

But we should not blindly close our eyes to the evil that hangs over her, and let the land that should be dear to us as the proudest empire on which the sun ever shone, languish and sink into insignificance. We would like to see her speeding in the path of progress, promoting operative labours, scientific and literary undertakings, not merely existing as the scene for the puppet show of politics, the oyster as it were for which rival factions contend, leaving only the shells for the rightful claimant. Could we see one public work set on foot, one general enterprise for the good of all, giving employment to Nova Scotians, whose 'poverty but not their will' induces them to emigrate, we would be more inclined to believe in the benefits of legislation and the merits of a Government—responsible or otherwise. We do not intend to go into the vexed question of politics, which has sown dissensions not only in communities but in private circles; far be it from us to darken the pages of this Magazine with an echo of the spirit which since its birth may have been one chief cause of the adversity of Nova Scotia. We would enter our protest against its dominion, and urge upon our countrymen to leave the settlement of those paltry questions to the officials whose living it is to scheme and agitate, but farther than this we do not go. We shall believe in the efficacy of political endeavour when we see one great scheme perfected and in operation, giving work to the idle and bread to the indigent. When we see our manufactures protected, our fisheries encouraged, and our press elevated—then and not till then will we think the people of Nova Scotia justified in their zeal for political leaders, or wise in sacrificing their time to ensure them the maintenance of power.

Some months since, in 'The Provincial,' we called attention to our condition, in an article under the caption of 'What can we do for our Country?' urging the intelligent and enterprising among us to come forward, and give the Province the benefit of their intellect and experience. We offered the pages of this Magazine as a channel whereby their views might be made known to our countrymen, thereby urging them to a double duty: the encouragement by literary aid to their only monthly periodical, and the furtherance by their advocacy of the well-being of the people of Nova Scotia. We regret again to say that our efforts have scarcely been seconded. The appeal has not been responded to. The pens that will relax no effort to maintain a political ascendancy, will do nothing in the service of literature, will aid not in the great aim of benefitting their native land. Seriously and in all earnestness we urge upon them once more the importance and necessity of this course. We will refrain from pressing the claims of our infant periodical, struggling for existence among those whose patriotic duty it is to support and foster it, but turn an indifferent ear to its claims. While we gain even a moderate portion of encouragement, we will endeavour as we have hitherto done to direct the taste of our countrymen to subjects of importance connected with their own land, ever offering our pages even to the humblest literary effort: with this hope to encourage us,