

were, from these fountains of knowledge. I have seen, gentlemen, the engine-driver, arrayed, as he was, in the black livery of toil, pore over the biographies of Watt, Brunel and Stephenson, whilst beside him might be observed the bluff honest sailor, now smiling as he perused the humorous pages of Marryat's novels, now blushing with pride as he read, for the first time, of some great deed which his ancestors had done under the leadership of a Drake or a Nelson; whilst not far off sat some pale mechanic in happy converse with Goldsmith or Dickens, Hugh Miller, or Dionysius Lardner, Edgeworth, or Gaskell, all doubtless thinking, with Lord Bacon, that "If the invention of ships was thought noble, which carrieth riches from place to place, and consociateth the most remote regions in participation of their fruits, how much more are letters to be magnified, which, as ships, pass over the vast seas of time, and make distant ages to participate of the wisdom, illumination, and innovation the one of the other." From this pleasing view of the value of learning in the old country, let us turn to the progress it presents to us in this great province; an aspect which will fill the mind of every Englishman with pride, and every true-hearted Canadian with peculiar pleasure. Should we not rejoice when we contemplate the rapid strides with which civilization has of late years advanced amongst us? Should we not feel thankful at the powerful interest which education has awakened in the minds of our governors, and of our fellow-colonists? Nearly half a million per annum is directly expended in the cultivation of the human mind in Canada, and we have but to look around us, to see the many nurseries of talent which our adopted country has generously laid out for us. Scarce had the foot-print of the mocassin been erased from the soil, ere rose up on its traces temples of education—monuments of civilization. Do we not behold the word "civilization" inscribed in glowing letters on the walls of our numerous "colleges," "normal schools," "grammar schools," "law courts," "chambers," and "literary society houses." Is not the word "civilization" graven in characters ineffaceable and imperishable on the beauteous front of