

## A WORD ABOUT THE GARLAND.

ANOTHER year of the GARLAND is completed—the ninth since it was first laid before the public, an aspirant for their favor. Since then, we have done what our power permitted to make it an acceptable offering. How far we have been successful it is not for us to judge; but whatever that success has been, we are well aware is attributable to the many eminent Contributors who have reduced our own editorial labors to the narrowest limits. To them we have a debt of gratitude to express,—and we are sure that our readers will be pleased to learn that from nearly all, promises of continued aid have been received. We anticipate also, the addition of several writers hitherto almost unknown in connection with the GARLAND, but whose assistance we are certain, will be most valuable. We therefore trust that the next and future years, our progress will be onward, until our Magazine has won for itself a reputation second to none on the Continent. To this end our ambition has ever pointed, and we shall not now relax in the efforts we have hitherto been making to arrive at it. When we began we were well aware that we had undertaken a somewhat doubtful task, and we had before us many examples shewing how fruitless had been even well directed efforts. But we have got over the first stage of life, and have entered upon the second vigorously; and aided as we have hitherto been, and sustained by public favor, there is now little danger but that our Magazine will continue its onward career.

Full of hope, then, for the future, we announce the conclusion of our year, and the arrangements for the next, which will have its commencement in January. In thanking,—which we do most cordially,—those whose countenance has enabled us to proceed so far, we may assure them that we shall in future so endeavor that the GARLAND shall be more worthy of their kindness,—and we rely upon them for continued support. But year after year, we trust new additions are made and making to the friends of Canadian literature, and we may therefore with confidence expect additions also to the list of readers of the GARLAND. This is “consummation most devoutly to be wished,” and all those who assist us in reaching it, will be

entitled to, and receive our warmest thanks—th<sup>o</sup> more especially as an impetus will thus be given us towards the fulfilment of our desire—a desire which we hope many share equally with ourselves—for there are few who are not interested in the progress of a healthy literature in the Province. It has been well said that “the love of literature is perhaps the most remarkable and characteristic form in which advancing civilization presents itself. From being the absorbing passion of the few, it becomes, with the progress of education, the delight and favorite occupation of numbers,” and we may add that the effect it produces upon the minds of men is incalculable. Its “more special tendencies,” in the words of an eminent religious writer, are “to soften the disposition,—to melt down rancorous feelings—to encourage benevolence of sentiment, and a ready sympathy with generous conduct.” If all this be true—and who can doubt it?—we are certain that it will be unnecessary to say much to induce those who have at heart the welfare of the country, and who desire to see its literature flourishing and respectable, to give to our humble efforts the little support we look for—and in return we promise them a pleasant and agreeable monthly visitor, in the pages of which they will find little which is not calculated to please as well as to instruct,—and nothing which will offend them.

In the next number, with which the New Year will commence, a variety of beautiful tales will be laid before the reader. One of them is by Mrs. Moodie,—another by the clever and favorite author of “The Stepmother,”—and a third by a lady well known in the literary world, as the author of “Tales of the Olden Time,” who during the present year has liberally contributed to our pages. Besides these, Mr. Picken, so favorably known as the author of the “Ballads of the Rhine,” will favor us with some equally beautiful ballads on a new subject, for which we anticipate very general admiration. A number of other writers also have sent us their contributions, so that we anticipate beginning the year with vigor, which it shall be our duty and our task creditably to maintain.

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