

TRUE NOBILITY.

THE respect that is often paid (by those from whom we would expect better things) to the possessor of wealth, is truly surprising. He may have no other recommendation, and be called great. His faults pass unproved by the devotee of fortune, and although nature may have failed to endow him with common sense, still his vanity is flattered, and his society is courted.

But Heaven is always just in dispensing gifts. How often, among the children of the poor, do we find genius! And, although often checked by surrounding circumstances, still the ability is there; and the very difficulties which they have to surmount stimulates them to action, hence we often see the man who has had to struggle with poverty in his early days, pass rapidly to success and honor, while some of those who sneered at him when a boy, and who depended on their parents' wealth or position to secure them respect, pass quite as rapidly to ruin. Idleness is the great source of evil at the present time. The mind is so constituted that it requires employment, and with some an idea prevails that it is degrading to learn a trade and rely upon their own exertions, consequently their lives are wasted in dissipation; and if at any time their country should require protection, they are not to be depended on, for they are cowardly as useless, and even if willing, totally unfit to endure the hardships of a soldier's life. It has been truly said that beneath a rough exterior often beats a noble heart. And I believe the true nobility of our rising country are found among our enterprising industrious men. I consider it a greater honor to shake the hand of an honest workman than press the jewelled fingers of an *idle dandy*, whatever his claims to fortune may be. Human existence is too brief to permit us to spend any part of it in *idle* pleasures. We should be ambitious to benefit ourselves and others, and always act from a right principle, and show respect to those who deserve it; not to the rich because he is rich. Consider first whether he makes a proper use of the wealth he possesses or not. Much good has been done by assisting some to obtain an education to fit them for a life of usefulness, and they always, with a few exceptions, reflected honor upon the memory of their benefactor; but for the useless there is no place assigned.

A. J. R.

Dundas, Jan. 30, 1869.