danced off to his quarters, and packed up, and tied and secured from the sight of the world, his

mystery dress and equipments.—Callin's North American Indians.

BOMB PROOF.—In relieving pickets in the trenches many of our men, instead of going quietly through the trenches or parallels in front of the walls of the town, tried to show their contempt of danger by jumping out of them and running across in the face of the enemy's fire. In executing this feat one day, with some others, a cannon shot, fired by the French, struck the ground first, and then hit Palmer on the back, and he fell, as we thought, killed upon the spot. To our surprise, however, in a moment he jumped up unhurt, the ball having glanced off his knapsack. In commemoration of this event he was afterwards known by the appellation of "the bomb-proof man."—Costello's Adventures of a Soldier.

A LOFTY ABODE.—The highest inhabited place upon the face of the globe is a farm-house situate 13,500 feet above the level of the sea, or about two miles and a half above that level. This lofty and elevated habitation is situate on the highest peak of the Andes, in South America, Chimborazo, which rises to 21,440 feet above the level of the sea. It may be truly said that the dwellers in this farm-house are accustomed to, and move in, "high life."

DEATH OF CLARINDA.—It is not without emotions of a painful and melancholy kind that we have this day to record the death of Mrs. Maclehoze, who was well known to a large circle as the Clarinda of Robert Burns. In early life she was remarkable for her personal beauty, and, being highly accomplished, it need excite no surprise that Burns, having tasted the pleasures of her society, became deeply enamoured of her. In fact, she was for a season the goddess of his idolatry, and, as she discovered somewhat of a kindred taste for poetry, it naturally followed that the bard should address some of his effusions to her. The lady was not insensible to the devotion of such a man as Burns; indeed, she was so far carried away by this feeling as to enter into an epistolary correspondence with the poet, who, in the series of letters addressed to her under the name of Clarinda, poured out some of his most brilliant ideas and sentiments, dashed off in the heat of composition, without much regard to the strict proprieties of style. These letters were not intended to meet the public eye, but having been incautiously lent to some roguish publisher, an imperfect copy was given to the world, calculated to prejudice in some respects the fair fame of Mrs. Maclehoze. Those who knew her best, however, some of whom had perused the whole correspondence—the lady's letters as well as the poet's—were fully convinced of the gross injustice of such imputations. But although often urged to publish the letters alluded to, Mrs. Maclehoze, from regard to the feelings of a near relation who died some years ago, would not consent to give them to the world. An obstacle to that course being now removed, it is highly probable that the interesting correspondence will speedily appear in a complete and authentic form. Clarinda, for by that name she will be best known, died full of years; we believe she was considerably above eighty. To the very last she retained traces of the personal beauty for which she was remarkable in early life, and which we have often heard alluded to in enthusiastic terms by a contemporary, himself not an undistinguished friend of Burns, who knew her when both were in the heyday of existence. She preserved her faculties in surprising perfection; and we have often enjoyed the exquisite pleasure of hearing her sing with great accuracy the songs of Burns, to which the bard himself had often listened, with what feelings may be now only imagined.—Edinburgh Evening Post.

PRESIDENT TYLER AND HIS FAMILY.—A Washington correspondent of the Salem Gazette gives an account of his visit to the President, who, he says, came into the drawing room with a quick pace and busy look, apparently not having had time that morning to "dress up" or shave. He has a "large oval face, high Roman nose, keen grey eyes, hair little if at all grey. His face is full of deep lines, and is hard and dry, and somewhat careworn; and he speaks low and very quick." The daughter of the President was in the house all day during the debate on the veto, and heard all the hard things that were said about her father. A dandy described her as a "corn-fed Virginia girl." He however saw her himself at church, and we give his own account:—"In the pew with the President were two rough and tumbling looking boys of 12 to 14, and a young lady of 18 or 20, whom I at once concluded to be the 'corn-fed Virginia girl' of the jewelled exquisite of the gallery conversation. Her bonnet was of chip or straw, of no very costly character, still very pretty and becoming. Gloves, she wore none, and thus betrayed a good-sized, healthy-looking, white and delicate hand. She had on a white muslin dress, and a silk shawl which hung over the side of the pew, I opined, appertained to her. She was strictly attentive to the service, responding audibly. Her attitude was demure, and the circumstance that she was this day to join herself with the fold of God, by the rite of confirmation, may have added to her disposition to condense her attention upon the services. Her face bore all the characteristics of her father's, a long oval, with aquiline nose, light grey eyes, high, expanded forehead, and brown hair. Complexion light; a skin, clear, white, transparent, and free from a blemish. Of her neck I cannot speak so decidedly: owing, I suppose, to her want of taste; her dress did not expose more than an eighth of a yard of this interesting feature, and that was rather darker than her complexion; it was, no doubt, 'the shadowed livery of the banished sun' which she acquired while romping about 'at home on the plantation.' I will add a single fact to the credit of Mr. Tyler. After church he walked home with his children; thus setting a good example to those who thoughtlessly cause an array of coachmen, footmen, hostlers, &c., to break the Fourth Commandment, that they may show their superiority to those who cannot afford to ride."—N. Y. Express.

