

THE PROVINCIAL.

HALIFAX, JANUARY, 1852.

OUR ADDRESS.

Since the beginning of the nineteenth century, periodical publications have become so common, and have been promoted and supported by such an amount of talent and character, that they now occupy a position in literature, and exercise an influence upon society, superior perhaps to many expensive books of much higher pretensions. The taste and feelings of the public upon this important subject have been long entirely changed.

The cheap periodical, now no longer humble in its pretensions, but rich both in material and interest, is welcome alike in the cottage of the mechanic, and the drawing-room of the man of wealth and refinement. The revolution which has taken place in this class of publications is alike extraordinary and desirable. Formerly, the reader of a weekly, or monthly, literary publication, in quest of information or amusement, with some slight exceptions, would search in vain for either amidst a dry list of statistics, of births and deaths, or at the most an antiquarian paper, more curious, than interesting or useful. Now, the highest intellects of the day send forth the rich and varied produce of their minds, to the world at large, in the form of periodical publications.

The enlightened statesman, and grave philosopher contribute to their pages, and increase their honour and their fame, by extending the benefit of their learning and experience to almost every class of readers. As a natural consequence, the demand for cheap literature of this description has increased to so great an extent, that the appearance of a new Periodical, is not now considered much more remarkable, than the appearance of a new book. The field of literature is boundless; and the reason which is accepted by the public from the author of a new book, will not be refused, when offered by the Editor of a new Periodical.

It was said by a great critic of our language, that no person ought to write, who is not conscious that he has got something to say worth listening to; and wherever this is said, whether in the pages of a book, or the columns