

THE PEARL.

HALIFAX, FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 5, 1839.

TO THE PUBLIC.—The Subscriber, in appearing as the conductor of the "Colonial Pearl," feels called on to offer a few words, explanatory of his views.

The late proprietor of the "Pearl," being about to resign the publication, and to leave the Province, an opportunity was presented, which, the Subscriber thought, he might take advantage of with some benefit to himself and the public. The "Pearl," he has reason to believe, has been the means of causing the taste for literature to be more general in the provinces than it previously was,—and, as a literary vehicle, has become a favourite, in many places, where similar publications were but little known or cared for. This change must be considered beneficial,—for, to increase the reading propensities of a young country, particularly in the more quiet and humanizing paths of literature, is to bear an important part in public education. The existence of the "Pearl" has been instanced in neighbouring Provinces, as a proof that Halifax, and Nova Scotia generally, had rather outran other colonial communities in those particulars which denote a high degree of civilization; which indicate that periodical details of passing events, and expositions of political theories, only, no longer satisfy,—but that, with these, are required, the more general utilities and elegancies and luxuries of intellectual life. If such a publication should be allowed to cease, and to become one of the items on the long list of failures, some degree of disgrace would be the result. The Subscriber undertakes to attempt the continuance of the "Pearl,"—and hopes for that patronage which will enable him to make successful progress.

Political opinions will be rigidly excluded from the "Pearl." The vehicles for such matter are sufficiently numerous;—the "Pearl" seeks, by drawing on the stores of Fancy, and Criticism, and General Knowledge, to be a not-unwelcome visitor among circles of every political shade.

A summary of political intelligence, will be given, with such comments only as may seem requisite for explanation;—the progress of Science and Art and General Literature, will, also, be regularly attended to, as opportunity shall be afforded; so that a kind of mapping of interesting events will be presented, in a compass so brief, that none need plead bulk and intricacy of material as an excuse for inattention to such matters.

The Subscriber hopes that much of original composition will be found in succeeding pages of the "Pearl"; and that correspondents, whose kindness he reckons on, will convince their readers, that real value and respectability are not sacrificed to novelty; that original articles are chosen, partly, only, because they are original, but chiefly because they are not second to good materials for "selection."

The innocently amusing department of the Pearl will receive due attention,—and the Subscriber trusts that it will be found to blend the entertainment of the leisure hour, with the nurture of sentiments which are of great value, in the civil and social and religious relations of mankind.

The critical department, it is hoped, will grow up to that degree of importance in which it becomes an excellent auxiliary in the training of the mind;—a science, improving the judgment and the taste, and enlarging the information, unalloyed by difficulties which retard other scientific studies, and of more general adaptation.

These departments of general literature, will be interspersed by such portions of matter relating to History, Statistics, Travels and other subjects, connected with real life, as will diffuse an air of fact, as well as of fancy, over the pages of the "Pearl,"—and, with the departments of News and Science, may make it palatable to those who do not wish that the mere, sweet,—should altogether supersede the, useful,—in any work or relaxation.

The Subscriber has thus developed his views and intentions; the assistance of friends, corresponding and subscribing, and the opportunities and practise which time only can furnish, will be requisite to enable him to carry out his anticipations; for the present he bears his object in sight, makes endeavours towards it, and solicits the lenity and encouragement of an intelligent public.

J. S. THOMPSON.

EXTENSION OF COPYRIGHT.—Our readers, no doubt, are aware, that an effort has been made to extend the copyright of authors; that instead of twenty-eight years exclusive right to their own works, some sixty or seventy is sought, so that those who come after the labourer of literature, may have as good a chance of reaping a reward, as the heirs of any other "working man,"—or that he himself, in his old age, may continue to glean some profit by the fortunate works of early years. Against these rational claims, the claims of the public, for cheap works, and the claims of the booksellers, for rights of piracy, have been urged. The question is still in agitation.

