

OURSELVES.

INAUSPICIOUS and stormy as are the times in which our frail bark has been launched upon the waters, our most sanguine anticipations could scarcely, under any circumstances, have been more fully realized. Universally welcomed with the generous courtesy of an enlightened community, we blush not to confess how utterly incapable our pen is of properly expressing the deep gratitude with which our heart is charged to overflowing; and if we are less eloquent in our thanks than the occasion calls for, we trust that no one will attribute it to any want of a due appreciation of the favours with which we have been so liberally endowed. Flattering encomiums have, indeed, been showered upon us to an extent so far beyond what we ever dared to hope for, that we sometimes tremble lest the *Garland* should at any time be unworthy of the refreshing and disinterested kindness it has experienced from so many whom we most sincerely esteem.

Not only, however, have we so much for which to be grateful, in the shape of courtesy and cordiality, but in the more tangible form of subscriptions towards the *Garland* it is our design to weave. With respect to this, we can only reiterate our former promise, that no effort shall be wanting to render it worthy of the patronage it has received. We will be forgiven for adverting to the fact that the *Garland* was commenced without a greater number of names on the subscription list, than would cover the expense of paper in the number of copies it was designed to print. Since the publication of the December number nearly two hundred names have been added. Should it continue in half the above proportion for six months, the volume for 1840 will, as far as decorations and embellishments are concerned, be rendered equal to any publication of a similar character on the continent of America.

The cotemporary press next claims from us our warmest acknowledgments. The cordiality with which they have welcomed our entrance upon the stage, has, like a bright ray, pierced the murky clouds with which our path was enveloped, and well seconded the confident and enthusiastic hopes, with which from the beginning we have been buoyed up. We are only the more grateful, that some of them have, in a spirit of candid criticism, gently reprimanded us when we erred. It shall be our study to improve by the lessons of those so well qualified to judge, while we trust that we may without egotism congratulate ourselves that a vast majority, whose judgments are unquestionably of a high order, have met our humble endeavours with an unqualified expression of satisfaction.

We are well aware of the unpropitious character of the season in which we have become candidates for public favour, and had it not been that we some months before the late unhappy revolt, pledged our-

selves that our first number should appear in December, rendering it impossible that we could honorably withdraw our voluntary promise, we would perhaps have deferred the publication of the *Garland* until a less stormy time. We do not say this, as implying any regret for the course which circumstances have led us to pursue; for since the effort has been made, it has received so many marks of approbation that, as we before observed, we only hope the Magazine may in future be worthy of the encouragement and commendation it has received.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THE continuation and conclusion of "*The Vicar's Daughter*," by "E. M. M." will be found in our preceding pages. We are much indebted to the author of this very beautiful tale, for her attention. We have much pleasure in acknowledging the receipt from her, of a new story from "*Aunt Mary's Note Book*," entitled "*The Confided*," the commencement of which will adorn the pages of our February number.

"Robin" we must decline publishing. We would recommend the author to study the earlier poets of England, for, although eschewing all imitation and calculated to destroy the freshness of imagination and idea, we are of opinion, that the purity of his style might be much improved. We are thus particular, for we think we observe in the attempts of our correspondent, a boldness of composition which we should very much regret to see run to waste.

We regret much that the favour of "E. L. C." was received too late for the present number of the *Garland*. We shall, however, in our next, have the satisfaction of publishing the touching and elegant story of "*Josepha of Austria*."

"W. S." will observe that his verses have been attended to.

In accordance with our design of encouraging the productions of native genius, we have inserted one of the pieces transmitted by "G. R."

"JESSIE" is altogether too rapid in style. It lies at the office of the publisher, and will be returned when called for.

The satirical lines by "J. W." are good of their kind, but as they are supposed to contain some allusions of a personal nature, we cannot publish them.

"ALPHA" is too pedantic in style. His contribution is declined.

"N." is of a character which we purpose uniformly to exclude from our pages.

We beg to acknowledge our obligations to correspondents generally, for the favours which we have received, and beg forgiveness of those who remain unnoticed, for in the multiplicity of calls upon our time, we have received some contributions which are yet unread, and upon which we cannot conscientiously form any opinion.