

may be obtained, and their multiplicity, goes far to confirm this prevailing indifference towards the developement of native genius, and the increase of national respectability. Many of our friends in representing to us the hazards of our enterprize, have dwelt on the cheapness, and superior execution of American Works, over any publication likely to be produced here ; but, formidable as this appears, we hope to obviate the evil, by opposing to it, a steady perseverance, and an unswerving solicitude to please, trusting that a spirit of emulation may arise to awaken the torpid feelings of those, who possessing the power, want not the generosity to foster talent, and who, even now, may be induced to smile benignantly on an humble effort which has for its object, the advancement and happiness of their native or their chosen land. The indulgent reception and ultimate success of one Work, will naturally lead to the establishment of others, perhaps of a more scientific and useful character. It is not within our sphere, as Ladies, to pretend to an acquaintance with those deep and abstruse studies necessary to the improvement and display of human ingenuity, in the great and important arts of life. Our views of utility are confined to the Domestic and social circle, and to those limits our capacities and inclinations alike restrict us. To the wish to yield instruction and amusement, is added a hope, that a taste for letters may extend, and be confirmed, by furnishing a medium through which the young aspirant to Literary honour shall become distinguished from his less gifted contemporaries, and by thus securing to him the admiration due to his merit, arouse his energies, and incite him to such exertions as may ultimately lead to excellence, and secure to him the reward of an undying fame.

In this exposition of the feelings which actuate us, we hope the public may find a counterpoise to the errors incidental to a first number, and considerately remember that a *little time* and great attention will correct faults which result from inexperience.

In all things improvement is progressive, and where a willing mind unites with a steady purpose, the advancement must be rapid. We are sanguine in the anticipation of an early period when the Museum will stand exclusively on its own merits ; and when its patrons may look back with pleasure to the complacent welcome accorded on its first appearance.