

THE LITERARY TRANSCRIPT

MISCELLANEOUS SELECTIONS.

READING.—When the business of the day is over, how many men does the evening hour find comfortably seated in their easy chairs reading to themselves, or to some fair friend, or happy group? In how many pleasant homes, while the ladies are seated at their morning employments, or whatever they may please to call them, does some glad creature read aloud, in a voice full of music, and marked by the sweetest emotion of a young pure heart, a lay of our mighty bards, or a story of one of our most interesting cunning interviewers of the truth of nature with the splendour of fiction, or follow the wonderful recitals of our travellers, naturalists, and philosophical spirits into every region of earth or mind? Publishers may tell us that party don't sell? critics may cry a poetry is a fraud? thereby making it so with the frivolous and uneducated, who are the multitude!—but we will venture to say, that at no period were there ever more books read by that part of our population, most qualified to draw delight and good from reading; and when we enter mechanics' libraries, and see them filled with simple, quiet, earnest men, and find such men now sitting on stiles in the country, deeply sunk into the very marrow and spirit of a well handled volume, where we used to meet them in riotous and reckless mischief, we are proud and happy to look forward to that wide and formerly waste field over which literature is extending its triumphs, and to see the benificent consequences that will follow to the whole community.—*Hunt.*

AFFECTING PROOF OF A LOVING DISPOSITION.—Three months before her death, (his wife) she who she was so afflicted with an asthma that she could neither walk, stand, sit or lie, but while on a chair, I was obliged to support her head, I told her that the never approached me without diffusing a ray of pleasure over the mind except when any little disagreement had happened between us. She replied, "I can say more than that. You never appeared in my sight not even in anger without that slight giving me pleasure." I received the dear remark as I now write it, with tears.—*Hutton's Autobiography.* Hutton was a good and clever man, and with allowance for something a little coarse, a man fit to engage the heart of a sensible and estimable woman; but the compliment here paid him by his wife, though of the highest description, implies still more merit in herself than in him.

THE DEAD SEA.—Mr. Buckingham in his interesting lectures supports the opinion that the Dead Sea is called by that name because no living thing is to be found in it or around it. The Dead Sea, or rather the Lake known by that name was no doubt formed by the burning of Sodom and Gomorrah, and the doomed cities which were built on that bituminous mineral known as *alphaltites* which soon ignites and burns with great quickness. Melt some asphalt and pour it into a tumbler of water, and after it remains some time the water has all the bitterness of the Dead Sea; hence the impossibility of living any kind living in it, but birds and fish animals are not affected by being near it. Mr. Stephenson, in his interesting incidents of travel, is clear on this point. He says:—

"Almost at the moment of my turning from the Jordan to the Dead Sea, notwithstanding the long credited account that no bird could fly over it without dropping dead on its surface, I saw a flock of gulls floating quietly on its bosom, and when I rowed them with a stone, they flew down the lake skimming its surface until they were out of sight."

Romantic and pious imaginations are apt to attribute facts to other causes than their natural ones. We have always been of opinion that great masses of the Naptha, Petroleum and Asphaltum run throughout Palestine, and from internal fires, and volcanic eruptions, produce so many fatal earthquakes.—*N. Y. Star.*

ADULTERATION OF BREAD AND TEA.—Mr. Clarke, the operator at Apothecaries' Hall, has been engaged by the direction of the Lords of the Admiralty, in analyzing 1467 sacks, and in some he found that upwards of a third was plaster of Paris and ground bones, two of the most abominable ingredients, and which the stomach of neither man or beast is capable of digesting. He sent specimens of this stuff baked, in many of its processes, to the Lords of the Admiralty. The person who owned it, and who was about to send it to Spain or Portugal, was fined in the penalty of £10,000. Mr. Clarke has also analyzed some Sonchong tea, and found there was 25 per cent. of lead ore in it.

