

THE ITINERANT.

No. VII.

Mr. Editor.

I ought to begin this letter with a long apology for my former silence; but as recrimination is far more grateful to the feelings of "frail man" than concession, I shall commence with it. How Mr. Editor did you happen to title the papers of the Itinerant both in your Magazine for July and August, No. IV? Many people judging of the value of writings by their quantity, may from this blunder think less of the Itinerant than they otherwise would; conceiving he had written only six letters instead of seven.* I request this error may be corrected by the present epistle, blazing forth its title in all the majesty of Capital letters and Roman Numerals. "The Itinerant VII." Having gone this far in the way of attack, for I always like to commence the fight, (an old soldier of my acquaintance used to say the "first blow was half the battle;" and a worthy friend yoked to what a Yankee would call a *Termagantish* woman had the well known phrase, "the first word in scolding" &c. at his finger ends) I now like an able lawyer proceed to the minor duty of explanation. In plain truth I have been engaged and absent from the Canadas, on another journey of which you may hear something hereafter. But to proceed. All my endeavours to dip deeper into the secrets of the lumber trade, were unavailing, and I was obliged to rest satisfied for the present with what information I had got. But although failing to remove the veil which surrounded the practical part of the business, I was more successful in learning what may be called its theoretical branches or rather its general effect upon the country.

Our American friends from that shrewd penetrating quality peculiar to their country, learned from what remarks had dropped from the Major, that he was their ally in the argument, and dexterously changed the tone of detail in which they were proceeding, and which Mr. S. had abruptly broken, to an attack upon him in return. In this the intelligence of the American character broke forth. Although their limited education did not admit of their defending their position on logical principles, and by the effort of reasoning; the speaker (which duty was chiefly confined to one of them) had remarked that to palliate the malpractices of any procedure is not the readiest way to vindicate its propriety; hence he said nothing in defence of the tendency of the lumber trade, to render those engaged in it immoral characters, nor did he attempt to defend their practice of helping themselves to lumber, wherever they could find it, but started the

* The Itinerant will see we have attended to his advice. The intimate connection of the subject in the two papers marked No. 4, led us to believe the latter was only a continuation of the former; as both were received at the same time. We shall endeavour to avoid a similar error in future, and if Mr. Itinerant's lucubrations reach us regularly give one in each number as he desires. The error will be corrected in the index to the volume.—*Edit.*