

## EDITORIAL.

The year 1852, will furnish many interesting items for the pages of universal history. The pen of the historian will linger when he reaches this era, so full of startling and important events—an era in which mind triumphs over almost every obstacle, and nothing seems improbable but absolute the moral and physical impossibilities. The earth, never wearying, obeys laws of motion, rolling onward in her aerial pathway among the heavenly bodies; while of the myriads who people her vast surface, few know or care how near she rushes into danger, or how nicely balanced are the powers that hold in check those wondrous forces, and keep her ever circling the orb of day. Time, which has been venerable for centuries, grows still older, and earth must now put off her autumnal habiliments of fading beauty, and robed in white, deck herself in countless gems of the purest water; but in her bosom are hidden springs, whence flows the elixir of perpetual youth, to revive her decayed energies, and renew, year by year, her vital life-giving elements.

The happy hearts of multitudes are beating with a quicker pulsation for those festivities, the Christmas holidays, are near at hand, and excited fancy already pictures their pleasures, and grasps their gifts. While we most heartily wish our readers "a merry Christmas," we cannot refrain from expressing the hope, that they will not forget the words of that Saviour, whose birth the Christmas day celebrates: "The poor ye have always with you." Though infinitely rich, yet he tenderly felt for the humble and needy. Many a cold and famishing child of sorrow will bless you, if, from your store of comforts, you kindly send a share to him; and you may be sure that the bright holiday-hours will bring you all the more zest, if you can now and then think of those who, but for you, would have spent them in suffering.

We think our readers will find a pleasing variety in this number. Most of the articles were either communicated expressly for our magazine, or are editorial. The first article, with the fine engraving which accompanies it, will add much interest to this volume. We have interesting articles from various sources which we shall bring out as soon as possible. In the meantime, we would assure our correspondents of our warmest gratitude for the interest they take; by and by, when the "Maple Leaf" secures a general circulation, there will be a conscious pleasure in the thought, that they helped to render it inviting.

We ought here to say, for our mutual encouragement, that our little magazine, which, not long since, went forth like Noah's dove, and sought a place "among the inhabitants of the land," is steadily prospering. The Publisher is at present in a distant part of Canada, where he is successfully engaged in promoting its interests. Our readers will find a letter from him on the third page of the cover, which will show his great desire to improve and beautify the work, and now that the season of leisure is approaching, they will perhaps assist us by forming clubs, and sending the subscriptions for a large number of copies.

