

THE SCRIBBLER.

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Glaucumque, Medontaque, Thersilochemque.—VIRGIL.

Tag Rag and Bobtail.

THE futility of attempting to please all mankind, has been illustrated as far back as the time of the ancient fabulists in their apologue of the man, his son, and their ass : and no one will be more disappointed in his endeavours to do so than the periodical essayist. The historian writes for one class of readers, the critic for another, the novellist for a third, and in this manner in every distinct branch of literature, an author may acquire celebrity and be the admiration of all ; for one set of readers generally take upon trust what another set assert with respect to their favourite authors, and are repaid by an equal degree of credit given to those they are acquainted with. But a miscellaneous essayist is expected to “be all things unto all men,” and unto all women too. Hence he must either effect impossibilities, or must assume a dictatorial tone, and, like a conceited son of Crispin fitting on a boot or a shoe, tell his readers that he knows better than they do what suits them ; so that he must make them gulp down his pills, as well as smack their lips at his syrups and sweet-meats. Now it is much easier to play the pedagogue than it is to effect an impossibility, *quod erat demonstrandum* ; therefore, I would have all my good pupils to be satisfied