

ENCOURAGING OMEN.

MY DEAR BROTHER OLIPHANT:—I have just read the first Number of the *Witness* for 1849, and am much pleased with the perusal of it, as I have been with Numbers heretofore, and do rejoice that we have at least one monthly publication in Canada the professed object of which is to direct the attention of the men of this generation to what the “Faithful and true Witness,” the Lord Jesus Christ, and his apostles, say unto them, in order to their deliverance from that thralldom and corruption in which they are placed by transgression, and be introduced into the glorious light and liberty of the gospel of Christ. What a worthy enterprize, then, what a labour of love, is that in which you are engaged. Yes, it has been thought worthy to engage the labours of the truly great and good of every age. But their labours have not always been appreciated by their fellow-men. On the contrary, they have suffered privation, and sometimes death, for testifying to the truth. This appears almost inexplicable when we recollect that the belief and reception of that truth would be attended with such blissful consequences to the human family. But so it is—man has always been opposed to his own interests.

Need you, then, my dear brother, be surprised or discouraged that your labours should be undervalued or lightly esteemed by those they are mostly designed to benefit. No; I believe you are better instructed than to allow this to affect you. True happiness is enjoyed by the good man only in knowing and in practising the commandments of God. This constituted the crown of rejoicing of the faithful Paul. “I have fought the good fight—I have kept the faith.” What an honor, then, has the Lord conferred upon his people, in committing to them the gospel, and instructing them to occupy until he come. Timothy was instructed to commit what he had learned “to faithful men who should be able to teach others also.” Thus, God is pleased to work by means, and that frequently of a humble character. Should we not, then, endeavour to realize our true position and responsibility to our Lord:—the palm of victory—the value of eternal life—the white robes of the conqueror. If this were the case, might not your labours, as Editor of the *Witness*, be materially lightened, and its pages enriched by those who are abundantly able if they were willing to communicate. Hoping then that the talent of the brotherhood may be brought into extensive exercise in the promotion of the best of causes,

I remain affectionately,

R. ROYCE.

Eramosa, 28th Jan., 1849.

Robert Royce