

# WESLEYAN METHODIST MAGAZINE

OF CANADA.

---

OCTOBER, 1862.

---

## WORLDLY WISDOM.

BY DR. COONEY.

I am neither a daugerrotypist, nor a portrait painter; and photography, though simplified by chemical operations, is to me almost as profound as "*Newton's Principia*." Indeed I know scarcely anything at all about the theory of colors; but still, using language as the font, and expression as the delineator, I shall attempt to draw a mere sketch of a very elegant and notorious person. Like all of his class he has many names; but is not enough for him, and hence rejoices in several *aliases*. He is called PHILOSOPHY—VAIN DECEIT—WORLDLY WISDOM, &c., and is withal so conceited, that he sets himself up against the wisdom of God—ridicules the Christian gospel, and declares that it is a most foolish and absurd system, repugnant to reason and common sense. This opinion, it grieves us much, he pronounces not in modest or amiable manner, but "EX CATHEDRA" and in a dogmatic way, and looking as wise as if he understood all sciences and all knowledge.

His friend is rather a heterogeneous kind of person: a mixture of the skeptic, the rationalist, and the voluptuary, all simmered together in the alembic of self-conceit. He is in short a very pompous and very egotistical; and is greatly admired by such discerning persons as Young America, Young Canada, *et sui generis*; and as he looks at these fledglings, his very looks seem to exclaim,

"I am monarch of all I survey,"  
The Fish, the Fowl, and the Brute;  
From the centre all round to the sea,  
There is none my right to dispute."

WORLDLY WISDOM is neither a profound thinker, nor a close reasoner; but a great talker. He is as voluble as Gratiano of Venice, and as bold with his tongue as the renowned Bobedil was with his sword. He knows a great deal about cause and effect—about general developments—