

the well-wishers of human nature, and pleasing to the great bulk of the people who thereby become more approximated to each other. I have heard many of the British inhabitants both ridicule and deprecate this custom, because probably, without reflecting on other customs at home which to foreigners may appear equally absurd, they were not accustomed to see it observed there; but this they do only amongst themselves, and they have the good sense to join the French population in the congratulatory and festive visits they pay to each other on that day. The objection chiefly urged against it, is that it takes away a day from the pursuits of business, and here shine out those avaricious feelings, those deadening maxims, which characterize the trading part of society, and make the Canadians too justly look upon the generality of their British fellow subjects in this province as adventurers who come out solely with views of making a sufficiency of money to enable them to return, and live at home in a better style than they could have otherwise afforded; men who make gold their god, and worldly prudence their guide, and think they have lost a day when they have not sold a dollar's worth of goods. Hence too the Canadians are apt to form an erroneous idea of the general character of the inhabitants of the British islands: if we except the military, they see amongst them none but traders; our country gentlemen, the solid strength of the empire; our literati, its glory; our beau-monde, its ornament; our nobility, its pride; are never seen, or so seldom that they —

*"Apparent rari nantes in gurgite vasto,"*

Seem scatter'd specks on Ocean's wide expanse.