

# CANADIAN MAGAZINE,

## LITERARY REPOSITORY.

No. VIII. FEBRUARY, 1824. Vol. II.

### Original Papers.

ST. RONAN'S WELL.

This is another of the fascinating productions from the author of Waverley, Ivanhoe, &c. &c. and well may the words of the illustrious Stratford Dramatist be applied to the voluminous productions of this Great Unknown.

"What! will the line stretch out to the crack of doom?"  
"Another yet."

But it is not from their number, nor from the rapidity of succession, with which his works appear that the foregoing quotation is suggested;—these are not the only points of similarity which exist between this writer and the immortal Shakspeare. The last has embodied in his scenic performances, some of the most important and best marked periods in the history of the country. So the author of St. Ronan's Well, in this and other of his Novels, has attentively detailed historical facts,—described the sentiments of the times,—and by his faithful delineations of character, has shown the height to which party feelings were carried at the periods to which his Novels refer. Both have excelled in their descriptive powers, when painting natural scenery or individual character; perhaps beyond any writer that ever lived.—Both have contributed to the entertainment of their readers by forsaking the description of natural occurrences, and soaring into the regions of fancy. Had they been cotemporary, they might with justice have been considered rivals in this line; as it is they have certainly not been exceeded, perhaps never equalled, in vividness of conception, or brilliancy