

general reader. Perhaps it may be permissible to note as one of the most essential characteristics of European scientific journals that they recognise no such class of readers. No communication can be too minute, technical, or abstruse for them, so long as it involves any element of scientific truth; and we trust to have the concurrence of all our readers in our purpose to open the pages of this Journal to strictly scientific communications, however unattractive the form may be in which they are presented.

In such departments as Geology and Mineralogy, Philology, Ethnology, Chemistry, or Mathematics, if this Journal does not prove an altogether premature and untimely birth, occasional communications must be looked for in a form appreciable only by a very limited class of its readers. Such communications, however, we have rather to fear than to hope, will be few; and the greatest amount of success which can now be anticipated, is to sow a few of the first seeds for a future harvest of science. In so doing it may be permitted to one Provincial journal to cater for something higher than popular gratification. Nevertheless it will be seen that our aim is essentially practical, and while we seek rather to make the Journal useful than popular, the latter element will not be overlooked. Nor need it be so. Science has also its popular aspects, and literary criticism may legitimately embrace much which has charms for a variety of tastes. Enquiries into the varied resources and the mineral wealth of the country, and reports of the progress of the great engineering works of the Province must possess attractions for a still greater number. The disclosures of Geology include points appreciable by all as of the highest practical importance. Chemistry eliminates from recondite processes simplifications in the productions of the commonest manufactures, and discovers products of great commercial value. And while those enquiries yield such returns, the students of Natural Philosophy, Agricultural Science, and Natural History, have in each of their departments fields of investigation which cannot fail, when zealously explored, to contribute results of widely varied interest.

By and by, we doubt not, Canada will be able to maintain a literature which shall embrace independent representatives in each department of knowledge. But the time for such a division of labour lies still in the future; and meanwhile the conductors of the "Canadian Journal" must ask equally for the charitable judgment of the scientific and of the popular reader. Specially would they crave the generous forbearance of the men of science of Europe, among whom it is hoped that those communications may be received in exchange for the scientific records of their long matured labours, and of the