

THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR.

TO OUR READERS.

The present number closes another volume of the "Garland," the twelfth since we commenced our labors for its support. During this long term of years, we have had, amid many discouragements, much that was cheering and hopeful to sustain us in our efforts, and though at times almost ready to despond for want of that generous aid and sympathy which we felt to be our due, our motto has still been "Onward," till as we trust, the "Literary Garland" is firmly established as the Magazine, of the British Canadian Provinces.

As such, it certainly deserves patronage and support—but not as such, only,—since it possesses in itself, merit, which the enlightened and cultivated should recognize and foster. We would not take undue praise to ourselves, yet we hesitate not to say, what every candid and discerning reader of the "Garland," must acknowledge to be true,—that its pages contain articles, too numerous to particularize, which would not shame the columns of Blackwood, of the Dublin University Magazine, and other periodicals of the same character and standing;—and that, except in its exterior embellishments, it is in no respect inferior to Sartain's Magazine, Godey's Lady's Book, and various similar Monthlies published in the neighboring States. Let the means be furnished us through a liberal subscription list, such an one as a Canadian periodical has a right to expect from a Canadian public, and our covers, and our pages shall be gemmed with delicate and tasteful embellishments, which shall not fail to delight the eyes of every lover of art.

With reference to the reading matter of the "Garland," to which we above alluded, we do not, and to our sorrow we say it, we cannot deny that there is too much chaff mingled with its wheat; but this is unavoidable so long as the avails of our Magazine are too trivial to permit our remunerating those contributors, whose articles would and dignify its character, but who cannot lavish, gratis, upon us, the rare coinage of their pen, when elsewhere they earn a gold-

den harvest for every line they write. But, whenever, by a just patronage, the increasing profit of our literary adventure enables us to be generous, we shall cheerfully and without stint give of the dross it yields, in exchange for the rich fruits of knowledge and taste gathered by classic minds from the ripe fields of elegant literature. Till then, however, much that we would wish to expunge, the free-will offerings of young and inexperienced writers, must unavoidably take the place of the more racy and finished articles, which, with a few exceptions, the circumstances we have named, at present prevent our attaining.

The volume of the "Garland" completed with the present number is now before the public, and without any boasting, we think it will stand a comparison with any that have preceded it. We will venture also to promise that the one to commence with the New Year, shall have advanced in merit still a step onward with its close, and we say this with confidence, because we have the pledge of assistance from those whose names alone are synonyms for excellence. We need only mention the Reverend H. Giles, Mrs. Moodie, Miss Strickland, H. V. C., W. P. C., R. E. M., and others equally popular and gifted, some of whom have been long favorably known to the readers of the "Garland" and all of whom will lend the aid of their pens in supporting it for 1851.

In conclusion, we beg to express our grateful sense of the favor and kindness which has thus far been extended to us, in return for which we pledge ourselves that all who have any interest in the conduct, or concerns of the "Garland," will continue unremitting in their endeavors to secure for it every possible advantage which shall tend to heighten its popularity or extend the sphere of its influence.

With renewed hope, and increased earnestness, therefore, we commence the duties of another year, asking only that, which our long struggle in aid of Canadian literature warrants us in expecting, and which we believe a Canadian public if true to the interests of letters will not fail to bestow, their sympathy, their indulgence, and their patronage.