

transition is easy, from pointing out an error on one hand, to recommend the adoption of a contrary error on the other.

CENSOR.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

DESIROUS that those who merit honours should receive them, through the medium of the Belfast Monthly Magazine, I wish to make public the following discovery.

Yours,

JOHN TEMPLETON.

The attraction of cohesion subsisting between gold and iron, has always been an impediment to the artist engaged in working gold. An ingenious artist of Belfast, Mr. Alexander Dunlap, has discovered a few months ago, that, by using cream, or even milk deprived of its butter in place of oil, gold may be drilled, or burnished with the same facility as brass or any other metal. No sooner had he made the discovery, than with an enlightened liberality he hastened to inform his friends, and it is now successfully practised by many workmen, both in Belfast and Dublin.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

The following Account of a new Volcano, in one of the Azores, has lately been given to the public, by the American Consul at St. Antonio.

Fayal (Azores) June 25th, 1808.

A PHENOMENON has occurred here, not unusual in former ages, but of which there has been no example of late years; it was well calculated to inspire terror, and has been attended with the destruction of lives and property. On Sunday, the first of May, at one, P.M. walking in the balcony of my house, at St. Antonio, I heard noises like the report of heavy cannon at a distance, and concluded there was some sea-engagement in the vicinity of the island. But soon after, casting my eyes towards the island of St. George, ten leagues distant, I perceived a dense column of smoke, rising to an immense height; it was soon judged that a Volcano had burst out about the centre of that island, and this was rendered certain when

night came on, the fire exhibiting an awful appearance.

Being desirous of viewing this wonderful exertion of nature, I embarked on the second of May, accompanied by the British consul, and ten other gentlemen, for St. George; we ran over in five hours, and arrived at Vellas, the principal town, at eleven A.M. We found the poor inhabitants perfectly panic-struck, and wholly given up to religious ceremonies and devotion. We learned that the fire of the first of May had broken out in a ditch, in the midst of fertile pastures, three leagues S. E. of Vellas, and had immediately formed a crater in size about twenty four acres. In two days it had thrown out cinders, or small pumice stones, that a strong N. E. wind had propelled southerly; and which, independent of the mass accumulated round the crater, had covered the earth from one foot to four feet in depth, half a league in width, and three leagues in length; then passing the channel five leagues, had done some injury to the east point of Pico.

The fire of this large crater had nearly subsided, but in the evening preceding our arrival, another small crater had opened, one league north of the large one, and only two leagues from Vellas. After taking some refreshment, we visited the second crater, the sulphureous smoke of which driven southerly, rendered it impracticable to attempt approaching the large one. When we came within a mile of the crater, we found the earth rent in every direction, and as we approached nearer, some of the chasms were six feet wide; by leaping over some of these chasms, and making windings to avoid the large ones, we at length arrived within two hundred yards of the spot; and saw it in the middle of a pasture, distinctly at intervals, when the thick smoke which swept the earth, lighted up a little. The mouth of it was only about fifty yards in circumference, the fire seemed struggling for vent; the force with which a pale blue flame issued forth, resembling a powerful steam-engine, multiplied an hundred fold; the noise was deafening. The earth where we stood had a tremulous motion, the whole island seemed convulsed; horrid

bellowings were occasionally heard from the bowels of the earth, and earth quakes were frequent. After remaining here about ten minutes, we returned to town. The inhabitants had mostly quitted their houses, and remained in the open air, or under tents. We passed the night at Vellas, and the next morning went by water to Ursulina, a small sea-port town, two leagues south of Vellas, and viewed that part of the country covered with the cinders before-mentioned, and which has turned the most valuable vineyards in the island into a frightful desert. On the same day (the fourth of May) we returned to Fayal, and on the fifth and succeeding days, from twelve to fifteen small volcanoes broke out in the fields we had traversed on the third, from the chasms before described, and threw out a quantity of lava, which travelled on slowly towards Vellas. The fire of those small craters subsided, and the lava ceased running about the eleventh of May, on which day the large volcano that had lain dormant for nine days, burst forth again like a roaring lion, with horrid belchings, distinctly heard at twelve leagues distant, throwing up prodigious large stones, and an immense quantity of lava, illuminating at night, the whole island.

This continued with tremendous force until the fifth of June, exhibiting the awful, yet magnificent spectacle of a perfect river of fire (distinctly seen from Fayal) running into the sea. On that day (the fifth) we experienced that its force began to fail, and in a few days after, it ceased entirely. The distance of the crater from the sea is about four miles, and its elevation about three thousand five hundred feet. The lava inundated and swept away the town of Ursulina, and country houses, and cottages adjacent, as well as the farm-houses throughout its course. It as usual, gave timely notice of its approach, and most of the inhabitants fled; some few, however, remained in the vicinity of it too long, endeavouring to save their furniture and effects, and were scalded by flashes of steam, which, without injuring their clothes, took off not only their skin, but their flesh. About sixty persons were thus misera-

bly scalded, some of whom died on the spot, or in a few days after. Numbers of cattle shared the same fate.

The judge and principal inhabitants left the island very early. The consternation and anxiety were for some days so great among the people, that even their domestic concerns were abandoned, and, amidst plenty they were in danger of starving. Supplies of ready baked bread were sent from hence to their relief, and large boats were sent to bring away the inhabitants, who had lost their dwellings. In short, the island, heretofore rich in cattle, corn, and wine, is nearly ruined, and a scene of greater desolation and distress has seldom been witnessed in any country."

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

STR,

AS it is high time for those who keep bees, to secure their hives against the severity of the winter, permit me to suggest a few hints on the subject.

Some persons with a view of protecting their hives from the wet and cold, as well as from the attacks of vermin, cover them with a coat of lime or mortar. By this practice they may gain their object; but they certainly lose in another point of view. To a person who has a considerable number of bees, it is undoubtedly an object to have his straw hives preserved in the best manner possible, so that they may be useful in a subsequent year. Now this, I should imagine, is very imperfectly effected by the mode above-mentioned. The lime tends to injure the texture of the hive, and of course to render it sooner unfit for use: and the application of this or any other substance of a similar nature, is unfavourable to that perfect cleanliness, which is most agreeable to a swarm. A hive, therefore, seems to be best preserved, by being kept perfectly clean and dry. For this purpose, hoods of straw are to be preferred to every other covering. The hood should consist of as much clean straw as will effectually cover the hive on all sides. It should be tied at top, so as to prevent the rain from penetrating; and should extend on all