GENIUS IN PRISON.—It was in prison that Boethius composed his excellent work on the Consolations of Philosophy; it was in prison that Goldsmith wrote his Vicar of Wakefield; it was in prison that Cervantes wrote Don Quixote, which laughed Chivalry out of Europe; it was in prison that Charles I. composed that excellent work, the Portraiture of a Christian King; it was in prison that Grotius composed his commentary on Saint Matthew; it was in prison that Buchanan composed his excellent Paraphrase on the Psalms of David; it was in prison that Daniel de Foe wrote his Robinson Crusoe, (he offered it to a bookseller for ten pounds, which that liberal encourager of literature declined giving); it was in prison that Sir Walter Raleigh wrote his History of the World; it was in prison that Voltaire sketched the plan and composed most of the poem of The Henriade; it was in prison that Howell wrote most of his Familiar Letters; it was in prison that Elizabeth of England, and her victim Mary, Queen of Scots, wrote their best poems; it was in prison that Margaret of France (wife of Henry IV.) wrote an apology for the irregularities of her conduct; it was in prison that Sir John Pettus wrote the book on meals, called *Fleta Minor*; it was in prison that Tasso wrote some of his most affecting poems; it was in prison that Bunyan wrote his Pilgrim's Progress. With the fear of prison how many works have been written. (The list may be extended. Pellico's Memorials are a recent example.)

WONDERS FROM CULTIVATION.—There is scarcely a vegetable which we now cultivate that can be found to grow naturally. Buffon has stated that our wheat is a factitious production, raised to its present condition by the art of agriculture. Rye, rice, barley, or even oats, are not to be found wild, that is to say, growing naturally in any part of the earth, but have been altered by the industry of mankind from plants not now resembling them, even in such a degree as to enable us to recognise their relations. The acid and disagreeable opium granules has been transferred into delicious colery, and the colowort, a plant of scanty leaves, not weighing altogether half an ounce, has been improved into cabbage, whose leaves weigh many pounds, or into a cauliflower of considerable dimensions, being only the embryo of a few buds, which in their natural state would have weighed as many grains. The potato again whose introduction has added many millions to our population, derives its origin from a small bitter root which grows wild in Chili and Monte Video.

WINTER.—Some people like winter—other people don't—and why don't they? Readers, we'll tell you why we don't, as briefly as we can. In the first place, generally speaking, every thing is cold; wind and water are cold; shirts are cold before airing, and sometimes afterwards; plates are sure to be cold, gravy likewise; your outside is cold, and so is your in, especially if it is empty. Every thing is dark; the clouds dark, dress is dark, the mud is remarkably dark, and the day-light very often dark; the nights unusually dark, and, in some towns, so "very" dark that you can't even see the gas-light! Every thing blue: the fog is blue, the water is blue, noses are blue, looks are blue; in short every thing is blue, except the sky, and that is a whitish-brown. Every thing is short: business is short, each is short, answers very short, supplies are short; in short every thing is short, except faces, and they are generally long. Every thing is dull; the very dogs are dull, the cat is dull, streets are duller than dull; London is dull, and the country is dull; debtors and duns are dull, dealers and dealings are dull; those that do and those that are done are dull; in short all dull except the newspaper (and that's never dull, except when the parliament meets. Is it, reader?)

POPULAR EDUCATION INSURED.—The Emperor of Austria had issued a decree, "that no person male or female, shall be married who cannot read, write, cipher, and make out and cast up a common account."

The velocity of a ship is from 8 to 12 miles an hour—of a race horse from 20 to 30 miles—of a bird from 50 to 60 miles—of the clouds in a violent hurricane from 80 to 100 miles—of sound 823 miles—of a cannon ball (as found by experiment) from 600 to 1000 miles, common estimate is much too low—of the earth round the sun 68,000 miles, (more than one hundred times swifter than a common ball!)—of Mercury 105,000 miles—of light about 800,000,000 miles, passing from the sun to the earth 95,000,000 miles, in about 8 minutes, or about a million times swifter than a cannon ball—and the exceeding velocity of the THOUGHTS of the human mind beyond all possible estimate!!