The Colonial Herald.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1841.

The steamer Pocahontas has discontinued her trips for this season. The mail was received here this morning, having been forwarded from Pictou by a sailing vessel. It, however, supplies us with no news of any public importance.

GREENE CO. N. Y.—The Baptist Church in this place has settled as pastor brother Knox, a recent convert from the Church of England, who has been heard with much favour in several Churches of New York City.—N. Y. Bap. Adv.

HALIFAX, N. S., Nov. 27.—A great alteration is taking place in our garrison. Two regiments from Bermuda, the 76th and 30th, will relieve the 5th and 37th, who will return to England in the course of next week. The departure of these regiments is generally regretted; the conduct of both officers and men has been so orderly and friendly as to acquire the unqualified esteem of the community, and all classes concur in wishing them the possession of the choicest blessings, wherever they may be stationed. The 76th Regt. have arrived. The Cornwall brought the first division on Wednesday evening, and the left wing came next morning in the General Palmer.—Recorder.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

The fourth Session of this truly useful Institution was most auspiciously commenced on Wednesday evening last. The evening was invitingly fine—and at an early hour the hall was crowded by members and visitors, among whom were not a few fair faces, shedding a lustre over the scene, and proving that a taste for intellectual culture and mental enjoyment is not, in this community, confined to the sterner sex. The President having taken the Chair, congratulated the meeting upon the present pleasing aspect and cheering prospects of the Institute, and in an eloquent and appropriate address encouraged all concerned in its prosperity to persevere in their exertions, and to aim at great things in connection with its operations. The following is the Ad-

dress alluded to, which has been kindly furnished by Mr. Young at the earnest request of several individuals:—

"Ladies and Gentlemen,—On behalf of the Committee, I feel much pleasure in congratulating you upon the opening of this, the fourth Session of the Institute, and I only hope, that during its course the same harmony may attend our meetings—the same pleasure and instruction may be received from hearing our Lectures—the same good feeling may be exhibited in our discussions—and the same, if not an increased, support, on the part of the community, may be extended to this Institute, as has been the case during our former Sessions. It becomes me, in greeting you for the first time this season, to urge you—one and all—to be punctual in your attendance during the course, and also to exert yourselves individually in inducing persons to become members, and thus effectually support and uphold the Institute. We must not be content with one refusal to join our ranks, nor with two, but persevere until we enlist the party, and make him become one of ourselves. I ask you to attend our meetings punctually, for two reasons, and they are these—the first is, that our Lecturers all voluntarily come forward, without fee or reward—take great pains in preparing Lectures for the Institute—and if they deliver those Lectures to empty or thin benches, there can be nothing more disheartening to the Lecturer, or more injurious to the interests of the Institute, as it might prevent many persons, in future, from bestowing the requisite pains and labour, to make their lectures interesting and instructive. And the other reason is, that by attending here regularly, you always hear something novel to you; you thus acquire ideas, and improve the powers of your mind. Can any individual who has hitherto attended our meetings turn to his inmost thoughts, review in his mind the various interesting matters he has heard here discussed, and say, that he does not feel himself improved—aye, vastly improved—by having attended here, and drinking deep of the cup of knowledge? And while he admits this pleasing fact, does he not feel that he is raised in the scale of society, and that there reigns within him a spirit of determination to be exalted, and to excel in the various departments of his calling?"

"An absurd and most ridiculous notion was in former times most religiously believed—and is even now still cherished by many of those who look down upon the Mechanic, and deride the idea of giving him instruction. Such persons ignorantly affirmed, that mechanics, and those persons who perform manual labour in every society, want but very little education, and that, in fact, it was an injury to impart it to them, as it had the tendency of making them conceited, and of raising their ideas far beyond their station. I feel proud in saying that such illiberal sentiments are rapidly falling away among the better informed in the higher walks of life, and all are now disposed to see the mechanic educated, and possessed of an enlarged capacity; and every body admits that each artisan should be particularly master of the Sciences which bear directly on the occupation to which he has been bred, and should generally have a knowledge of all that may be instructive and useful to him.

