

## TO THE READERS OF THE GARLAND.

In announcing the termination of another volume, it is a duty, to us as pleasing as it is imperative, gratefully to acknowledge the general favour with which our humble offering has been received. By that favour, the *Garland* has been enabled triumphantly to pass the dreaded ordeal of uncertainty and doubt with which previous failures had invested all attempts to cultivate, in what was believed to be the ungenial soil of Canada, any thing so easily blighted as the tender and delicate plants which blossom in the literary garden. But the soil is not ungenial. Intellectually as well as physically, it possesses all the elements necessary to place it in a respectable station among its contemporaries; and though, for a season, circumstances have retarded, or may retard its progress, the day will come when Canada will not be without its representatives in the great "world of literature."

The *Garland*, it is well known to many, was undertaken more as an experiment, and with the intention of fairly testing the problem, whether such a work could be sustained by resident or native writers, than with any expectation, immediate or remote, of deriving from it pecuniary profit. Indeed, with the discouraging predictions which every where assailed us, and with the fate of all its predecessors before our eyes, it would have been fool-hardy in the extreme to have expected personal advantage from it. But it was also intended that nothing should, after one year, be lost by it, save the pleasant labour of its preparation; and if it yielded not sufficient to support itself, to suffer it to sink quietly into the grave, "unhonoured and unsung." As month after month rolled past, however, it gradually found its way into public favour, until, at the conclusion of the first volume, notwithstanding the unhappy dissensions which then lacerated the country, it was found to have far exceeded the expectations of those who were the least fearful of its ultimate success.

The experiment, then, was so far successful. The press aided it with frequent commendations, and the public generally acknowledged the justice of their criticism. Contributors increased in number, to such a degree, that, instead of being at a loss for original matter, it became a delicate task to select from among the multitude of flowers, those which were rarest and fairest. And thus was one discouraging prediction falsified, and the question affirmatively answered, which originally prompted the establishment of the *Garland*.

Now, at the expiration of four years, (during which time the circle of its friends has gradually widened and increased, insomuch that at the present time it is monthly welcomed even in the remotest parts of Canada,) it becomes our duty to commence, as it were, anew.

With this intention, the next number will begin a new series of the work, which, we hope, will minister to the growing tastes of the community, and, at the same time, be supported by a liberality corresponding with the great extra outlay which has been incurred. If the support which we now anticipate, and which, judging from the past, we are warranted in anticipating, should be extended to our efforts, the result will be the establishment, within the Province, of a periodical, which shall not suffer in comparison with any of its class published on this continent. Already, as regards its contents, there are few who will give it a second place among the purely literary magazines published in America. In its external appearance it has hitherto lagged far behind them. Now, arrangements have been made to obliterate that reproach, and every species of material has been procured by which to impart to it all that is elegant in the productions of our neighbours. In embellishments, indeed, it is more than probable that for a