

for many years familiar and popular to the reading world. When the author first conceived the idea of telling plain truths in the quaint and comic language of a Yankee pedlar, the novelty of the plan soon gained for him immense popularity; but, as with other 'modes,' when custom had familiarized the mind with it, a second attempt in the same style was less successful, until at length the sameness wearied, and former admirers gave more of censure than praise. But variety in book-making is easier talked of than attained. When a writer has traced out a peculiar path for himself it is difficult for him to walk in another, and the author of the 'Clockmaker' has proved the truth of this assertion by his imperfect success in works of a graver nature, such as 'The Bubbles of Canada,' 'Rule and Misrule,' and others, which his prolific pen has given to the world within the law few years. He is more at home when metamorphosed into 'Sam Slick,' that keen judge of 'human natur,' and expounder of things wise and witty; and although there may be too much sameness in the style, still to us his books always seem like old friends with new faces, each character serving only to heighten the charm of the others.

In the work now under consideration, 'Wise Saws and Modern Instances,' we have met with much that is original and commendable. Mr. Slick here comes before us in a new character, that of 'Commissioner to report privately to the President of the United States concerning the Fisheries on the shores of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and P. E. Island.' In this capacity he embarks in a vessel connected with the fishing interest, and his book is a detail of what he 'did, said, and invented,' during the time he was occupied in that department. As usual, he hits pretty hard the foibles and shortcomings of his fellow countrymen, as well as mankind in general; but we have to acknowledge that the satire is too often merited; the sting we feel tells us the lash has touched a sore place, and *Bluenoses*, whom even Mr. Slick avers are not 'potatoe headed at any rate,' have the good sense not to show too plainly how sensibly they feel the castigation.

In the chapter entitled 'Our Colonies and Sailors,' we find a great many home truths that might be studied with advantage by both Colonists and Englishmen, aye and it would be better if the author himself would bear in mind and practice his own preaching. Judge Halliburton is too anxious to forget his Colonial birth and connection, when among the literary and aristocratic of Great Britain, taking occasion to deery his native land as unimportant—'a poor country'—from which he would gladly emigrate were it even as a convict. When one of the very few Nova Scotians that are known beyond the borders of their own land, thus wilfully traduces his birth place, and makes it contemptible in the eyes of Englishmen, why should we expect greater consideration from those who are unacquainted with our character or resources, and incapable of appreciating the virtues of the soil or its inhabitants. There is much truth in the paragraph quoted below, but the author,