

## THE PEARL.

HALIFAX, FRIDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 20, 1839.

## THE LITERARY GARLAND.

Montreal has a monthly magazine, called "The Literary Garland, devoted to the advancement of general literature." We have been favoured with the numbers which have appeared; the tenth has come to hand within the week.

This work is a very pleasing evidence of the good spirit which is kept up in Canada amidst all the political difficulties of the times, and of the spirit which might be expected if that fine portion of the British empire was in a less vexed state. The Garland consists chiefly of original articles, several of which are of a very respectable character, and some of them highly characteristic and attractive. Of the latter we furnished an extract some weeks ago in the Pearl, called "The Home-sick Wife and Consoling Husband," a poetic dialogue, between a good couple from Scotland, on their commencement of a back-wood life. The manly virtues of the husband, and the female yearnings, but fidelity and confidence, of the young wife, are finely expressed, and are joined to very effective sketches of Canadian habits and scenery. The lines published in the Pearl formed part 1, of the poem; part 2, appears in number 9 of the magazine. It is said by some of the Canadian papers, which have noticed the Garland, not to be so good as the first part, and such may be the case,—but it is not easy to "better it," as the saying is, and it has some very sweet passages. The whole appears to us, a delightful little dramatic sketch, impressed with the marks of that higher order of genius, which creates characters, rather than repaints them,—or which paints original portraits, of life-like accuracy and beauty. In part 2d Geordie addresses Jenny, alluding to their arrival in Canada and her fears and doubts on the occasion; Jenny excuses herself on account of the gloom that then surrounded them, but acknowledges that her mind is now changed. Her good man replies, saying that he did not wonder at her sadness, and that he pitied her, and grieved himself at the recollections of lang syne. They then congratulate each other on the comforts growing around them,—and after grateful enumeration of many blessings, Jenny gives as a reason why she thinks less than formerly about linnie and laverock and mavis, the sweet song birds, of her native land, that

"The quackin' ducks, the gabblin' geese—  
The cacklo o' the layin' hen,  
An' lammines wi' the snow-white fleeco,  
Ayo bleatin', fill my thoughts ye kon."

Their employments then occupy some of the conversation, and Geordie, good-husband-like, magnifies the work and care of his bonnie woman,—while she answers in similar strain, respecting his exertions, and declares "My wonder is ye never tire." After other remarks, the happy pair get on a more tender theme, and become eloquent on that most fruitful of all subjects to most parents, their children. Jenny says

"The bairnies a' pair things are willin',  
To do sic light work as they can;  
See little Geordie how he's fillin'  
An' raxin' to the height o' man."

Geordie puts in a word for the remainder of the laddies,

"True, Geordie he's noo out fourteen,  
An' Jamie he'll be twal belyve,  
Puir Andrew wi' the blearich een,  
Though only aucht can owsen drive."

Jenny, as a mother, feels called on to stand up for the girls, as the father's tongue wantons in the praise of the boys, although she began the theme,—and thus simply and sweetly claims notice for her little Jenny:

"In troth ye roose the laddies weel,  
Without a word 'bout my ain Jenny;  
The gude wean toddles at my heel,  
An' rocks the cradle for her minnie."

Geordie puts a stop to this loving contention,—and, discussing a tip to the mill, Jenny thus shows her good housewifery.

"Ye'll start as early as ye can,  
An' watch your turn—an' watch the miller;  
Tak' tent an' no forgot, the bran  
E'en at the mill's as gude as siller."

They then commence a conversation, about an intended visit to the village, in which each is careful that the comforts of the other shall be the first care, and thus ends the little pastoral, which is replete with good feelings well expressed.

There are many other things worthy of remark in the Garland, did our space admit of it,—one article we are induced to notice, because we see that it is held forth to admiration by the Editor, and has been copied into some of the Canadian papers with laudatory remarks which appear not warranted. It seems as injurious to correct taste, to give extreme praise where it is not deserved, as to withhold commendation, or to inflict censure, where praise is due. We allude to an article entitled "The First Sacrifice," which the Editor of the Garland says will be found "emi-

nently worthy of perusal." If he means on account of its pious tendency, we agree, but if, as we understand him, he means that it is deserving of such notice as a literary effort, we must demur. The article appears to us, to be neither rhyme, nor blank verse, nor good prose,—and to be rather eminently wanting in the elements of poetry, and even of common sense. As mere assertion is not worth much, we will give a few instances in support of the opinion. Is there any metre in the following?

