

*Acmeick Boston 1833*

# Saturday Evening Magazine.

PRICE TWO PENCE.

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## The Saturday Evening Magazine. PRICE TWOPENCE.

While Magazines and Reviews of high pretensions, dedicated to the amusement and instruction of those classes of the community whose wealth and station justify an expenditure beyond the means of the mechanic or the poorer men, are in contemplation; it is thought that the public would favor an attempt to afford the latter such wholesome instruction, combined with pleasing reading, as would render him, in some degree, independent of those unhappy indulgencies in which valuable time, much money and precious health are consumed and endangered; the hopes of many an honest family blighted, and a fatal impediment opposed to exertions which might otherwise insure comparative opulence and respectability. To counteract such pernicious allurements; to furnish the young and the middle-aged operative with suitable and useful knowledge adapted to all seasons, occupations, and moods of mind, is the object of the projectors of this undertaking; and the manner in which they intend to accomplish their design is now submitted to the judgment of the public, in the hope that those who are disposed to countenance such an attempt will favor it with their influence among that class whom it is intended more particularly to serve.

Its conductor will not introduce his work to the public with any apology for its intrusion, or any anticipation of objections that may never be raised. His only object has been to endeavour to gratify the universal appetite for instruction, which now happily influences all minds, by furnishing his readers with mental nourishment of the best quality, and at a cost which places it within the attainment of every individual who feels desirous of providing himself with a choice banquet of wholesome, useful and agreeable knowledge.

The strong holds of ignorance, and the lurking prejudices that may still haunt the minds of the lower classes in spite of the steady beams of knowledge that have risen upon the world, shall meet with no quarter from this publication. Its principle is utility; and original and selected articles on every subject that may tend to promote the well-being of society will form the staple articles of its columns; while to point out the means of ensuring the greatest possible quantity of happiness to the greatest possible quantity of human beings shall be its aim.

The success of this undertaking is trusted to its qualities as a moral and entertaining miscellany for

the instruction of the mass of our population, and its conductor relies only upon its recommendations in this respect for patronage and support.

J. PRICE.

Montreal, 9 November. 1833.

### ON CULTIVATING A TASTE FOR READING.

A taste for useful reading is an effectual preservative from vice. Next to the fear of God implanted in the heart; nothing is a better safeguard than the love of good books. They are the hand-maids of virtue and religion. They quicken our sense of duty, unfold our responsibilities, strengthen our principles, confirm our habits, inspire in us the love of what is right and useful, and teach us to look with disgust upon what is low, and grovelling, and vicious. It is with good books as it is with prayer; the use of them will either make us leave off sinning, or leave off reading them. No vicious man has a fondness for reading. And no man who has a fondness for this exercise is in much danger of becoming vicious. He is secured from a thousand temptations to which he would otherwise be exposed. He has no inducement to squander away his time in vain amusements, in the haunts of dissipation, or in the corrupting intercourse of bad company. He has a higher and nobler source of enjoyment to which he can have access. *He can be happy alone*; and is indeed never less alone, than when alone. Then he enjoys the sweetest, the purest, the most improving society, the society of the wise, the great, and the good; and while he holds delightful converse with these his companions and friends, he grows into a likeness to them, and learns to look down, as from an eminence of purity and light, upon the low born pleasures of the dissipated and profligate.

The high value of mental cultivation is another weighty motive for giving attention to reading.—What is it that mainly distinguishes a man from a brute? Knowledge. What makes the vast difference that exists between savage and civilized nations? Knowledge. What forms the principle difference between men as they appear in the same society? Knowledge. What raised Franklin from the humble station of a printer's boy to the first honors of his country? Knowledge. What took Sherman from his shoemaker's bench, gave him a seat in a Senate, and there made his voice to be heard among the wisest and best of his compeers? Knowledge.—What raised Simpson from the weaver's loom, to a place among the first of mathematicians; and Herschel from being a poor fifer's boy in the army,