

but submit our little fund to the public, with a prayer for their indulgence.

To Patrons.—From the circumstance of our first number not being out as soon as the present month came in, several of our sceptical friends expressed their fears that the Casket would not meet with an encouragement sufficient to induce its appearance. A generous public, however, disappointed those fears, and more than realized our most flattering hopes. The Casket has, already, a respectable subscription list. But, though later than the prospectus announced, our publication was earlier than contingent circumstances rendered desirable—earlier than it would have been, but for our tender regard for the impatience already sufficiently hinted at. We crowded it through the press, during an emergency of other business, and before the materials could be collected and collated. With this apology for the want of arrangement, and the numerous typographical errors, which appear in the first number, but which we have endeavored to avoid in the present, we throw ourselves upon your indulgence, with better hopes of the future.

Heads out.—Owing to the length of several articles, we have not been able to get all the Departments of matter, named in our dedication, into this number. Selections under the remaining Heads are in our copy drawer, and shall appear in the next number. If we are not able generally to get all our heads in one number, they shall appear alternately. We have occupied rather more than our share of the present sheet, but, of such as we give, did not write our heads out.

Our Scissors.—It is our intention to make the Casket a Canadian work, so far as we can obtain fit materials of provincial growth. Enjoying, as we do, an exchange with most of the Colonial papers, we shall gather from them such poetry and other fine writing as may suit our taste. The remainder of our selections will be chiefly from British periodicals, though we may sometimes smuggle a few from Uncle Sam's library.

We have clipped from a Western Mercury, for the Muses' Department of this number, "The Minstrel's Bays," written by a gentleman of this village. We are aware that the piece has been read by most persons in this country, as well as many parts of the U. States where it was copied into most of the literary papers; and our apology for again presenting it is, that we intend making our little Box the repository of as many such Canadian gems as come to hand. We shall therefore continue to copy the poetical effusions of the same writer, and also of his competi-

tor, "L."—and as the objections to, and arguments for, most of them will be similar to the one in question, we hope this apology will suffice, once for all.

To the Publisher of the Casket.—Dear Sir, I enclose you an original tale, the foundation of which is laid on incidents which actually occurred in this country. The names are, of course, fictitious, and the scene of the tragedy is not named on account of certain connexions. The piece was thrown together hastily, and you may think that more labor in less space would have been better applied; but should you deem the production worthy of notice, I will expend more pains in preparing for my next visit. Yours, U. V. W.

To Correspondents.—"U. V. W." is still a welcome visitor, from whose friendship we promise much. We regret that the length of his "Reward of Envy" forbids giving it entire in this number—not, however, that we have any aversion to long tales, possessing proportionate interest, and admitting of division into chapters.

The communication of "Dundas" is a very reasonable essay. We heartily concur in its sentiments; believing, as we do, that were half the population of Canada concurrent in their opinions with our correspondent, we should soon be maintained in enlarging the Casket to an imperial sheet, and publishing weekly.

"Lorenzo" has often been before the public both in prose and verse; and we hope to present him again.

"Heigh-ho" had better try a parody on an old song called "The Girl I left behind Me."

"Nothing venture, nothing have" shall appear anon.

"Junius" is too lengthy for his subject: his article would do with pruning. And here it is proper to remark, it is desirable that articles for the Casket should generally be short, as our sheet is yet small, and we wish to give a variety.

"Charles" has some good ideas, but wants the flow of language. We may endeavor to dress him up on some leisure hour.

"The Dream" is received, but "Morpheus" positively needed the hunch when he wrote it. Try a cigar when you next take a pen.

"Querist" seems to have forgotten that we scrupulously avoid Politics—and the article of "Romeo" is too trifling even for our taste.

We are at a loss to know whether "J." has sent an original or selected article.

The "Lesson for Youth," sent to us by "Finis," is a good lesson in its place, but in too serious a strain for the Casket. His smooth style, terse character, and careful punctuation, show him to be no novice with the quill; and we hope he does not intend his signature to apply to his correspondence. He will reflect that our aim is

"To blend the useful with the sweet."

NATURAL HISTORY.

MEXICAN BEES.

Some curious anecdotes are related by the possessors as to the manners of these bees; one of which deserves to be recorded. They assert, that at the entrance of each hive a sentinel is placed to watch the outgoing and incoming of his fellows, and that this sentinel is relieved at the expiration of twenty four hours, when another assumes his post and duties for the same period. Of the duration of this guard some doubts may be reasonably entertained; but of its existence ample evidence has been obtained by repeated observation. At all times a single bee was seen occupying the hole leading to the nest, who, on the approach of another, withdrew himself within a small cavity apparently made for this purpose on the left side of the aperture, and thus allowed the passage of the individual entering or quitting the hive, the sentinel constantly resuming his station immediately after the passage had been effected. During how long a time the same individual remained on duty could not be ascertained; for although many attempts were made to mark him by introducing a pencil tipped with paint, he constantly eluded the aim taken. With the paint thus attempted to be fixed on the bee the margin of the opening was soiled, and the sentinel, as soon as he was free from the annoyance he suffered from the thirst repeatedly made at his body, approached the foreign substance to taste it, and, evidently disliking the material, he withdrew into his hive. A troop of bees was soon observed to advance towards the place, each individual bearing a small parcel of wax, or of propolis, in his mandibles, which he deposited in his turn upon the soiled part of the wood. The little laborers then returned to the hive, and repeated the operation until a small pile rose above the blemished part, and consequently relieved the inhabitants from the annoyance.

THE TADPOLE.

Nature, working with a surer hand than Art, has provided more perfect anatomists than those who are instructed at colleges. It may not be generally known, that the tadpole acts the same part with fish, that ants do with birds; and that through the agency of this little reptile, perfect skeletons, even of the smallest fishes, may be obtained. To produce this, it is but necessary to suspend the fish by threads attached to the head and tail, in a horizontal position, in a jar of water, such as is found in a pond; and the water must be changed often till the tadpoles have finished their work, in which they are very active. Two or three tadpoles will perfectly dissect a fish in 24 hours.