

natural, that this work has not only a claim to your protection, but a right to your support. All the world will say that it is in vain for the Whig ministry to make protestations of regard for the colonies, when the author of that lively work, "The Letter-Bag of the Great Western," remains in obscurity in Nova Scotia, languishing for want of timely patronage; and posterity, that invariably does justice (although it is unfortunately rather too late always), will pronounce that you failed in your first duty, as protector of colonial literature, if you do not do the pretty upon this occasion. Great men are apt to have short memories, and it is a common subject of complaint with authors, that they are materially injured by this defect in their organisation. Literary men, however, may ascribe much of this disappointment they experience to their own disingenuousness. They usually begin by expressing great diffidence of their own talents, and disparaging their own performances, and end by extolling the acquirements, the liberality, and discernment of their patrons, and they generally admit the truth of both these propositions, which is all that is required of them, and there the matter ends. I prefer the most straight-forward course of telling the truth; and so far from detracting from the merits of the work, and undervaluing myself, I am bold to say it is quite as good a book, and as safe in its tendencies, as those of a certain fashionable author who found favour at the hands of your party, and is therefore eminently entitled to your special regard. I have inscribed it to you, therefore, not for the purpose of paying a compliment to your Lordship, but that you may have an opportunity of paying a very substantial compliment to me. Like an Eastern present, it is expected that it should be acknowledged by one of still greater value; and in order that there may be no mistake, I beg your Lordship to understand distinctly that its merits are very great, and