

But, alas! even these bright spots in our otherwise clouded horizon—and they, too, with few exceptions, confined to the leading cities of the eastern division of the Province!—only render the prevailing “darkness visible” the more apparent; and may not inaptly be compared to the solitary verdant *Oases* that meet the weary eye of the traveler amid the wide-spread, cheerless Arabian desert. And so little has a taste for either useful or ornamental literature been hitherto encouraged or cultivated, that, leaving out of the account works on Canada published in England, Canadian publishers, beyond the ephemeral sphere of a newspaper, are yet almost unknown, if we except a volume or two of legal reference, a treatise on Canadian Agriculture, one or two works on our topography and embryo statistics, two or three abortive attempts at magazines and reviews, and that lately commenced meritorious agricultural periodical, the *British American Cultivator*, to which every true British Canadian farmer is bound to give every encouragement and support. Among the few remaining flowers of Canadian literature, however, one delights to bring to recollection the poetic merit of a *Moody*, and the still more versatile talent of a *Richardson*—of the latter of whom, the Western District, and Amherstburgh in particular, has reason to be proud. But here closes our scanty catalogue—whereas, I am fully persuaded that were the influential members of the community in every district to set the example of cultivating a taste for literature and useful information, not only would the lamp of education and the torch of knowledge be ere long found shedding their united genial light over every populous town and thriving village, but penetrating into every sequestered *shanty* in the lonely wilderness! And, therefore, should the humble efforts of our society be happily found conducive to so truly desirable a consummation, we shall on that account alone ever have just cause to rejoice at its establishment.\*

\*It is gratifying to be able to add that while this little pamphlet is going through the press, the Provincial Legislature have evinced their willingness to encourage

as  
th  
th  
hu  
Al  
yo  
mo  
Is  
ha  
las  
pro  
un  
ne  
en

gre  
bin  
spi  
mu  
un  
era  
de  
mu  
for  
po  
for  
est  
dir  
the  
we  
an  
an  
for  
jec  
tur  
be

liter  
hist  
lega