

simplest way." Evidence coming from men of such standing must have great weight.

Having thus briefly considered thought as exhibited in nature and literature, we might go a little further and inquire, whether thought, as a motive power for civilizing and refining the race, has been more efficient when wearing the garb of Simplicity or when lurking behind the mask of Obscurity. A glance at the world's history will enable one to answer this inquiry. All the reformers, both religious and political, whose names we cherish, to whom we are deeply indebted, and who are universally admired for depth and richness of thought, have been men of plain simple statements. Their influence has not been confined to any one period, but has widened and deepened with every succeeding age. Truth alone formed the subject-matter of their thoughts. Their simple statements fraught with great ideas carried conviction to the soul as none but such could. *Words* may be hurled at an audience for hours and produce little, if any, effect; but one well-directed *thought*, shorn of all superfluous appendages, will cut its way to the mind of the most careless listener.

When we survey the works of nature; when we study the most enduring creations of art; when we attempt to review the immortal in literature; and when we reflect that all these are thoughts which have assumed shape, yet all bearing the indelible mark of Simplicity, we conclude that there can be no better test of true thought than simplicity of expression. G. W. C.

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### SOME CANADIAN AUTHORS.

No. 1.

#### JOHN McPHERSON.

John McPherson, styled by himself, "The Harp of Acadia," was born in Liverpool, the pleasant shire-town of Queen's County, on the 4th of February, 1817, and died at Brookfield, in the same County, on July 26th, 1845. His education consisted of a knowledge of the branches generally taught in country districts; which branches at that time were pretty well confined to the "three R's." On account of a life passed in continual ill-health, it was necessary for our poet to avoid all rough play, and as a result he was fond of study and retirement. His favorite authors were Thomas Campbell and Henry Kirke White. During his career McPherson followed a number of pursuits. Farming, school-teaching, carpentry, clerking, and going to sea, occupied his attention at different times. But enough of his history. Our chief attention must be given to his poetry, with which, by a few critical remarks and copious selections, we will endeavor to make our readers fairly acquainted. Melpomene