

THE WONDERS OF SCIENCE COMPARED WITH THE WONDERS OF ROMANCE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: The whole number of works, original and reprinted, that were published in the United States during the year ending with June, 1834, was 623. Of these, 126, or about one fifth, were novels and tales. In Great Britain, 1112 works were published in the year 1833; of which 71, or about one fifteenth, were novels and tales. In France, during the same year, 7011 works were issued; of which 355, or about one twentieth, were novels and tales.

I have not been able to obtain a complete correspondent statement for any year subsequent to 1834. The following numbers, however, from the American Publishers' Circular for April, 1856, show a great increase of works of fiction. "In all departments, except that of fiction," says Mr. Norton, "there were published in this country, in the year 1855, about 800 different works; adding for the new and old novels that owed birth or resuscitation to this year, the new issues will reach, in round numbers, to *two thousand*." This makes the works of fiction three fifths of the whole.

These numbers afford some criterion of the taste of the reading part of the community in the countries specified. And what I wish particularly to be noticed at this time is, the much greater demand in this country for works of fiction