

bear, the wolf and the buffalo roam in all the untractability of their ferocious nature through all her regions—and though many of her *native* sons and daughters remain still unblest with the light of knowledge and Christianity—yet the time may come when her present condition will be remembered no more—when the wilderness shall give place to the calm serenity of cultivation—when the wild beasts of the fields shall fly at the voice of man, and give place to the busy hum of a cheerful and industrious population—when the sun of human intellect shall shine with refulgence on the darkest mind that ever traversed the woods—when the truth and glory of Christianity shall spread throughout the land the cheering and peaceful beams of their consolation—and when society shall resume the order, the elegance, and the permanency of the most civilised countries on the face of the earth! It is not human vanity to anticipate all this; neither is it foolishness in man, experienced as he is in the revolutions of the world, to expect the highest consummation of his wishes in the improvement and happiness of the whole human race. Let us, then, be permitted to lend our feeble aid to the advancement of the one as well as the other. Let us be permitted to mark a period in the history of CANADA, and open a page in which her future historian may descry the feeble glimmer of the first rise of a great, prosperous, and independent nation!

In doing so, we must, in the first place assure that Public into whose services we are about voluntarily to enlist ourselves, that we entertain a far higher opinion of its education, information and general accomplishments than to approach it with the bronzed and unbending countenance of unabashed confidence. We have come forward, on the contrary, in our present conspicuous and critical character, in the humble diffidence of persons, who, though their motives may be good, their intentions honourable, and their industry persevering, may, nevertheless, find it necessary to claim in favour of tender and unripened abilities the suffrage of a humane and enlightened society. Without descending to the absolute renunciation of every qualification necessary in the conduct of this work, we shall, therefore, solicit that indulgence from our friends and our readers which has for its basis only the consciousness of one meritorious virtue—that of a sincere and honourable inclination to advance, by every means which the nature of our undertaking has placed within our power, the progress of moral improvement in all its relations to the happiness of man, and the welfare of society.—But, before we proceed further, let the principles on which we intend to act be a little more clearly and distinctly understood.

Such of our readers as may have been in the habit of reflecting with some degree of seriousness on the human learning of the last two hundred years, in its polite as well as in its useful departments, cannot fail to have observed, that, in comparison with the literary productions of the present day, it is stamped with the insignia of a far loftier, moral, and substantial character. In the late ages, the genius of man kept pace with his moral necessities. If, at any time she was tempted to stray beyond the limits which reason and prudence had assigned to her, she called cautiously to her assistance, and never returned to the ordinary haunts of life without improving her own resources, and conferring the most valuable and lasting benefits upon mankind in general. The philosopher, the poet, the essayist, and the historian, though travelling on separate