

"Well, my dear," said Mr. Elton. "Lawrence Norton has proposed."
 "Proposed what?"
 "To marry Grace."
 "What, *our* Grace? What do you mean, Mr. Elton? To take another wife?"
 "Yes, my dear."
 "And what did you say? Did you stand still and smile?"
 "Yes, I smiled, I assure you, and told him that if Grace happened to fancy him that I was willing."
 "Why, what is the matter with mamma?" cried Grace, as she entered the room.
 "Grace!" cried Mrs. Elton, "your papa has told that vile Lawrence Norton that he may have you for his *other* wife if you wish it."
 Grace looked down, and smiled slightly. Papa thought proper to explain—Mrs. Elton listened with a mixture of vexation and amazement—and at last promised to think of the matter—and perhaps by the time Grace was twenty-five, she might give her answer. In one year there was a wedding. C. C.

CANADIAN FAMILY HERALD.

TORONTO, SATURDAY, JAN. 31, 1852.

To our READERS. To prevent the threatened inroads of that procrastinating genius, which has forcibly interfered with the regular issue of some of our recent numbers,—The Canadian Family Herald will in future be published by Mr. Charles Fletcher, Bookseller, No. 54, Yonge Street. It is kindly requested therefore that all communications intended for the Herald be addressed to the publisher, in order to prevent confusion, or delay in attending to them.

LETTERS RECEIVED. J. C., Indiana,—will accept our thanks for his exertions. J. B. Belleville,—will comply if possible. Dr. McD., Goderich,—in our next. M. W. Stratford,—will be attended to. A Subscriber, Galt,—we appreciate your remarks, and will shew cause in an early number. A. K. M. N.,—will be glad to hear from him.

PROSPECTUS

THE CANADIAN FAMILY HERALD.

Price One Dollar per annum.

At present there exists not amongst us any paper so exclusively divested of party politics and at the same time so general in its bearing upon the individual interest of the body politic, as to make it really a family paper; acceptable alike to the merchant and the mechanic, the artist and the agriculturist.

To supply this desideratum it is proposed to establish a quarto weekly paper, to be published in Toronto, entitled **THE CANADIAN FAMILY HERALD**, in which Agriculture, Art, Science, and Literature, in their latest discoveries, their most recent inventions, their gradual development, and their present and prospective social benefits, will be concisely and comprehensively unfolded, from the most reliable sources; thus presenting a Family Paper in which all the members of the household can find something suited to their individual tastes and capacities.

Mechanics' Institutes, Public Libraries, Mutual Improvement Societies,—in short, every institution which has for its aim the good of man, will be warmly supported, as, in our rising country, too much attention cannot be paid to the inculcation of sound moral precepts, so that the youthful mind may be thoroughly stored with useful knowledge.

Now Publications will be reviewed with candour, and the various departments of the paper will be all carefully arranged under their respective heads.

The size chosen for the Herald is convenient for binding, while it will be furnished at a price within the reach of all classes of the community. Interesting European News will be attended to, and no expense will be spared to make it a most agreeable and instructive family paper, worthy the patronage of all who rejoice in the extensive diffusion of useful knowledge.

To ADVERTISERS.—The Herald will be found a valuable medium for advertising. Its cheapness brings it within the reach of all. Its selections in Literature will make it always a welcome guest in the family circle; while its contributions, in Science and the Arts, will make it the companion of the Artizan and the Agriculturist; so that merchants and business men generally, will find it to their interest to announce themselves occasionally through its columns.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.—This is a feature almost exclusively peculiar to a few English publications. It is found to contribute very successfully to the interest of the reader, and is the means of affording much useful information. We have made arrangements, by means of which, this branch will be carefully attended to, and all enquiries answered so far as practicable so to do.

Answers to Correspondents.

J. C., STERLING. In its general acceptation this epithet implies, genuine,—having stood the test of examination,—as a sterling character. In its more literal sense it is applied to discriminate English Money, signifying that it is of the fixed or national value. Thus a pound sterling, is only an English pound, and is not indefinitely a pound, for we speak of a pound Halifax Currency, &c. The most plausible etymology of the word is that given by Camden, who derives it from Easterling, and quotes from old deeds where English coin is always called *nummi easterlingi*. In the reign of Richard the 1st of England, 1189-1199, money coined in the eastern part of Germany was very much esteemed in England on account of its purity. This money was called *easterling* money, as the people of that part of Germany were called *easterlings*. In consequence of this partiality some of the *Zasterling* colners were invited to England to perfect its coinage, which was thenceforward denominated *easterling*, *esterling*, or *sterling*. During a considerable period the only coin in England was one about the value of a penny, hence many ancient writers used the word *easterling* as a substantive synonymous with *sterling*.

A READER. H. H. &c. &c. Several communications have reached us, containing suggestions

as to fancied improvements, in the appearance of our little miscellany; for all of which we are exceedingly grateful. It is very pleasing to think that you are not left to plod on unheeded in your course. We would certainly never object to notice any musical entertainment in which we might be favored to participate, or of which a pointed sketch might be furnished by any kind friend. Music is the sweetener of life. We endorse the lines,

Music! Ethereal effluence!
 Breathes thou upon the tremulous air
 In silver undulations, and all that Love,
 Or Pure, or Heaven bestows,
 Is sweetened—even merry jest,
 By thy mellifluous cadences,
 Is transformed to bliss.

But still a reader will observe that his suggestion is altogether sectional. If music is the balm of life, we cannot forbear to say that

"The flower's divine where'er it grows."

A Reader will appreciate the remark, we will not at present be more particular. It may be said however that the Prospectus of the Herald was very carefully worded, so as to mean exactly what it said, and no more, and as yet there is no reason to strike out any new feature.

Toronto Mechanics' Institute.

In consequence of the delay previously referred to we have not been able to keep pace with the lectures at the Institute, but this one was so kindly given and so well received that it would be ungracious to pass it over. Dr. Hodder who was advertised to lecture was summarily called off, a few minutes before the hour of meeting, when at the request of the committee H. Y. Hind, Esq., kindly consented to supply the vacancy, and delivered a very interesting extemporaneous lecture on the properties of light. The lecturer adverted, in the first instance, to the generally received theory of light, which supposes it to be the result of minute undulations impinging upon the optic nerve, and the belief that colours are produced by a difference in the length of those undulations. After alluding to the decomposition of white solar light, as illustrated in the rainbow, Mr. Hind showed how the nerve of the eye itself might also effect its decomposition, and thus produce what are termed *spectra*. A ray of light emitted from the luminous atmosphere of the sun passes through the planetary spaces without receiving any change in its constitution; when, however, it reaches the earth's atmosphere, it undergoes various modifications. One part of the ray or beam being reflected back into space; another portion bent out of its course, or refracted, as it is termed, a third reflected from particle to particle of the atmosphere, thus rendering that medium, as it were, luminous; while a fourth portion is absorbed, that is to say, annihilated by repeated reflections. It appears, also that every beam of light contains, besides the colouring rays, heating rays, and also chemical rays. The yellow ray of light containing the most chemical rays, is of especial value to vegetables. Its effect, he illustrated by remarking, that a seed introduced into the earth derived nearly all its food, when under the soil, from the starch which exists in considerable quantities in all varieties of seed.—When, however, the growing plant pushes a leaf above the soil, the first substance formed is green colouring matter—and then only the true