

referred to, but surely many excellent persons might be found who would not attract any peculiar attention in one of our most fashionable parties. For my own part I am fully convinced that Miss Mary Anne S—, would have conducted herself in society with almost as much propriety and grace as the daughters of some of our largest wholesale houses.

Let the experiment be fairly tried, and the results of its success would be most gratifying to every philanthropic and reflecting mind.

[We must really use our editorial privilege, by omitting that portion of our correspondent's narrative which describes the personal appearance of Mr. and Mrs. S., as well as that of their son William, and the two eldest girls—the early dinner, (including the reflections on boiled carrots), the gradual assembling of the company, as well those from town as from the more immediate neighbourhood—the introduction of the various strangers, as well as quadrilles and country dances, and other matter. The writer, it appears, enters into conversation with a person whom he describes as—]

"A sensible-looking individual, of apparently about fifty years of age, with a bright twinkling eye, and evidently a great favourite with the younger portion of the company, including the ladies."

The conversation continues:

"So you have not been very much out of town since you came to this country?" said he.

"Certainly not," I replied. "I was once at St. Johns; but I have been even more confined than I was at home. I have not left Montreal for more than half a day at a time; but allow me to add, that personal contact is not necessary to render a reflecting person pretty intimate with the inhabitants of a country, and their usages and modes of life."

"Nothing clearer, Sir," he replied. "I have no doubt you know Canada better than many who were born in it; but how do you like this country?"

"I trust I can say, that when duty bids I can like any portion of the globe where that stern power may bid me live. To a well regulated mind, climates and their varieties are but incidents he learns to disregard, as does the soldier the inconveniences which may impede his march. But, sir, nature has done much for this country. I find it agrees with me, and I like it."

"But don't you miss the society very much; for I have been informed there is not much of literature among the best society in Montreal?"

I always make it a rule, wherever I may be, to endeavour freely to exhibit, even in ordinary

conversation, my own opinions, in order to establish, if possible, a reciprocity in the free interchange of ideas. And I thought, here was a fine opportunity of getting some insight into the peculiar habits of the country population, from actual observation, from an intelligent person. I therefore answered him:

"This is a new country, Sir. One should not expect too much. I have not the pleasure of knowing very many highly cultivated intellects in the sphere in which I have moved during my residence in Montreal. Literature is a very general term; but I am pleased to observe a movement—a favourable movement—a movement among an interesting portion of the citizens. I mean Saint Sacrament street."

"Oh! I see," said my friend. "Are you one of them?"

"Sir, I consider young Montreal is an honor to the country"—

"Pardon me for interrupting you; but (and he grasped my hand) do you write for the *Economist*? I could have sworn I recognised your peculiarly flowing style in those splendid passages about raw sugars. That paper, sir, is an honour to your city. I hope you're a member of the Shakspeare Club. Immortal Bard! Our bard, I may call him, although I'm an Irishman like yourself. Sir, the Legislature should take the thing up. Glorious field! Home productions. Nothing like encouraging native talent."

"But, Sir," said I—

"Oh! of course," said he, interrupting me; "modesty's a jewel; but, Sir, if any of those powerfully-eloquent individuals choose to stand for the county, Sir, let me know. I may say, I have a little influence in these parts; and I consider it a duty not to allow talents to be tied up in a handkerchief. It's a duty we owe the country, to encourage genius. The pleasure of wine with you! I'm happy to have met with a person of philosophic taste. A rare thing here! Why, Sir, will you believe it? I had occasion, about a month since, in one of our back townships where I was travelling, to take an affidavit as a magistrate, of a poor man who came to complain of a neighbour for shooting his pig; and I was obliged to call at forty-seven houses and couldn't find a Bible. Not one; and was forced to swear him at last on an Almanac. Frightful ignorance! wasn't it? If you knew this country, Sir, as I do, you would be astonished."

"But allow me to inquire as to the state of morals in those remote settlements."

"Morals! They have no morals. I could show you old men that have never heard a sermon; as to baptisms or marriages, they're un-