

remain as colonists; you are causing us a greater expenditure than we can afford. We cannot support two Irelands. It is time to give you *your independence*." This book, whatever its reception may be, will at least circulate among all my personal friends in England, which is the best evidence I can give of my conviction of the existence of this feeling; for by proclaiming it in the presence of those by whom I assert that it is entertained, I afford them an opportunity of repudiating it, if unfounded. Let us not, therefore, be led astray by any of those theories, however plausible and captivating they may appear to be, that are now advocated with such intemperate heat in Canada. Nova Scotia never was in so flourishing a condition as it is at present; its trade is enlarging, its agriculture improving, and its population increasing most rapidly; while the character of its merchants, for honourable and upright dealing, stands higher than that of any other community on the whole American continent. The topic of politics, unfortunately, engrosses too much attention everywhere, to the exclusion of many indispensable duties. Party men are apt to magnify its importance for their own purposes, and to extol it as a panacea for all the ills of life; but experience teaches us that the happiness of every country depends upon the character of its people, rather than the form of its government. Why, asks the philosophical Goldsmith, after an attentive examination of many of the European states,

"Why have I stray'd from pleasure and repose,
To seek a good each government bestows?
How small, of all that human hearts endure,
That part which laws or kings can cause or cure!"

Let us keep out of the vortex of political excitement, learn how to value the blessings we enjoy, and study how we