

TO "THE VOICE."

From yonder blue hills, where Chelsea's olden village nestles, there comes a soft, sweet whispering VOICE; and in its tones we hear many, many glowing truths and noble maxims. It speaks to us of science, and in the same breath tells us of faith and morals. At one moment it speaks in the language of lofty prose, at the next it woos the feelings in the liquid measures of the muse. It seems to have one grand object in view, and that object is none other than the culture and education of the people. Splendid are the ends and just are the means employed to attain it.

In the Babel confusion of a thousand tongues, it would seem, at first, that the VOICE would be unheeded and perchance unheard. But, not so; simple though it may be and weak, yet its notes are heard where the thundering of great organs never finds an echo. In its circle and sphere it has a sway and it can do much, very much good both to society and religion, in its own way. This VOICE preaches morals, and dictates monthly a code of citizenship, which, if followed up, would benefit the country, socially, morally, and religiously. With these few remarks upon the mission of the VOICE, we desire to express a few ideas upon a subject of most vital importance to society and fatherland, and we would borrow a few notes of the VOICE to lay those ideas before the public.

The subject is "Citizenship," and it gives rise to many questions, a few of which we will now ask, and then strive to answer them as well as we know how. The first question that presents itself to the mind is this: What is a citizen? and then naturally we would ask, What are the duties of a citizen, and how should he fulfil them?

To this short article we will content ourselves with answering, as briefly as possible, those two questions.

"What is a citizen?" A citizen is a member of the great human family, therefore a member of society, consequently a portion of the state. Though humble his rank may be and lowly his walk in life, yet he is as important to society and to the country as even the highest personage in the land. Society is like a building, each stone in the *fabrique* is necessary in order to sustain the whole. Deep are the foundations, beautiful are the ornaments that adorn and embellish it; still, were we to take away one little stone from the wall, the foundations would fail to preserve the edifice, and the ornaments themselves would come down with a crash.