

departed, for the leaves of the forest had found their last resting place beneath the shade of their parent trees; the panorama of nature was no longer arrayed in "living green," nor indeed "clad in russet," but frosted and beautiful like a forest of isinglass, seemed bearing for its fruit living clusters of crystal. But the candied drapery dissolved, clouds of a bluish slate colour loomed in the horizon. From the north the wind howled dismally—impatient to discharge his frozen storms. The country was dreary and wearisome, a fire-side became acceptable and home comforts were courted. The Canadian gentry forsook their yatches to search for their snow-shoes and furbish up their carioles, and the dames and the damsels who lingered at the watering-places, returned again to their husbands or parents satisfied that rustic drives and sea-bathing had ceased for the season.

But although the fair ones could no longer flirt in the forests like fawns, or sport in the water like Naiads, they did not therefore suppose that the year had closed upon their comforts, or that the pale-faced winter would yield them no enjoyments; their minds, which, like their bodies, had been running at grass during the summer, required discipline and restraint, and they were prepared to accept with complacency, those supplies of intellectual refreshment which the generosity of native talent had provided as Nuts for Christmas.

But Canada unfortunately can boast but of few annuals; the "Maple Leaf" which has expanded its soft hues in the warm latitudes of Toronto, appears to shrink from exposure to the climate of Montreal. We must therefore confine our review to those which have been issued in this city, and whose annual pretensions are sustained by their appearance in the form of Almanacs.

First in the order of time, and according to the view of the Editor, first in the order of talent, is the never-to-be-forgotten, ever-to-be-remembered, "useful, interesting and edifying" "FAMILY CHRISTIAN ALMANAC." As this pamphlet has already afforded merriment enough for the public, and we dare say, mortification enough for the author, we feel little inclination to discuss it at length, or point out its many drolleries. It has been reviewed, and we confess with some show of reason, more as a "comic" than a "Christian" publication, and the fact of its being open to this treatment will impress the author with a conviction, if indeed he intends this book to be the beginning of a series, that he must contrive to make it less exceptionable in future.

The next in succession is the "CHURCH ALMANAC," published by Messrs Lovell and Gibson, and edited by the Rev. Joseph Abbott, M. A. It agrees in two respects with the Family Christian

Almanac, for it is its first appearance, and it comes before us under the protection of an editor, whose name, like that of Mr. Wadsworth, is printed in capitals. But here the agreement terminates. Mr. Abbott, either from the lack of courage, or the presence of delicacy, has not dedicated his production to a nobleman whom he never saw, nor has he sought to claim patronage for the "Church Almanac" by assuming a superiority over other publications of a like nature. This Book, which only aspires to be, an Almanac for Churchmen, is also a Companion to the Prayer Book,—for so well is it adapted to the latter object that members of the church will find it convenient to have a copy not only in their houses, but also in their pews at church. When we inform our readers that in addition to the Lessons and Psalms for the day, its pages are enriched by gems of holy beauty—gems taken from the wreath which Keble, and Herbert and Heber have entwined around our Ritual, and strewn with fragrance the pathway of our ecclesiastical year. When we tell them moreover, that a few thoughts from the rich armoury of sanctity which Beveridge and Taylor, and Jolly and Horne have bequeathed to us in their writings, adorn its pages, we think we need add no more than recommend it cordially to the attention of every member of the Church.

In obedience to the wish expressed in the preface, we will offer two suggestions. The first is a hint to the printers that the Red-letter days of the Calendar should be printed in red type. The second is a hint to the author, that he should contrive to make his publication not only a Companion to the Prayer Book, but also a Hand-book to the Diocese of Quebec, and we think by giving certain statistical information respecting the extent and population embraced within each mission, Mr. Abbott would succeed in making it more acceptable to Churchmen at a distance, and more interesting to those who reside in the Diocese.

"The last on the list, is Starke's "MONTREAL POCKET ALMANAC;" and with all deference to the opinion passed by Mr. Wadsworth on his own production, we feel in justice constrained to state that this is the prettiest and the cheapest Almanac printed in Canada. To that portion of the public who are already acquainted with the merits of its predecessors nothing more need be said than that the issue for 1847 not only sustains the reputation which they so deservedly acquired, but that it exceeds them in the beauty of finish and in the correctness of its information. To those who require an Almanac, either for commercial purposes, or general information, we have much pleasure in recommending that published by Mrs. Starke, for 1847.