consequently that the specific gravity of light is to that of water, as 400,000,000, to 1, nearly. Allowing the velocity of solar light and heat, to be simultaneous, the ratio of the specific gravity of heat to that of water must also be nearly as 400,000,000 to one.

Supposing that the contents of each bottle used by the Count, to weigh 2lbs. Troy, and that the bulk of the caloric capable of reducing the ice to a state of fluidity amounted to ¼ the bulk of the ice, there would be added to the absolute weight of the latter, about the 500 millioneth part of its original weight, which it would be impossible to ascertain by means of the nicest balance. All therefore that can with propriety be deduced from the Count's experiments, is that the gravity of caloric is so very trifling as to baffle the application of practical experiments in proving it.

I am Sir, yours, &c. &c.

Newry, 18th Oct. W.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

ACCORDING to the theory of Lavoisier, the combination of *light* and oxygen, exhibits itself in the form of fire.

To adopt the language of your Correspondent *Mechanicus*, soaring in *the high and rarefied atmosphere of theory*, is of little service without keeping our eyes attentively fixed also on practical experiments; I have found this amply verified in putting the subject of your Correspondent C. D. to the test of experiment. At the distance of 18 inches, from a fire, I this day placed a thermometer in a room completely dark; the thermometer rose to 109 degrees, where it remained stationary. I then threw open the window shutters, and admitted the light of the sun to strike on the fire; and the thermometer most *obstinately* remained at 109 degrees.

A pint of water also boiled on a fire in a darkened room; and another pint on a second fire, exposed to the action of solar light, in exactly the same time.

N. B. the heat of both the fires was found to be the same by the help of the thermometer.

As it is in the power of your Correspondent, to make the experiment for himself, he will be enabled to satisfy his curiosity very easily on the subject. I need not say any thing in addition, but that as I fell into an error, from depending merely on theory, I am glad my practical experiment has afforded me an opportunity of detecting and acknowledging it thus publicly. I am sir, your constant reader.

16th Oct. 1808. TYRO.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

Monstrum horrendum, informe, ingens: stat nomine *Humbug*.

MR. EDITOR,

COMPLAINT is the privilege of the sufferer: I therefore claim your attention, until I state my grievance.

I am obliged to reside in a small town. This, of itself, forms no part of my complaint; as to me, what is termed want of society, presents no horrors. My pursuits are rather out of fashion, and my modes of thinking equally so; as for example, I find little inducement to prefer the insipid gossipping of a tea-table, or what is technically named, *a ghost*, to the interesting converse my inclinations lead me to cultivate "with the mighty dead."

How striking the contrast!....On the one side the frivolous, the perts, the insipid, disgusting with the nauseous repetitions of worn-out witticisms, nauseous even to the utterer, and given through the mere incapacity of presenting better; on the other, those whom Richard de Bury feelingly and not inelegantly describes (speaking of his books) "Hi sunt magistri, qui nos instruunt sine virgis & ferulâ, sine verbis & colera, sine pane & pecunia. Si accedis, non dormiunt; si inquiris, non se abscondunt; non remurmurant, si oberres; cachinnos nesciunt, si ignores."*

* Richard de Bury died in 1345. On the accession of Edward III. he was made successively Bishop of Durham, Chancellor and Treasurer of England. He was singularly studious, and his passion for books rose, as he himself acknowledges, to a pitch of madness. He had considerable riches, and expended the whole in purchasing scarce and curious manuscripts, and getting others copied. The