

On our part no effort shall be wanting to maintain and increase the interest and efficiency of the Magazine. We are aware of the difficulty of pleasing every taste; nor can we hope ever to succeed in doing so. One reader will tell us, 'let us have none of that trashy stuff which inundates the American Periodicals: give us solid, substantial articles!' A young lady reader informs us in confidence, that 'there is no use taking up the Magazine with cumbrous articles about Telegraphs, &c.—why not give us some more of your tales and sketches: they are pretty and everybody reads them?' 'Give us short articles and plenty of them,' says a lively young clerk, 'variety is the life of a Magazine!' 'What is the use of giving one a mouthful when he expects a meal?' says a rather testy 'constant reader.' In short, we find that to please every one is impossible: so we must content ourselves with supplying what we think will be most likely to minister to the general interest.

The year which has just passed has been, in many respects, an eventful one. At home it has been characterised, by much activity of preparation, for what is evidently about to become a great fact—the building of Railways throughout the colonies. Our fisheries have this year received an efficient protection from the Imperial Government, which may be productive of the best results. We have been talking of and preparing for an Exhibition during the approaching summer. We have for the first time got a steamer plying regularly between Halifax and Boston: a public convenience of the greatest importance.

Last year Sir Edward Belcher, a fellow colonist, was selected to command a searching expedition for Sir John Franklin. We record this circumstance with some feelings of just pride.

During the past year also we have had to lament the loss, by death, of our late Governor Sir John Harvey, as brave a soldier as ever drew sword, and as kind hearted and amiable a man as ever filled the high office to which he was called by his sovereign. Among our legislators death has carried from us a valuable, able and upright man, whose place it will be difficult to fill—James D. Fraser, of Windsor.

In the world at large, there can be no doubt that the crowning and most melancholy event of the year—which will mark it out when a thousand lustra have passed away—is the death of the Duke of Wellington, who, in the eloquent words of the "Times," 'had exhausted nature and exhausted glory—and left the scene with no honour unbestowed and no duty unfulfilled.' Webster, too, the great American statesman, almost at the same time took a final farewell of earthly ambition—but at a period the most unpropitious for his fame.

Australian gold has given an impulse to trade, commerce and emigration in England, sufficient of itself to stamp the year as the beginning of a new era.

1852 found us and left us maintaining an ignoble contest with a horde of fierce savages in southern Africa. The same year saw the beginning of a