

rural inhabitants of most countries possess a simplicity and an ingenuousness in their manners, which dispose them for the sober enjoyments of reading, and which, at the same time, prevent them from abusing their knowledge to dangerous or licentious purposes.

I have all along been speaking chiefly of the inhabitants of the country as distinguished from those of the larger towns. With regard to the latter, however, I would recommend to your attention the plan of instruction, most probably invented, and certainly carried to the utmost practical perfection, by Mr. JOSEPH LANCASTER. It is impossible to say too much in praise of a system which possesses every advantage with respect to the labouring classes; which combines mildness, order, and virtuous tendency, with the highest efficacy in the real business of making scholars; which joins almost incredible economy, to practicability in every situation in which numbers of people are collected into one neighbourhood. I cannot help remarking farther, that the countenance which this plan has received in England from persons of the very highest rank, is no inconsiderable proof, among others, of the liberality of the British government, and of its disposition to promote general information.

THE general employment of the Canadians, as it shows the practicability and safety of their instruction, suggests also an additional reason for endeavouring to introduce it. To what cause are we to attribute the small progress which the Canadians have made in the improve-