

lating to, or connected with the political arena of the day, is where (most likely) the fault will be found of being too free with names of persons, and where my want of decorum will be easily discerned; but I hope to find a way out in this wise, viz: The names are those of great political luminaries, whose time is almost altogether taken up with great questions of state, and who will not likely have time to spare to peruse the book into which their names have been placed without authority or permission; in case their eyes should chance to scan its contents, and they find anything therein contained which does not agree with their political faith, I hope my humble position in life will be a fitting security against any revengeful thoughts that may cross their brain. The rest of my book is composed of serious, sentimental, panegyric and humorous pieces, and I place them before you uncereemoniously, in a plain and simple manner, having no desire to gain a living or make money with it, only hoping to clear myself and friends in the effort, and to find the book over which I have passed many anxious and pleasant hours, not a cause of obstruction or a detriment to me. If, beyond that, I shall have succeeded in helping any of my fellow travellers through this vale of woe to a buoyant and pleasant hour, or assisted them in forming happy ideas, I will consider myself well repaid. As near as I can recall, (where it is necessary,) I will give you the origin of different pieces at their heading, to assist you in catching the meaning. Every poem in my book (except where another name is given or explained beforehand) can be depended on as purely and entirely of my own composing. I should be sorry if any doubts as to the originality of my poems were entertained, and I here invite any of the readers of