

To the Editor of the British American.

Sir,

Having with much pleasure seen in your paper some remarks on the pernicious effects occasioned by the use of ardent spirits; I take the liberty of sending you the following extract from a modern popular work on that subject; by inserting which you will oblige

Your

obedient servant,
B.

Ardent spirits employed to invigorate the intellect, or restore exhausted nature under severe study, is often a fatal experiment. Mighty men have been cast down in this manner. Never to rise. The quickened circulation does for a time invigorate intellect and restore exhausted nature. But, for the adventitious energy imparted, it exhausts the native energy of the soul, and induces that faintness of heart, and flagging of the spirits, which cry incessantly "give, give," and never, but with expiring breath, say it is enough.

The use of ardent spirits, employed as an auxiliary to labor, is among the most fatal, because the most common and least suspected, causes of intemperance. It is justifiable, innocent, as insisted on as necessary: but no fact is more completely established by experience than that it is utterly useless, and ultimately injurious, beside all the fearful evils of habitual intemperance, to which it so often leads. *There is no nutrition in ardent spirit. All that it does, is to concentrate the strength of the system for the time, beyond its capacity for regular exertion.* It is borrowing strength for an occasion, which will be needed for futurity, without provision for payment, and with the certainty of ultimate bankruptcy.

Let two men, of equal age and firmness of constitution, labor together through the summer, the one with and the other without the excitement of ardent spirits, and the latter will come out at the end with unimpaired vigour, while the other will be comparatively exhausted.

Ships navigated as some now are without the habitual use of ardent spirits—and manufacturing establishments carried on without extended agricultural operations, all move on with better industry, more peace, more health, and a better income to the employers and the employed. The workmen are cheerful and vigorous, friendly and industrious, and their families are thrifty, well fed, well clothed and instructed; and instead of distress and poverty, and disappointment and contention, they are cheered with the full flow of social affection, and often by the sustaining power of religion. But, when ardent spirit is received as a daily auxiliary to labor, it is commonly taken at stated times—the habit soon creates a vacancy in the stomach, which indicates at length the hour of the day with as much accuracy as a clock. It will be taken besides, frequently, at other times which will accelerate the destruction of nature's healthful tone, create artificial debility, and the necessity of artificial excitement to remove it, and when so much has been consumed, as the economy of the employer can allow, the growing demand will be supplied by the evening and morning dram, from the wages of labor—until the appetite has become insatiable, and the habit of intemperance nearly universal—until the nervous excitability has irritated the social sensibilities, and turned our family into a scene of babbling and woe—until voracious appetite has eaten up the children's bread, and abandoned them to ignorance and crime, until conscience has become callous, and fidelity and industry have disappear-

ed, except as the result of eye service; and wanton wastefulness and contention, and reckless wretchedness characterize the establishment.

Extraordinary Case of Credulity.—At Union-hall on Thursday a very respectable-looking man, named Phillips, presented himself before the Magistrate, and applied for a warrant against Mr. Stiff, for obtaining money under false pretences.—The applicant said Mr. Stiff gained a livelihood by astrology, and as he cast nativities with great accuracy and was considered the first man in the land at the science, his place was constantly crowded, by young and old. Some time ago he lost a valuable book, and hearing of Mr. Stiff's skill, he went to him, and asked him to point out the thief. The astrologer had recourse to several books and after some experiments he exclaimed, "I have it," upon which he proceeded to describe, with admirable minuteness, the features, figure, and dress of a female, to whom applicant was paying his addresses, adding that he might rest assured that the person so described was the thief who had robbed him of his book. The applicant added, that the description agreed so accurately in all respects with the young lady he at one time loved sincerely, that from the day he first consulted Mr. Stiff on the subject, he broke off all acquaintance with her, under the full persuasion that she was a thief. The Magistrate could scarcely refrain from loud laughter at the credulity evinced by the applicant on the occasion of his visit to the "Wise Man," the appellation he went by in the neighbourhood where he resided.—Mr. Chambers inquired if the applicant had paid Mr. Stiff any money for the information he had given him about the book? The reply was in the affirmative, and in saying the consequence of the theft being thus detected in so extraordinary a manner, he had given Mr. Stiff the sum of 10*l.* to teach him the art of divination, or telling fortunes by the planets.—Mr. Chambers asked whether the book stolen from him was found in the possession of the female whom he was courting subsequently to the prophecy of Mr. Stiff? The applicant said, that he was so convinced that she was the thief upon hearing Mr. Stiff pronounce the fact, he had discarded her from that moment, not feeling inclined to proceed criminally against her. The Magistrate said that he had acted with great folly in the business, to suffer the reputation of a female, to whom he admitted he was attached, to be injured by the information he derived from a fortune-teller, who probably was aware that he had such an acquaintance as that whom he pretended to describe a thief. The Magistrate then asked the applicant whether he had been taught astrology, agreeably to Mr. Stiff's promise? The applicant said, that as soon as Mr. Stiff got the money into his hands, he merely gave him two or three old nativities and some books about the planets, saying that if he studied them well for a few days, he would be well versed in astrology. He did study, but left off as wise as he began, and although he applied for his money back, it was refused. Several of the officers said Mr. Stiff had long practised fortune-telling. The Magistrate said that as the applicant had given money for the purpose of having his fortune told, a warrant should be issued against Stiff, who should be dealt with under the Vagrant Act.

