

Let us remember that there is such a thing as *indirect profit*; that the failure or success of this Exhibition will be felt through coming time. It will affect our character as a people, our sympathies as brethren, our future as instruments in the work of human elevation and improvement. If we each only determine to do something and to do it with right good will, regardless of the sneers or indifference of those around, we will accomplish something that will be beneficial to the country and creditable to ourselves.

Let us bear in mind that we stand on our own responsibility, and not on that of our neighbours; that we ourselves should work, no matter who remains listless or idle. And then at worst, should it fail, we will have the satisfaction of knowing that we did what we could. While should it succeed and prosper, which we earnestly hope with the blessing of Heaven it may, the general honour will be reflected upon individual merit, and the Exhibition of 1853 be a triumph and a glory to Nova Scotia and her children.

#### HALF-HOURS WITH OUR POETS, No. 5.

WE are often told that genius is not hereditary; and striking instances have confirmed the truth of the remark; but poetic taste does seem to be an heirloom in some families. It may be, from the softening and beautifying influence which one mind exercises upon another, that this similarity of feeling arises; but certain it is that in the same family connection it is common to witness a development of strong poetic feeling and ability. Even in Nova Scotia we could point to several families, as corroboration of the assertion.

In these brief sketches we have witnessed its descent in the Cotnam and Tonge connection, touching the lips of one or more of each generation with fire from that spirit, whose wayward wanderings we essay to follow in those simple recollections of our Nova Scotia minstrels. And in the verses we present to our readers in this article, we can also trace the lineal descent of poesy among the various members of the family, to whose latest poet we called attention in a previous paper of this series.

And here we must apologise for not deferring the publication of that biography, until the insertion of the present article; but at the time when it was written, we did not hope to be favoured with the manuscripts which have since come into our possession, or the liberty to go into further detail with regard to their merit or authors. Since then, however, by the kindness of a near relative of Mr. Desbrisay, we have been favored with verses composed by