

MAGIC LANTERN.

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To the Courteous Reader.

We do not make much doubt but that the appearance of our MAGIC LANTERN will in some measure take the good lieges of Montreal by the ears. The atmosphere of our good city, judging from the past does not seem favorable to productions such as this; but, this in our mind is not because there is not enough of the ridiculous to laugh at, but because the publications themselves have been either scurilous, or more ridiculous than the objects of their ridicule. This is reason enough why they should have failed.

We will say very few words relative to our aims or the principles by which we shall be guided, preferring rather to let our acts tell our story. Our principal object is to cause you to smile at folly, whether in manners, customs, fashions, politics, literature, architecture, newspapers, magazines, periodicals, the mercantile world, the legislature, or elsewhere; and in so doing we pledge ourselves, that neither indecency, scurrility nor private slander, shall soil our columns. Our tone of manners shall be such as shall not exclude our paper from the refined family circle or the drawing-room. There is enough, as we have said, of the ridiculous in our city to laugh at, without descending to the scurrility which would do this.

Upon the usefulness or philosophy of ridicule, it is not necessary for us here to enlarge. Its influence in preventing people from doing foolish things, is a tale a thousand times told, and has been for ages. "Cervantes smiled Spains chivalry away" and to "laugh and grow fat" is a proverb.

Of ourselves our very proper modesty prevents us from saying more, than giving the general intimation to all whom it may concern that "we shall belong to the black hussars of literature—we shall neither give nor take quarter." Whatever comes within the disc of our Lantern will be shewn up.

It is our intention to publish the MAGIC LANTERN fortnightly. Its success, most courteous reader, will depend on thy countenance, and last, yet of most importance, (in hard times like these,) on thy THREE PENCE.

We had prepared a surprise for our fellow-citizens, but through unforeseen delays, have been ourselves surprised. We had taken means through our friends high in the Vice-Royal Councils to procure the original draft of the Governor's speech at the opening of the present session, and had intended to have published it for the public benefit before delivered. Our printer disappointed us, and were unable to do so. Judge of the wonder with which we read the form in which it was actually delivered, and found how much it had

been garbled, altered and mangled by His Excellency's weak advisers. It will be seen how much more manly and pointed our edition of this document really is. We give it below.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,

I have great pleasure in meeting you at the opening of the first Session of another Parliament (aside my ministry would rather meet the devil.) In dissolving the late and summoning a new Parliament, I have been wholly actuated by a desire to know if the country really trusted in the ministry I have had around me, or if I should send them into private life. I have no doubt you will give your immediate attention to this subject, and inform me of the result.

The next most important point to be considered is the increase which our population received during the past summer, which eventually produced an alarming decrease in the number of the previous inhabitants. Intimately connected with this, are the many schemes for colonization; sending men among us ready made, with every thing necessary to live, from their priest to their pickaxes. I hope you will bestow upon this subject the consideration it deserves. I would also call your attention to the question (intimately connected with this matter) whether a duty should not be levied upon the importation into the Province of Typhus Fever. This importation (generally by individual passengers in Emigrant ships) has been during the past business season, enormous. My present anti-free-trade ministry are decidedly opposed to the admission of this new import free of duty. In the mean time, large wooden storehouses for the reception and preservation of the article, have been erected at the public expense.

The University question which has so long agitated the different parties in this Province remains unsettled. The country demands that something, right or wrong, should be done in the matter, the interests of the rising generation of the country calls aloud for the benefits of education. I hope, gentlemen, that this demand may be responded to, and that ere your labours are closed, a bill for educating everybody's children at other people's expence will be passed and that ere many months shall have elapsed there will not be a chimney sweep or cowboy in the Province who will not, while laboring in his daily vocation, be enabled to conjugate Latin verbs as a mental recreation, and spend his evenings in company with Virgil & Euclid.

The present depressed state of the mercantile world will prevent that attention to internal improvements and the development of the resources of this vast