Murder.—On Sunday morning, a murder of the most deliberate and cold-blooded descrip-

tion was committed at Barrowsfield-Toll, near Glasgow, arising out of the following circumstances, as far as can be ascertained. Yesterday fortnight, as an old man of the name of Cameron was going home with one of his sons, he was attacked by several persons who were standing at Barrowfield-Toll, and his son defended him, so that the parties made off. Last Sunday, at ten o'clock, the same parties attacked the old man, when two of his sons were with him and after a scuffle, old Cameron and his sons were successful. At one o'clock on the same day a murderous attack was made on Cameron, but he was again successfully defended by his sons. Vengeance was threatened by the defeated party, and according to the testimony of persons in the neighbourhood, they were in waiting by ten o'clock on Saturday night, with knives and other weapons, with the view of meeting some of the Cameron. Unfortunately, at about three o'clock yesterday morning, they met David Cameron, a cotton-spinner, one of the sons of the old man, whom they instantly attacked and knocked down in Barrowfield, near the toll. He got up, however, and ran, but one of the party, a woman, with her two sons, followed him, and the latter having knocked him down, the former, according to the most authentic accounts, struck him on the head with a poker, or a piece of wood shod with iron, which fractured his skull, and caused a concussion of the brain. A crowd having collected, the poor man was carried home, but a surgeon was not sent for till about ten o'clock, when he was beyond recovery, and he died a few minutes after. Five of the party, including the woman, have been apprehended.—*Scotch Paper.*

Dreadful Explosion.—On Friday morning last, the boiler of a stationary steam engine at Lambton, which was employed to draw up the waggons of one of Lord Durhams collieries, burst with tremendous violence, killing seven men, and burning and maiming several others. A cottage near the place was destroyed by the explosion, the force of which was so great, that the boiler was thrown nearly 100 yards from its station.—*Tyne Mercury.*

COMMUNICATION.

Mr. Editor,

The state of our Highways and Lowways calls for a gentle touch now and then, especially in the west. We have a valuable adage "Many hands make light work," but it scarcely applies to our roads unless you put an s before the l, and call it slight work. Some years ago we had passable roads westward, but now, since we are blest'd with a batch of Commissioners they are in a state of impassible improvement. If all the projected roads from Charlotte-Town to Ellis river at Richmond Bay were faithfully sketched upon a general map of that side of the Island, giving at the same time, the high elevation of the hills and mountains, and depth of the valleys, it would puzzle an observer possessed of any degree of perspicacity to account for the numerous lines scratches and dots which would thus be laid open to his observation. There was formerly one Chief-Overseer, who had the whole Island under his surveillance, who had the arrangement of the statute labour which was then done for the general advantage of the Island, and to superintend narrowly the expending of the public money, so that it was not to travel a distance of 6000 miles in one year which was actually travelled, for a sum of 80*l.* without sixpence for extra charges. He had two depu-