

BARKER'S

CANADIAN MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

VOL. I.

KINGSTON, OCTOBER, 1846.

No. 6.

EXTRACTS FROM A JOURNAL OF 1843 & 1844.*

Philadelphia, September.

MY DEAR FRANK,—“Boz” says, “Philadelphia is distractingly regular,” what he intended it is difficult to say, perhaps only an attempt at jocularly. It is a beautiful place, and as regularity is somewhat akin to repose, it produces that sensation.

The affairs of life seem more quietly conducted here; you could almost fancy the horses tread more lightly—there is little of distraction. By those who like noise, Broadway may be preferred; which is a moderately wide street, not to be compared with Oxford Street. Here there is fashion and quiet, and I should say, if one could know the inmates, there is more of that enjoyment, without display, which proceeds from being highly intellectual, and not “regularly distracted.”

They have but one street in New York, ill paved, ill kept—here the streets are like promenades, comparatively, with clean walks, and some of the finest looking women in the world, are to be seen thereon—of a style certainly less intended for show, so far as a stranger is concerned. You know Fanny Kemble says they are the fairest of the fair—about these regions they certainly think her one of the queecest.

There are numerous public buildings and streets here of great beauty; the latter, not only those which intersect the city from the Delaware to the Schuylkill, but transverse streets lined with trees, most refreshing and agreeable to the visitor, after the bustle and confusion of overwrought trade. There are numerous fine Squares with fountains, and Washington Square, though small compared with ours, is a perfect bijou. “Boz” honors it with too little notice. The works of Fairmont which supply this place with water, cost a million and a half of dollars—they are situated on the Schuylkill river, which has been dammed up for that purpose, and is the power by which machinery is moved, to force the water into reservoirs

* Continued from the September Number, page 256.