

There are some generous and noble spirits among mankind,—who soar above all party and selfish views, and feelings,—devoting their energies to advance whatever is commendable, and generally useful. Authors, found among this class of men, will breathe a catholic spirit in all their publications, showing independence of thought, and evincing that the great object of their life is to bless the world. To them the world is indebted for the present advanced state of science and literature; and upon them depends the prosperity of learning, and the elevation and purity of thought and sentiment throughout the world.

But there is a vitiated taste for books and periodicals, quite too prevalent for the interest and improvement of society. A work is not valued unless it supports the principles of a certain community;—a periodical is rejected if it does not defend a particular association;—and the author that throws off the fetters of party, that breaks through all bigoted and groveling restraints, and manifests a benevolence that extends to all; is neglected, and left to contend with whatever obstructions may be in the way of his favorite object, as best he can. We shall not stop here to search for the cause of this; our object being rather to notice the evil effects of the existence of this poisoned and poisoning appetite. One effect of this is; to divert talent from its legitimate course, and employ it where the God who gave it, never designed it to be used. The man who possesses ability to do good on a large scale, or, in other words, to be generally

useful, but confines his talents to the interests of a few; contenting himself with serving a party, when he might serve a nation, or the world; comes far short of accomplishing what providence designed in his case. And yet, we see this every day; both in church, and state. Men of the finest abilities narrowing down their sentiments, and limiting their efforts, to a single point.—Making the voyage of life in a gally; when they might make it in a ship.—And it is also an evil resulting from this divided and sectional state of society, that an independent publication, one that leans to no side, except to the side of truth; has but few friends, and is but indifferently sustained. This occasions a loss to the world, of the talents of persons, who wish to be free and unshackled by sectional interests, and to labor to unite the whole human family in one common brotherhood.

An independent periodical has to contend with numerous obstacles, arising out of the existing state of society. Every religious party has its organ; every political compact supports its own newspaper; and other associations have their respective advocates. And it is so well understood that every party must support its own periodical, that an independent publication is regarded as an anomaly. It is looked upon as a stranger; few make its acquaintance; and it is treated as though it were an intruder, and had no business to make its appearance in enlightened and religious society; where every body has his own paper. Men have received such a party education that they can scarcely see any object to be gained by an indepen-