"Slow o'er Judea's sacred plains, the shades  
Of evening fell; around each mountain's brow,  
And vine clad hill, twilight still wreathed her  
Golden veil, and old Euphrates' silver  
Stream, flashed brightly in the parting ray; rich  
On the dewy air, rose up the mingled sweets  
Of od'rous flowers, and delicate fruits."

These are the opening lines, and are characteristic of the whole.—any thing more grating to the ears of a Milton or Cowper, need not be sought,—it reminds of Hogarth's enraged musician,—tormented by all sorts of discordant noises which the perpetrators and the admirers thought was very good music. It is needless to seek proofs of the negation of poetry; and having been preceded by Milton and Gessner, it is only a wonder how the writer could so well avoid genuine inspiration on the subject. As to common sense, the following may suffice: "Twilight wreathed her golden veil."—Just as the earth is cursed for man's sake, and war is introduced amid the animal creation, we are told, that "from the fruitful earth's deep solitudes, arose the ceaseless hum of gratitude." Again, "Beneath the vaulted sky, Adam and Eve stood in their loneliness."—After the fall of our first parents, and after their expulsion from Paradise, they are said to have "lowly knelt upon the grassy turf, fresh from the hand of God, and clothed with grace, and majesty, such as no mortals since have worn." Eve's Arcadian shepherdess' habits are thus told—"Held by a flowery chain, Eve's trembling hand, restrained the gambols of a snowy lamb." Again, "Silence profound and deep reigned on the solemn scene." "The stars looked down,—the young moon poured a flood of light," "the feathered warblers hushed their thrilling lays." The silence, the attention of the stars and moon, and the muteness of the thrilling warblers, because Adam and Eve prepared to sacrifice a lamb, is rather an obsolete mode of hyperbole and amplification. In making these remarks, we deny any narrow feelings, or hypercritical disposition, and only presume to give an opinion on an article which has been, we deem, not wisely pushed into notice; and on which a different estimate from that quoted would at once be fixed, by many readers. If one person, without reasons adduced, challenges enquiry by bolstering up, or depressing, a matter,—another may be forgiven for giving some reasons for an opposite view.

The tenth number of the Garland contains a mass of respectable original matter in prose and verse. We have only room for a natural burst of feeling, by an emigrant, no doubt, thinking of his native river, and longing for the well-remembered and deeply-loved scenery of childhood,—the lines are not faultless, but nature covers a multitude of sins in this department:

"O! how do I love thee, my beautiful Clyde!  
All visions of joy and of beauty and pride,  
Come floating along on thy bosom to me,  
In my visions of night, over mountain and sea.

O! beautiful Clyde! my beautiful Clyde!  
My beautiful Clyde! my beautiful Clyde!  
My well known, beloved, my youth's own dear bride!

O! brightly my careless years flew by thy side,  
Or sail'd in glee over thine elve-haunted tide:  
In the years of mine autumn, would I might abide,  
With thy storm and thy sunshine my beautiful Clyde."

We observe by editorial notices in the Garland, that besides the continuation of Wacosta, mentioned in a late Pearl, another Canadian work, entitled "Trifles from my Portfolio," is about to appear. The Garland says:

"It seems as if a new day were beginning to dawn upon our colonial history, and that before many years have elapsed, we will, in our literature, as in the other tokens of civilized life, hold no mean position, when compared with countries much older and more densely peopled than our own."

We hope so, and that the spirit will extend to Nova Scotia,—meanwhile the Garland will be an efficient assistant in producing the literary animation anticipated. As such, it deserves, and no doubt will meet with, ample encouragement. The price of the Garland is but 15s. for twelve numbers of 48 octavo pages each. The tenth number has eight additional pages.