Petitions from Wordsworth, and other celebrated writers, have been presented to Parliament, in favour of the extension. A late English paper furnishes a petition on the same subject, from T. Carlyle, (not the infidel of the same name,) the author of an elo-

quent, and celebrated, though, it appears, not a selling, History of the French Revolution, and of some other works. Mr. Carlyle seems a writer imbued with the philanthropy and abstract piety, which often characterise minds of the highest order, and it is matter of regret that such sterling works as he puts forth,—judging from his character, and from extracts, not from the entire works themselves,—should not be more productive than they are, while books of the most ephemeral description realise fortunes for their authors. Mr. Carlyle's curious petition is subjoined; speaking of it, the London Examiner says: "It reduces the question to its simple elements, and elicits conviction in its most powerful forms."

"To the Honourable the Commons of England in parliament assembled, the Petition of Thomas Carlyle, a Writer of Books.

"Humbly sheweth,

"That your petitioner has written certain books, being incited thereto by various innocent or laudable considerations, chiefly by the thought that said books might in the end be found to be worth something.

"That you petitioner had not the happiness to receive from Mr. Thomas Tegg, or any Publisher, Republisher, Printer, Book-seller, Book-buyer, or other the like man or body of men, any encouragement or countenance in writing of said books, or to discern any chance of receiving such; but wrote them by effort of his own and the favor of Heaven.

"That all useful labour is worthy of recompense; that all honest labour is worthy of the chance of recompense; that the giving and assuring to each man what recompense his labour has actually merited may be said to be the business of all Legislation, Polity, Government, and Social Arrangement whatsoever among men;—a business indispensable to attempt, impossible to accomplish accurately, difficult to accomplish without inaccuracies that become enormous, insupportable, and the parent of social confusions which never altogether end.

"That your petitioner does not undertake to say what recompense in money this labour of his may deserve; whether it deserve any recompense in money, or whether money in any quantity could hire him to do the like.

"That this his labour has found hitherto, in money or monies, worth, small recompense or none; that he is by no means sure of its ever finding recompense, but thinks that, if so, it will be at a distant time, when he, the labourer, will probably no longer be in need of money, and those dear to him will still be in need of it.

"That the law does at least protect all persons in selling the production of their labour at what they can get for it, in all market-places, to all lengths of time. Much more than this the law does to many, but so much it does to all, and less than this to none.

"That your petitioner cannot discover himself to have done unlawfully in this his said labour of writing books, or to have become criminal, or have forfeited the law's protection thereby. Contrariwise your petitioner believes firmly that he is innocent in said labour; that if he be found in the long run to have written a genuine enduring book, his merit therein, and desert towards England and English and other men, will be considerable, not easily estimable in money; that, on the other hand, if his book prove false and ephemeral, he and it will be abolished and forgotten, and no harm done.

"That in this manner, your petitioner plays no unfair game against the world; his stake being life itself, so to speak (for the penalty is death by starvation), and the world's stake nothing till once it see the dice thrown; so that in any case the world cannot lose.

"That in the happy and long-doubtful event of the game's going in his favour, your petitioner submits that the small winnings thereof do belong to him or his, and that no other mortal has justly either part or lot in them at all, now, henceforth, or for ever.

"May it therefore please your Honourable House to protect him in said happy and long-doubtful event; and (by passing your Copyright Bill) forbid all Thomas Teggs and other extraneous persons, entirely unconcerned in this adventure of his, to steal from him his small winnings, for a space of sixty years at the shortest. After sixty years, unless your Honourable House provide otherwise, they may begin to steal.

"And your petitioner will ever pray.

"THOMAS CARLYLE."

The quaintness, with which the petitioner makes Thomas Tegg, the personification of the book-selling profession,—with which he speaks of his own works, their non-remunerating character, his rights over them, the game between the writer and the world, and the restrictions from stealing for sixty years at least, is highly amusing,—while the pathos, in parts, is deep, and the argument unanswerable.

LATE ITEMS, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

SUMMARY.

Boston papers to the 29th, and New York to the 27th of June, bring intelligence to the latest from those places. European dates received are three days later than the news last recorded in the Pearl.

London dates, to May 20, represent the money market as unsettled, and give as reasons, the extreme political agitation of some parts of England, and late continental excitement and changes. It should be recollected, however, that the "money market" is not always a faithful index of the public mind,—it is frequently much effected by the intrigues of money dealers.