"Few in this community now undertake to deny the members of the Institute, having access to a knowledge of the Sciences, although many are of opinion, that it would prove more beneficial were we to confine our attention and lectures to the simple Laws of Morals, and to those branches of science which peculiarly belong to the operations of the Mechanic, such as Lectures upon the Mechanical Powers, in which the properties and uses of the lever, the wheel and axle—the pulley, the inclined plane, the wedge and the screw—should be made known to young aspirants of a mechanical cast of thought, and give them some idea of the wonderful effects of Machinery, by means of compounding and multiplying these powers. I must regret that we have not yet been able to have a Lecture upon Mechanics; but I hope that we will be more fortunate this session, and that some of our young Mechanics will employ a portion of their leisure time in preparing for the Institute models of these Mechanical Powers, so as to afford to a Lecturer upon them the facility that they would necessarily give him. "Such, I say, are the opinions of a few—that we should confine our Lectures to these subjects alone; but I have ever contended for a more enlarged and liberal view of the character, capabilities and pursuits of the working classes; and I think our aim should be, to give to those of Charlotte-town, in particular, and of this Island in general, the largest amount of knowledge, and the highest degree of refinement that they are capable of receiving, without weakening the springs of industry.

"I would like to ask, has any mechanic, who has attended our meetings been known to neglect his affairs in consequence thereof? Is there a single instance of such an occurrence? No, not one. But, on the contrary, they are more attentive to their business, and from having their minds expanded and improved, are much better able to perform and execute its details. Besides, what a delightful sensation it is to a man to have his powers of thought fixed upon some branch of knowledge, by which his mind is occupied and improved, and from which he expects to realise some benefit to himself and his family. Compare this sensation to the man who has no ideas of anything further than his own immediate personal wants—who has nothing to think upon, unless it be the actual occurrences of the day, or the trivial objects that may be before him—who stays away from our Institute because he does not even feel the want of knowledge—who after the labours of the day are over, knows not in what manner to occupy his time until the hour of rest—and feeling wearied with himself, resorts to company, and too frequently ends with the excesses of the bottle. Compare this man with the feelings of the other; and which is the better to be followed?—which is the better to form an example for our guidance? There cannot be two opinions respecting it, and it therefore becomes all of us to vie with each other in the attainment of knowledge, in adding our mite to the general stock, and in doing all in our power to give offerings to the humble altar to Science that has fortunately been here erected.

"When I recall the difficulties that we first encountered in endeavouring to establish this Institute, three short years ago, and when I contemplate the happy change that has taken place in our prospects now—this very night, when I see such a crowd assembled to listen and to learn, I feel a glow of satisfaction burning within me at the thought, that I was so fortunate as to be one who assisted in achieving this glorious triumph. After an existence of three sessions, and the beginning of a fourth, when it was at first sagely predicted that it would not live one—the Institute has nearly sprung from helpless infancy into active manhood, during which period nothing like internal dissensions has lowered its character—during which, covert attacks from without have been regarded with calm indifference, while we steadily pursued our course onwards—during which, hundreds of regular attendants—among whom, happily, many of the fair sex shewed—and I am sure will continue to shew—an example to fathers, husbands, brothers, lovers—have been instructed in the principles of science, and have been encouraged in a love of letters and the arts—after such an existence, and after such an unlooked for result, am I not justified in saying, that this Institute has such a foundation—so firm and strong—on the minds of you all, that nothing would raze it, or induce you to forsake it? That it may now be considered as having taken its place among the established institutions of the country, and that its marked success has fairly and fully answered every objection which its enemies may have urged against it?"

"To enlarge at this time upon the advantages to the public of such institutions as this, is unnecessary, as they are well known and duly appreciated by all who have bestowed the least thought upon the subject. Look at our father-land, and see what class of persons principally support Mechanics' Institutes there. Many of the Nobility are their Presidents, and most of their learned and scientific men take an interest in their proceedings. 'There are,' says a Scotch paper, '216 Mechanics' Institutes in England alone, comprising 25,621 members and subscribers, of whom about one-half belong to the class of workmen—the other half is composed of noblemen, professional gentlemen, and those engaged in mercantile pursuits. The average number of members to each Institute is 119. The number of Lectures delivered yearly is about 1198. The three great means of usefulness in Mechanics' Institutes are, first, classes for