PRICES OF MEAT, POULTRY, VEGETABLES, &c. IN THE QUEBEC MARKET.

Saturday Morning, 31st March.	
Beef, per lb.	0 4 0 5
Mutton, do.	0 5 0 7
Pork, per quarter	2 6 0 3
Do. per quarter	2 6 0 5
Veal, per lb.	0 5 0 0
Fork, per lb.	0 9 0 7
Round of Beef, corned, do.	0 5 0 0
Do. do.	0 5 0 0
Tongues, each do.	2 0 0 2
Bacon, per lb.	0 8 0 0
Do. do.	0 8 0 0
Powls, per couple	2 6 0 4
Ducks, per couple	4 6 0 5
Turkeys, per couple	7 0 0 10
Geese, per couple	5 6 0 6
Fish, Cod, fresh, per lb.	0 4 0 0 5
Butter, fresh, per lb.	1 3 0 0
Eggs, per dozen, in tinnet, per lb.	0 2 0 0
Potatoes, per bushel	1 6 0 2
Turnips, per bit.	1 6 0 0
Apples, per bushel	3 0 0 1
Pears do.	6 0 0 7
Oats per bushel	2 0 0 2
Hay per hundred bundles	25 0 0 37
Flax, do.	12 0 0 13
Fire wood, per cord.	10 0 0 12

Furnishing Books by mail at newspaper postage.

PROSPECTUS OF A NEW SERIES OF THE LITERARY OMNIBUS.

WALDEN'S LITERARY OMNIBUS has now been in existence twelve months, and has enjoyed that period a very extensive share of public favour. It has furnished for two dollars and a half, reprints of London books which cost fifty dollars! In addition to a large amount of literary matter, reviews of new books, tales and domestic and foreign news.

The original proprietor, intending to devote his time and attention to his other periodical works, has proposed of his interest in the Omnibus to the present publisher, who will make no further change in its general character than issuing it from another office, and changing its name from 'Waldie's to Brown's'.

BROWN'S LITERARY OMNIBUS will be issued every Friday morning, printed on excellent paper of large size. It will contain:

1. Books, the newest and best that can be procured, equal every week to a London *Dictionnaire* volume embracing novels, travel, memoirs, &c., and only chargeable with newspaper postage.
2. Literary reviews, tales, sketches, notices of books, and information from the world of letters of every description.
3. The news of the week foreign and domestic.

The price will be two dollars per annum to clubs of five individuals. To clubs of two individuals, two dollars and a half, or five dollars for the two. Single mail subscribers, three dollars. Mail remittance to be post paid.

As the arrangements are all completed, the proprietor asks from a generous public that consideration to which so diffusive a scheme of circulating knowledge and amusement is entitled.

The first number of the New Series commenced on the fifth day of January 1838, from which period or from any future date, new subscribers may commence.

Postmasters and agents for periodicals through out the Union and Canada, are requested to act as agents for the Omnibus, and communicate with the proprietor.

GEORGE HANN, FURRIER
ST. JOSEPH STREET, UPPER TOWN,
BEGS to inform his friends and the public, that it is his intention shortly to leave Quebec for England, and he would thank those who are indebted to him to settle their accounts without delay; and those to whom he is indebted are requested to present their accounts for payment.
Quebec, 17th February, 1838.

CIRCULATING LIBRARY.
OPEN EVERY DAY from TEN A. M. till TEN P. M. (Sundays excepted) No. 5, John-Street, opposite to Mr. HALL, Grocer.
Subscription for one month, - - - 4 6
Do. for single vol., - - - 0 2
Quebec, 28th February, 1838.

FIRE-WOOD.
FOR SALE,—in quantities of from One to Fifty Cords,—consisting of Birch and Maple.—Apply to Mr. SAMUEL TOZER, Upper Town Market.
Quebec 13th January, 1838.

SUPERIOR LONDON HATS.
THE Subscriber has for Sale a Choice Assortment of the newest shape Gentlemen's Black Beaver Hats, imported late last Autumn.
HORATIO CARWELL,
12th March 1838. Palace Street.

