

*Montreal, 25th March, 1824.*

MR. SCRIBBLER,

As I understand you are a firm and staunch friend and admirer of the manly virtues, I trust you will not hesitate to devote a small portion of your useful pages, when opportunity offers, to the delineation of dandyism and puppyism.

Nowadays, alas! it is the erroneous opinion of most of our young men, that frippery, an appearance of carelessness, and an affected look of consequence, will impose upon the understanding of plain men, like you and I. At times you may see some of these "contemptibles," with quizzing glasses dangling at their breasts, now and then taking a look at people, and pretending to be short-sighted. These complicated follies have made greater progress than, perhaps, you are aware of. They have even fixed themselves in the breasts of some of our little dealers and chapmen. A young man, (a merchant, forsooth!) whose stock in trade, I believe, an old boar-cat in harness might carry away in a dogcart, although over his door may be seen his sounding name with the strengthening addition of Co. to set him off, may be often seen dashing about the markets, courthouse, and other public places, mimicking such characters as he fancies give the ton to Montreal. This creature of vanity sometimes pretends to stride, though in reality he does it like a taylor taking up his goose, to make us believe him to be a retired cavalry-officer, or Waterloo-man. At other times, for he acts different characters, you would take him to be a spouter from some private barn-theatre, who had taken to his heels, fearing the rogue and vagabond act should be put in force against him.