The Chartists, who demand extreme political concessions, and threaten force as a mode of obtaining their demands, continue

their movements, in holding meetings; they do not seem to make any progress of consequence,—but rather the reverse. Government, it appears, is vigilant in watching this danger, and has made all necessary preparations to meet it, should circumstances call for energetic measures.

Sir James Clark, who became lately notorious in the Lady Flora Hastings affair, has asked permission, and has obtained it, to travel. He has consequently retired from Court, and his absence will, no doubt, tend to allay the ferment which existed on the subject.

The young Czar of Russia was on a visit to England. The Duke of Wellington gave an entertainment of great splendor to his Highness.

The new steam ship, the British Queen, was expected to leave Portsmouth, for New York, on July 1. She is to depart on the 1st of each alternate month from London and New York. This additional link in the great chain of steam navigation, is rated at 2016 tons, and 500 horse power; she is to be commanded by Lieut. Roberts.

A steamer has been constructed in England, called the Archimedes, which is propelled by a screw placed at the stern. The invention is much lauded,—she travels rapidly, meets bad weather beautifully, and answers her helm with astonishing celerity.

Paris seems to have settled down, once more, into a tranquil state; the days of riot and bloodshed have again passed by. The more immediate results of late tumults appear to be as follow:—The chamber of Peers has been constituted into a court, to try offenders,—The King of France and his family have given about £1000 to the families of those who had been killed by the rioters, and Prince Napoleon L. Buonaparte published a letter denying all participation in the late insurrection. M. Sauzet had been chosen president, and M. M. Ganneren, and Jacqueminet, Vice Presidents of the chamber of Deputies, in place of the late officers who have been raised to the ministry.

The Troops of the Queen of Spain, it is said, have gained some advantage over the Carlists. The roads to Madrid were still intercepted by Cabrera. Don Carlos had published four decrees: giving permission to refugees to solicit leave to return to their country, their petitions to be examined by a special commission; repealing some measures of reprisal caused by decrees at the Queen's side;—allowing interdicted notaries and solicitors to resume their practise;—and granting full amnesty to all whose offences admit of pardon, provided that public and private pecuniary claims on such individuals be previously settled. No immediate settlement of the dreadful state of affairs in Spain, appears probable, although, happily, the warfare seems to be losing some of its more atrocious characteristics.

The Revenue Cutter, which visited Yarmouth lately, respecting seizure of American fishing vessels, and which subsequently put in to St. Johns, has returned to Boston. Her officers, it appears, express much satisfaction at the courtesy experienced in the Provincial ports.

The Indian difficulties in Florida seem to increase. General Macomb endeavoured to complete a treaty by which the Indians should be allowed to remain in a certain part of the territory. This is violently opposed by the white inhabitants. Meetings have been held, strong resolutions against the treaty were adopted,—the citizens, determined to take the war into their own hands,—volunteers were enrolling, and \$200 offered for every Indian taken prisoner or killed: we trust, under the circumstances of the case, that the last item is only an exaggeration. The Indians who attended Gen. Macomb's council are represented as objects of compassion, harrassed and wretched to an extreme.

A fire, at New Orleans, on June 11th, destroyed property estimated at 100,000 dollars.

Under a recently enacted law in Louisiana, a free negro woman has been sentenced to one year's imprisonment, for not leaving the State after getting notice to do so.

During a late trial in St. Louis, for passing a counterfeit note, the note itself was stolen from court, and the accused accordingly was released.

A man was recently fined, at Lowell, 15 dollars, only, for taking a letter written by a lady from the post office, opening it, and reading its contents. The person, a gentleman, to whom the letter was addressed, was the prosecutor.

The Decatur, a corvette of 16 guns, has been built at Brooklyn, and is nearly ready for sea. They were preparing for laying the keel of a steam frigate at the same yard. A 16 gun ship, called the York Town, recently completed.

McKenzie, it appears, was convicted in Munroe County, of levying war on the British possessions; he was fined \$10 and sentenced to 18 months imprisonment.

The "citizens" of Camden, Maine, have been resisting the law which provides for militia drill. They armed themselves, forced the writs from the officer sent to serve them, and pelted him with eggs, and other favours. They threaten to resist every attempt at enforcing the law. The boundary war having blown over, this