

THE SCRIBBLER.

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— *Multum sanguinis, multum verecundiæ, nullum sollicitudinis in ore.*— PLINY.

With a suffusion of blushes, with much modesty, with much diffidence of speech.

It has been a matter often disputed whether, for the purposes of social life, and the advancement of a person's prosperity or happiness, impudence or modesty be the most desirable. The advocates for the former are generally such as, having been early thrown into the busy vortex of life, have been successful in buffeting the eddies and currents they had to encounter; such as, either from constitutional firmness of nerve, or perhaps from the confidence acquired by a liberal and polite education, have won their way to fame and consideration. But there is likewise another set of men who are claimed by impudence as her darling children; the brass of whose impenetrable fronts has been moulded, in the crucibles of ignorance, hypocrisy, and vice. Impudence, strictly speaking, is confined to them; in the others it is modified into assurance. The former is displayed in prosperity by overbearing pride, by oppression of those who fall under their power, by dishonourable actions, and unblushing profligacy. The latter is seen by that readiness of speech, and easy freedom of action, by that promptness and decision of conduct and address, which distin-