

HISTORY.

History is a moralist, which follows close upon the footsteps of the great and all powerful teacher, the mysterious agent of Omnipotence, death. It presses close upon his dark shadow, and with a diamond point blazes forth in the face of day, the virtues or the vices of a buried race. It rends the mystic veil that floats between the present and the past, and inexorably just, shows us the virtues which beautified, or the vices which blackened. Historic fame is nearly always posthumous, for rarely does the historian guide the pen, until the lordling and the dependant have alike paid the universal debt of nature. Then, when the pampered satellite, the flattering courtier, the poet, and the orator, who prostitute their divine calling at the shrine of sensuality, and who sought by reflecting their own genius upon their patron, to raise up for him an ephemeral fame, a mushroom popularity, a petty distinction, which his own virtues or talents never would have accorded him, (for if he possessed them, the key of circumstances never unlocked them,) does this stern monitor, this keen scrutiner, divest the motive from the act, and unfold to our view, all the mazes and subterfuges of which the human soul is capable. They are no longer dazzled by the bold daring, the martial prowess, and the high fame of the great man, he who would have snatched the wreath from Fame's high brow, who grasped at glory's fleeting phantom, who rode foremost on ambition's car, whose gifts were thrones, whose vassals kings, where is he now, and what his end—let history tell! the colored medium in which his actions once appeared, has been removed, and now stripped of his glorious appendages,—posterity arraigning him before her inexorable tribunal, and he answers to the charge. This was a meteoric brightness, that dazzled the living world by its refulgence, but soon faded into utter night; too often indeed are the laurels of the warrior dyed in the life-blood of the widow's and the orphan's all, and while fame exalts in victories won, humanity weeps over her children slain. It is a great privilege, that of calling up the illustrious dead from their vaulted chambers, and rendering them now the due, which jealousy, pride, or prejudice prevented them before from receiving; we may sit in our easy chairs, surrounded by our friends and companions, and yet as if by the waving of a magician's wand, our will alone can untomb them. Death hath no power over those whom history claims, theirs is the true elixir, which gives an immortality of life a perency of youth. Nature and time are instruments in the hands of history, the ministers of her will; through every age her deeds are sent, they are the heir-looms of humanity on nature's boundless field. History is like a vast storehouse, it gathers up the collective knowledge of the past, and from it, gives mankind the results of experience, the science of political legislation, the causes of the rise and fall of nations, the characters and the passions of men, and their influence on man. In short, it is a mirror in which we may gaze, catching the living manners as they rise. Centuries may have rolled by, in their swift and circling march, but the historian's pen is supreme over time, he awakes the sleep of the dead and presents them before us, untouched by the besom of change. What a profound view is thus given us of the human heart, its motives, its acts, its incentives, its springs of action, in fine, its entire mechanism; how widely does the mind's horizon extend, as she wanders with the historic muse o'er centuries flown, an illimitable field is before her. No Lethe flows, where history dwells, her stamp is memory, she shakes the dust from old antiquity, and familiarizes us with the past. We may sit beneath the sacred shades of Academus, listening as did the disciples of Socrates and Pythagoras to the golden maxims that fell from those almost sacred lips. We may gaze upon Greece and Rome in their proud supremacy and pristine magnificence, or we may meditate upon the mutability of man's handiwork, amid the fallen fanes and classic ruins. Philip of Macedon rejoiced more that his son was born in the time of Aristotle, than that an heir was given him to his titles and his kingdoms; but we, through the medium of history, may enjoy, not only the wisdom of Aristotle, but that of all the host who have appeared since his day, all the investigations of science, all the developments of philosophy, all the wisdom of antiquity, flow through the streams of this perennial fount, to irrigate and fertilize the mind of those countries, which centuries ago, stood the wonder of the world, but of which little now is left.

Where once the loud Pean was sung, in honor of the brave, and the triumphal arch was raised to perpetuate the heroes' glory, the wild beast now seeks his sustenance, and makes his lair, the traveller vainly looks amid the fallen relics which desolate the scene, for some faint memento of the past, a drop of ink conveys to posterity, that which the graven monument and lofty obelisk have vainly attempted to preserve.

Editorial Department.

To our Patrons.

In presenting our friends with the first number of our little periodical, we neither make professions nor give pledges, beyond those of a sincere desire to contribute our mite toward the intellectual and social improvement of our sex, and a determination to do all we can to render "THE CALLIOPEAN" worthy the patronage of the patriotic and good. We cannot better express our sentiments and motives, than in the following paragraph from our Prospectus:—"In this undertaking, the conductors aim simply at their own improvement, and that of their Canadian sisters. In pursuance of this design, it shall be the special object of "THE CALLIOPEAN" to elevate the standard of female education in Canada, and thus to promote domestic happiness and social virtue. They hope also, that, through their humble exertions, a taste for sound and valuable literature may be fostered in this highly favored portion of the British dominions; and that their sex throughout Canada, may be induced to spend some of the hours of leisure from family duties and the important cares of life, to assist in a task, which will afford pleasure to themselves, and instruction to those with whom they may thus be associated."

Leaving the answering of objections, and the satisfying of conjectures to the developments of time, in simple and prayerful reliance upon the Divine Author of mind and virtue, we make this, our humble salutation.

Owing to the delay experienced in obtaining the Heading for our Paper, we were not able to issue this number of "THE CALLIOPEAN" quite as early as was our intention. We have also to state, that the Engraving of the Burlington Ladies' Academy, with which we intended to present our readers in to-day's paper, not being completed, we are obliged to defer it to a subsequent number.

Burlington Ladies' Academy.

THE SECOND WINTER TERM of this Institution will commence on TUESDAY, the 4th day of JANUARY, 1848. This will be a favorable time for pupils to enter, as new classes in the several branches will then be formed. The Principal spent the summer vacation in visiting the most popular Female Schools in New York and Massachusetts, with a view of improving the facilities of the Burlington Academy.

A large and valuable addition has been made to the Chemical and Philosophical Apparatus; also to the Historical and Geographical Maps and Charts; and in other respects, valuable improvements have been made.

The Principal and Preceptress are assisted by eight Ladies, eminently qualified to impart instruction in their several departments. In addition to Lectures, given formally and informally, on subjects connected with the health, manners, and appropriate duties of young ladies, courses of Lectures, with experiments and illustrations are given, on Chemistry and Astronomy. The Library connected with the Institution contains over six hundred well selected volumes.

For full information, attention is invited to the Academy Circular, which may be obtained on application to the Principal.

The Academy Building is situated in a pleasant part of the city, and in all its arrangements and furniture, has been fitted up with special reference to the health, comfort, and convenience of the pupils.

The Principal invites Ladies and Gentlemen from abroad, at their convenience, to visit the Institution.

D. C. VAN NORMAN, A.M.,

Principal.

Hamilton, November 20, 1847.

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Although "THE CALLIOPEAN" is under the management of the Young Ladies connected for the time being with the Burlington Ladies' Academy, Contributions of a suitable character will be thankfully received from all who take an interest in the work.

All Communications and Remittances must be addressed to the Editor of "THE CALLIOPEAN," Burlington Ladies' Academy, Hamilton, Canada West.