CHAMBERS' EDINBURGH JOURNAL.—In another part of today's number is an account of a Soiree, or evening entertainment, given by the Messrs. Chambers to their workmen, and others. The Messrs. Chambers seem scarcely more noted for the enterprise and intelligence which mark their extensive concerns, than for the excellent spirit, the good kindly feelings which are preserved between the different departments of their establishment. Instead of distrust and disrespect, repaid by cabal and hate,—the proprietors do the honours of a table, at which their personal friends,

ladies and gentlemen, sit, in company with the workmen of their printing establishment and their wives and daughters. We can imagine but few scenes more cheerful and becoming,—and presenting a greater contrast to the causes and results of Chartism. Such employers are calculated to produce such workmen, and such workmen are far removed from the influence of wild and reckless theories: good as well as evil conduct causes reaction, and works in a circle,—one course produces, misery, discontent, opposition, and violence,—the other happiness, satisfaction, co-operation and reciprocity of good deeds.

## ITEMS—FOREIGN, DOMESTIC &amp; C.

The arrival of the Great Western at New York, 16½ days from England, has furnished news from Europe some days later than that in our last.

## BRITISH.

The weather had, providentially, cleared up in England, and harvest operations were going on under promising appearances. Throughout the continent of Europe the prospect was good, so that, most happily, scarcity from short crops, need not be feared in any part of Europe or America: another year has been crowned with goodness.

Parliament was expected to be prorogued on the 27th.

A great boon has been given to the people of England; the new Postage Bill had received the Royal assent. By this, the postage on single letters, to every part of the kingdom, is reduced to one penny! double letters in proportion! This is a good work in every sense of the word. It relieves from a burden which pressed on a great source of the pleasures and morals and affections: intercourse between separated friends and relatives.

The Chartist agitation appears to furnish nothing new of importance. Several of their leaders had been tried, convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for periods up to two years. The Rev. Mr. Stephens was among the number.

The Canada Act received the Royal assent on Aug. 17.

MORE STEAM.—The government had arranged for establishing a steam communication twice a month with the West Indies and some southern ports of the United States, and once a month with Mexico. £240,000 a year, for 10 years, will be the cost to government. By October 1841, it is said, there will be 13 large steam ships running across the Atlantic, not one of which will be smaller than the Liverpool. The four Halifax Steamers will be ready early in 1840. These are gigantic efforts in civilization. The horizon for enterprise and intellect, expands with these advances, as if new creations had taken place.

The House of Lords had agreed to an Address to the Crown, requesting the appointment of a commission to enquire into the existence of poverty and disease in several parts of the kingdom.

Mr. O'Connell gave notice that he would move, that the independence of Texas should not be recognized unless with the consent of Mexico, and unless the abolition of slavery and the making the slave trade piracy were parts of its constitution,—also, that he would move steps towards the obtaining a portion of the northern territory of Mexico, to be used as an asylum or free state for persons of colour.

The Great Western experienced a severe gale, in which some damage was done to her deck works, and three men were driven from the wheel.

A temporary Act passed the Imperial Legislature, compelling Captains of vessels laden with timber from any port in British North America, to procure a certificate from the Clearing Officer that all the cargo has been placed below the deck.

The Thames Tunnel is completed to within 5 feet of the Middlesox side, so that passage, under the Thames, to and fro between its banks, may be soon expected as one of the common place characteristics of wonderful London.

RAG FAIR.—Late London papers state, that Rag Fair is to be abolished. The assemblage thus denominated, met in one of the back streets of the eastern part of London, and formed one of the strange sights which amused visitors to the metropolis. At a certain hour of each day, Sundays excepted, the perambulating Jews congregated from all quarters, on this spot, exhibiting the articles which they had picked up during the day, and making sales of them to collectors of such wares, and to other purchasers. In this street, which generally went by the name of Rag Fair, many persons kept stores for laying away the articles purchased, and at about the hour appointed, the doors of these receptacles used to be thrown open, their owners taking post at the thresholds, there to examine the garments presented to their notice. Then a system of haggling and huckstering would proceed until the bargain closed,—and either the Jew walked away to another market with his *ole clo*, or the merchant flung his purchase behind him into the dark house at whose door he stood. The noise and bustle, and the masses of hard cunning countenances, Hebrew, Irish, Scotch and English, which might be met daily in this market, formed a curious feature of the great metropolis. Its suppression will make a great change in the neighbourhood;—the Jews expressed much concern and repugnance respecting the reformation, considering that ancient usage was almost equal to a charter.