

LITERARY NOTICES.

THE CANADIAN JOURNAL.—We have received the October number of this periodical, the principal portion of which is devoted to a review and critique of the Provincial Agricultural Show, illustrated with woodcuts of the show grounds, &c. As soon as time and space will allow, we shall devote a page or two to an analysis of the contents of the published numbers of this journal; in the mean time, we would suggest to the Editor the propriety, when he attempts a criticism, of being certain of his ground, and then to state his objections openly and boldly; this “damning with faint praise” is “not the thing.” We have been led into these remarks by the following passage in his notice of the Fine Arts department of the exhibition:—

“Wood-cutting and engraving on copper and steel were also very inadequately represented, and if the artists in these departments desire to secure to themselves the growing demand for works of the kind in Canada, a little more exertion is desirable. Most of the wood-cuts have been repeatedly exhibited before—the new ones being chiefly the maps and illustrations of Smith’s Canada, exhibited by Mr. McLear, are well known, and scarcely do justice to the state of the art in Toronto, however fairly they represent the existing demand.”

Now, we can state, upon “the best authority,” that the maps contained in “Smith’s Canada” were all engraved by Messrs. Sherman & Smith—the parties who engraved Bouchette’s large map of the British Provinces—who are universally admitted to be the *first* map engravers in the city of New York. The Vignette Title, the only other illustration in the work, was also engraved by one of the best engravers on steel in the same city. Although the Editor of the *Canadian Journal* thinks these engravings “scarcely do justice to the state of the art in Toronto,” we can assure him that could they have been *as well* executed here, many hundreds of pounds would have been retained in the province, which were unavoidably sent out of it within a very brief period: and both authors and publishers would have been saved a vast amount of inconvenience. We may add, that “Smith’s Canada” contains no *wood-cuts*, as the notice quoted above would lead persons to suppose.

BLANKETS.—Blankets took their name from one Thomas Blanquet, (or Blonquet.) who established the first manufactory for this comfortable article at Bristol, about the year 1340.

THE EDUCATION OF A GENTLEMAN.

The undue preference long given to Greek and Roman literature in education is rapidly declining, and in this we recognise the indisputable progress of reason. From time to time, however, attempts are made by the patrons of these studies to maintain their importance; and among the numerous fallacies by which they are defended, one of the latest has been the argument that Greek and Roman literature constitutes the true education of a gentleman. It is said that the ancient classics not only improve the memory, expand the intellect, and sharpen the judgment, but that they communicate to the mind that nameless grace—that sympathy with all that is delicate and exalted—that high-toned dignity and vigor which must be acquired by all those individuals of humble parentage, who, by the exercise of their talents and their virtues, aspire to obtain an exalted station. Seminaries for Greek and Latin, therefore, it is said, ought to be supported as the places in which embryo gentlemen may meet and associate with embryo gentlemen, while their minds are yet delicate and their manners uncontaminated, that they may preserve their quality pure. They ought to be maintained also, it is added, by parents in the middle ranks, whose breasts are fired by a laudable ambition of promoting the rise of their children in the world; because in such schools only can they obtain access to those examples of noble bearing, and realise that refinement, tact and mental delicacy which they must possess before they can reach the summit of social honour.

This argument is a grand appeal to the vanity and the ignorance of those to whom it is addressed. We yield to no class of educationists in our estimate of the value of acuteness and vigour of mind, combined with taste, delicacy and refinement of manners; but we differ widely from the patrons of ancient literature in our estimate of the best means of imbuing the youthful mind with these qualities. We regard the qualities themselves as the results of two causes—First, the decided ascendancy of the moral feelings over the lower passions of our nature; and, secondly, the vigorous activity of a well-trained and truly enlightened intellect.

The basis of all real refinement lies in pure and generous affections, just and upright sentiments; with a lively sensibility to the intrinsic excellence of beauty and grace, both physical and mental, wherever these exist. Now, we humbly, yet confidently, maintain, that the pages of classic literature are not those in which these dispositions are presented in their strongest colours and most inviting forms to youthful minds, or in a way calculated to engage their sympathies, captivate their imaginations, or subdue their understandings in their favour. On the contrary, many ancient works are remarkable for the indelicacy of their subjects—veiled only occasionally by brilliancy of fancy and playfulness of wit, and thereby rendered more deleterious and seductive to the youthful mind; for the base selfishness of their heroes; for the profligacy of their