

wishing to acknowledge all literary discrepancy and imperfection which may be found on undergoing a severe criticism, to which even the smallest and most humble production is likely to be subjected : being aware that in this age of letters, the maintenance of any great amount of independence of thought and language, with perspicuity little at fault, either in plain or poetical language, is a task not easily executed, especially by the comparatively unpractised. But in such event, he trusts that whatever credit may be due in that respect, will be awarded in the same degree that the writer has endeavoured honestly to merit.

Conciseness, or the third feature professed to be aimed at, is, in his opinion, blameless, with respect to space at least,—all his pieces being short, and the catalogue of subjects large for so small a volume. In an era like the present, when light and easy reading is so much esteemed, poems of great length on grave subjects are not likely to receive from general or casual readers the amount of careful attention which, perhaps, they deserve ; and pass unappreciated, if not unnoticed. Every writer intends that his books and articles shall be read ; and his labor in thought and writing is a success or a failure in the ratio as they are read or slighted. In the expression of ideas, he has used as few words as possible ; but whether comprehensiveness or redundancy is the most distinctive quality, he is willing to submit to those who are more competent to judge than himself.

GEORGE FROST.