

[For the Maple Leaf.

## A NOBLE PROFESSION.

**T**EACHING is a profession for which comparatively few are really fitted. The most accomplished scholar has not always the tact requisite to command the attention of the youthful mind, and awaken an enthusiastic interest in acquiring knowledge. Peculiar skill is necessary to enchain the roving thoughts, and concentrate the scintillations of youthful fancy upon something real. The man of profound research, of mathematical acumen, and logical precision, may quickly arrive at the premises in any course of reasoning presented to him, or lay down a proposition, and from thence draw his own inferences with perfect accuracy; but his thoughts, accustomed to bold conclusions, to a kind of mental prescience, often disdain the trammels of exact order, and lose their strength if brought to the slow pace of ordinary thinkers. The teacher, however, ought not only to be a polished scholar, but to be able to recall his mental experiences, and detail the steps he takes to arrive at certain points. He should understand his subject thoroughly, and possess a gift of language, so that he can explain it, and carry along with him the rapt attention of his pupils. The person who does not love the young for themselves, who does not feel a kindling of heart, as he looks round upon a class of young persons, ought never to teach.

The bright eyes of affectionate scholars, like so many radiant points, seem to light up the school-room, and lend an ingredient of vivacity to the very atmosphere that pervades it. The exciting interest that animates the class-room is astonishing, when one who *loves to teach* attempts to unfold a subject. The mysteries of vulgar fractions are soon unravelled, the abstruse definitions of grammar assume a tangible shape, and as he urges the idea that history is not to be studied for its facts merely, but to be reasoned about, and made the index to point out the curiosities of human character in different ages of the world, the pages of the otherwise dull study become, to the scholar, luminous with undying thought, and the teacher can turn the glowing minds before him to noble aspirations after future excellence. Geography, as a study, becomes delightful, when taught with reference to its more extended bearings.