

*COTEMPORARY TESTIMONY*, extracted from the *Literary Miscellany*, (a weekly essay, published in *Montreal*, semi-monthly, at 2 1-2 dollars per annum,) of 28th January, 1823, in a letter addressed to the editor, respecting his work, which, says the writer,

"I profess myself an approver of, as its tendency is to improve the understanding, regulate the conduct, and refine the taste of those who are capable of availing themselves of the advantages to be derived from moral and literary subjects. Yet such subjects, I fear, will not meet with a reception and encouragement equal to their deserts, as the people of this country are far from being susceptible of impressions made by the perusal of works of taste. Licentious productions composed of ribaldry, and the offals of Billingsgate, would afford them a more delicious treat than the finest moral and scientific tracts. None ever saw this truth in a clearer light than a descendant of the famed *Scriblerus*, and one who at this day stands unrivalled among the literati of Canada, for great abilities and classical erudition. This extraordinary person, when he commenced his career as Editor of a noted publication, on finding that the dignified style of the moralist and sage would not suit the low humour of the inhabitants of this town, by altering his mode of writing, and making it conformable to their inclination, displayed a rare and happy versatility of genius, which could move with equal grace in the beggarly and sordid rags of *Diogenes*, as in the splendid and courtly attire of *Aristippus*. Such an example, set you by a man of undoubted knowledge and experience, ought to induce you to an imitation of his conduct, and cause you to relinquish the ungrateful task of throwing the children's bread to dogs. So long as you have to deal with pertinacious ignorance, presumption, and conceit, it will be of no avail that your compositions abound with justness of thought, elegance of expression, and grandeur of imagination."

*Gratified as I must feel at the panegyric (really higher than my most sanguine vanity will allow me to believe I deserve,) here bestowed upon me and my work; it is enhanced by the reflection that it was published soon after the presentment of the Quebeckers against me was known in Montreal, & shews that that truly contemptible document, has its due weight with men of sense; that is, just no weight at all.*

L. L. M.

[PRINTED AT BURLINGTON, VERMONT.]