

INTRODUCTION.

ricians fast rising into eminence? How many men distinguished for their acquirements in literature? How many eminent for their skill in the arts and sciences, now residing in all our principal cities? Each of our learned professions also contains numbers celebrated for their knowledge and acquirements. Have we not eloquent orators in our senate, and some distinguished politicians in all departments of our government? Observe the general extent of information diffused among the mass of our population, and then blame a young American for an engrossing attachment to the pursuit of learning. I may at least endeavor to cultivate to the utmost, the capabilities bestowed on me by the hand of nature. I may be indefatigable in the pursuit of knowledge, and I trust that a discriminating and liberal public will receive my productions with indulgence; and then perhaps on a future day, I may produce a work more worthy of their encouragement, and more calculated to do honor to our native country.'

'But the critics, my friend?'

Not even that formidable name shall deter me from submitting my intended publication to the inspection of my countrymen. Our reviews, Mr. Noxbury, are mostly conducted by men of candour and liberality, who will not expect perfection from a young and unknown author. I trust that my pages will not be found detrimental to the great cause of religion and morality. In my tale of 'Tonnewonté,' I have endeavored to describe some of the causes of the spirit of emigration so predominant among the citizens of America, and also the general habits prevalent in many of our new settlements. I wished to demonstrate the effect of education, and accidental circumstances, in forming the