

THE PEOPLE'S MAGAZINE.

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PROSPECTUS

OF THE

PEOPLE'S MAGAZINE AND WEEKLY JOURNAL.

In Britain, France, Germany, and the United States, literature has been brought within the reach of all classes of the community in the shape of exceedingly low-priced Magazines, Encyclopedias, and Journals; and while much of it has been of a pernicious kind, yet a considerable portion has consisted of popular information on the arts and sciences, interesting histories and biographies, the wonders of nature and art, the manners and customs of various nations, essays upon common fallacies, and a great variety of interesting and improving topics. Now, while every effort should be made by all good men to keep out the pernicious and trashy portions of the literature in question; yet it is almost impossible to overrate the importance of introducing speedily into general circulation that which is wholesome. Without it a stunted and dwarfish growth of the public mind must ensue as the result of a deficiency of mental food; and in that case the people of Canada must occupy a much lower place in the intellectual scale than other nations. Any effort worthy of the public confidence which may be made to remedy so great a prospective evil, should therefore surely meet with a cordial reception from all who have the welfare of Canada at heart.

With these views the subscriber has undertaken the publication of "THE PEOPLE'S MAGAZINE AND WEEKLY JOURNAL," to consist of the various kinds of reading matter above mentioned, which are calculated to blend instruction with delight, and furnish in every number an intellectual feast for the family circle; and as the express object is to diffuse and foster a taste for sound literature, the MAGAZINE is made as far as practicable both cheap and attractive.

As all publications should make the highest interest of man their chief aim, religious truth will form a prominent, though a brief portion of each number; but, in order to throw no obstacle in the way of its circulation among all classes of the community, controversial articles will be excluded.

For the benefit of subscribers who take no other paper, the Magazine and Journal will contain a brief summary of news, together with a produce price current, carefully corrected for each week. It will also contain one pictorial embellishment in each number. And for the advantage of preserving it, an index and title page will be given at the end of the year.

THE PEOPLE'S MAGAZINE AND WEEKLY JOURNAL will be published every Wednesday Morning, beginning with the first Wednesday in October next, by Mr. R. D. Wadsworth. Terms: ONE DOLLAR per Annum, payable strictly in advance; or Ten Copies to one address, for Nine Dollars per Annum. To News-men or Booksellers, ordering not less than 100 Copies of each Number, the price will be 6s 3d per 100 Copies.

JOHN DOUGALL,
Proprietor.

N. B.—The present number, which is intended as a specimen of the volume, will be widely distributed gratuitously; and friends of the enterprise are respectfully requested to interest themselves in its success, by endeavouring to procure subscribers in their respective localities, and remitting subscriptions to the publisher by the 1st October next.

Some such change as that now announced having been contemplated from the beginning of this experiment in April last, subscriptions were then only asked for six months; and to those who paid 1s. 3d. additional, the PEOPLE'S MAGAZINE AND WEEKLY JOURNAL will be sent for one quarter, or from 1st October to 1st February. It

is to be observed, that as neither the Prospectus nor list of Agents will be given permanently, there will, of course, be two columns of reading matter in their place.

THE VOICES AT THE THRONE.

BY T. WESTWOOD.

A little child!

A little meek-faced, quiet village child
Sat singing by her cottage door at eve,
A low, sweet, Sabbath song. No human ear
Caught the faint melody. No human eye
Beheld the upturned aspect, or the smile
That played around her lips, the while they breathed
The oft-repeated burden of the hymn,
Praise God! praise God!

A Seraph by the throne

In the full glory stood, with eager hand
He smote the golden harp strings, till a flood
Of harmony on the celestial air
Welled forth unceasing. Then with a great voice
He sang the "Holy, holy, evermore,
Lord God Almighty," and the eternal courts
Thrilled with the rapture, and the hierarchies,
Angel and wrapt Archangel, throbb'd and burned
With vehement adoration. Higher yet
Rose the majestic anthem. Without pause,
Higher with rich magnificence of sound
To its full strength! and still the infinite Heavens
Rang with the "Holy, holy, evermore!"
Till trembling from excess of awe and love,
Each sceptred spirit sank beneath the throne,
With a mute hallelujah. But even then
While the ecstatic song was at its height,
Stole in an alien voice—a voice that seemed
To float, float upward from some world afar—
A meek and childlike voice—faint, but how sweet!
That blended with the Seraph's rushing strain,
Even as a fountain's music with the roll
Of the reverberate thunder. Loving smiles
Lit up the beauty of each angel's face
At that new utterance—smiles of joy that grew
More joyous yet, as ever and anon
Was heard the simple burden of the hymn,
"Praise God! praise God!" And when the Seraph's song
Had reached its close, and o'er the golden lyre
Silence hung brooding—when the eternal courts
Rung but with the echoes of his chant sublime;
Still through the abyssal space, that wandering voice
Came floating upward from its world afar;
Still sweetly echoing on the celestial air,
"Praise God! praise God!"

POPULAR SUPERSTITIONS.

Superstitious notions about things which can be explained by principles of Philosophy.

To this class belongs the *ignis fatuus*, more commonly known by the name of "Jack with the Lantern," or "Will-o'-the-Wisp." Persons walking over marshy ground in the evening, are frequently startled by seeing a light at some distance before them. If they go towards it, the mysterious light moves forward too, dancing up and down, sometimes disappearing for a moment, and then being visible again. That a person unacquainted with the cause of the appearance, should feel alarmed in such cases, is perfectly natural. As he perceives a light springing up in the air, moving up and down, without