

PRIZE POEM.

composed by MASTER SCADDING of the Upper
selected by him on Friday the 17th Dec. 1840,
and—was adjudged to be the best English
Prize was awarded to its author accordingly.

E'en o'er the burning line he wings his way,
Or dares the ice-bound arctics to essay ;
By this the eastern world with wond'ring eyes,
Out of the west beheld a sister rise,
Her form in all its native grace reveal'd
Beam'd as a star, which distant mists conceal'd,
And he whose prowess drew the veil aside
Unhonour'd liv'd, and unrewarded died,
Ah ! hadst thou lived, Columbus, in the day
When Greece and Rome possessed imperial sway,
Their grateful sons to thee had rais'd the shrine,
And hail'd thee with the title of divine
But *we* the pledge of thy renown may take
From this fair realm of forest and of lake,
Where Nature sits in Majesty alone,
Woods for her crown and mountains for her throne;
Here boundless forests meet the sun in sky,—
There beauteous streams, and stately rivers lie ;
The sea-like lake—present their waves between,
And with their ample tides fill up the scene ;
There the SUPERIOR hails its thousand springs,—
Each to its lord its war'ry tribute brings ;
Then the vast HURON circled round with woods,
Reflects the rocks which frown upon its floods;
And there fair'd ERIE spreads its glassy breast
Amid the sunshine calmly lull'd to rest :—
Its banks approach—contracted are its tides,
And here contest the swift Niagara glides ;
Unruffled on the silent waters speed
Till shallows thwart, and hidden rocks impede,
Then breaks the calm, and rapid whirlpools rage—
Then struggling waves in fearful strife engage,
Impetuous and surge hurries over surge
Till rushing they reach the curving verge,
Where met in one sublime, terrific sweep
Into the dizzying depth the bounding torrents leap
The pend'rous sheet with thund'ring shock de-
scends,
And its wild rage in circling mist expends ;
The scatter'd tides mount up in clouds of spray,
And Iris spans them with her varied ray.

Again in peace the tranquil river glides,—
Two rival powers its unpure course divides,
The mingled stream, by strife perplexed no more,
Calmly salutes ONTARIO'S pine crown'd shore ;
So the ag'd Warrior greets secure repose

And its wild rage in circling mist expends ;