T. BROOKBANK, HOUSE, SIGN, AND ORNAMENTAL PAINTER, GLAZIER, &c.

No. 4 Arundel Street, opposite the Ordnance Store.
[N] teaching his thanks to those who have hitherto patronised him, wide in connection with Mr. BOOTH, respectfully announces to them, and the citizens generally, that he has COMMENCED BUSINESS ON HIS OWN ACCOUNT, and trusts that he may be favored with a continuance of that support, which it shall be his study to merit February 24, 1838.

JOSHUA HOBROUGH, TAILOR.

No. 2, HOPE STREET, NEAR TO MR. J. J. SIMS.
[I]MPRESSED with a due sense of gratitude for the favors conferred upon him, by the gentlemen residing in Quebec, and its vicinity, and by the public in general, avails himself of the present moment, to return them his most heartfelt thanks; and at the same time he assures them, that no effort on his part shall be wanted to insure a similar continuance of their future patronage and support. J. H. takes this opportunity likewise, of respectfully informing the gentry and the public at large, that he has received his Fall Supply, consisting of—Beards Cloth (superior to any in town,) Pilot Cloths, Buckskins, Casimires, &c. suitable to the season; and he is ready to receive and execute all orders on the lowest terms for cash.
Quebec, 15th January, 1838.

NEW PARTNERSHIP.

PIANO FORTE, CABINET, CHAIR & SOFA MANUFACTORY,
Carving, Turning, Designing, Model Making, &c., No. 27, SAINT JOHN STREET.

The premises formerly occupied by J. & J. Thornton JAMES MCKENZIE returns cordial thanks to his friends and the public for the liberal encouragement he has hitherto received, and informs them that he has now entered into Partnership with THOMAS BOWLES, an experienced Musical Instrument and Cabinet Maker, from New-York.

MCKENZIE & BOWLES beg to express their hope, that from the excellence of their materials their skill as workmen, and the very general nature of their establishment, they will be able promptly to execute all orders with which they may be favored in the above mentioned, and in the FINEST line, in such a manner as to meet the unqualified approbation and increasing preference and patronage of their employers.

Piano Fortes and other Instruments carefully repaired.
Quebec, 29th January, 1838.

QUEBEC ALMANACK FOR 1838.
THE QUEBEC ALMANACK FOR 1838, is just published.—Besides the usual matter, it contains a list of all the Officers of the different Volunteer Corps serving in the Province.
Gazette Office, 28th February 1838.

PROSPECTUS OF THE LITERARY TRANSCRIPT, AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

[I]N submitting a new paper to the judgment of the public, it becomes a duty incumbent on the conductors to state what are the objects contemplated in its publication.

Briefly then,—the design of this paper will be to yield instruction and amusement to the domestic and social circle. It will contain choice extracts from the latest European and American periodicals,—selections from new, popular and entertaining works of the most celebrated authors, with other interesting literary and scientific publications.

The news of the day, compressed into as small a compass as possible, yet sufficiently comprehensive to convey a just and general knowledge of the principal political and miscellaneous events, will also be given.

Its columns will at all times be open to receive such communications as are adapted to the character of the work; and the known talent and taste existing in Quebec justify the hope we entertain that the value of our publication will be enhanced by frequent contributions.

The publication in this city of such a paper as the one now proposed has long been long considered a desideratum; and the kindly disposition which has already been evinced in behalf of our undertaking warrants our confident anticipations that THE LITERARY TRANSCRIPT will meet with encouragement and success.
Quebec, 6th December, 1837.

AGENCY IN MONTREAL.
Mr. J. WHITE, Hardware Merchant, St. Paul Street, (opposite to Rasseo's Hotel), is Agent for THE LITERARY TRANSCRIPT, and is authorized to receive subscriptions, advertisements, &c.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY AND SATURDAY MORNING, BY
THOMAS J. DONOUGHUE,
At the Office, No. 24, St. Peter Street, (opposite to R. Dauntion's Grocer.)