

poration to assume functions which ought to be exclusively ours? Pardon, Good Sir! The Eagle alone can bear the radiancy of that bright orb that enlightens our planet. No other Eye can contemplate the dazzling effulgence of its rays. It is the same with those rays which you "luminaries of learning" do emit. They are too powerful for the mind's eye of the ignorant multitude and far from imparting light they produce absolute blindness. It is therefore to us, raised only a small degree above absolute ignorance, that ought to fall the lot of disseminating those elementary principles, and the task of opening, not with rosy fingers, mine at least have no pretension to that hue, the gates of the Aurora that must precede the rising of the sun of learning. Deign then to cast a more benignant look on this our undertaking, and were it only in the prospect of enjoying the luxuriant self gratification of comparing our feeble exertions with your mighty achievements, condescend to encourage them by allowing us to adorn with your name the list of our patrons.

After having thus exhausted the whole stock of our rhetorical powers in order to deprecate the ire of the mighty, there remains none left to crave the indulgence of that motley crew, always eager to make a shew of their pertness in the use of that particular weapon, congenial with their respective natural propensities. To the shafts of the envious, to the lash of the critic, to the scourge of the satyrist, to the pun of the facetious, to the sharp pointed dagger of the witty, to the blunt edged blade of the conceited do we abandon these unfortunate lucubrations thus unprotected, for even the word *Mercy* shall not be extracted from us however imminent might be our danger.

As for you, Gentle Readers! if we are so happy as to have any of that description; we do not mean to deceive you by promises that might exceed our power of keeping. All that we shall say is that our best endeavours shall be directed towards the means of deserving a continuation of your favour.

Influenced by no party our lines will not be defiled by personalities, our columns not contaminated by illiberality, our lucubrations not subversive of religious, moral or political order,