

THE IMPARTIAL.

A JOURNAL LITERARY, SCIENTIFIC, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL.

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PROSPECTUS.

THE Publication of another Journal in a place which has so recently witnessed the languid existence, the expiring efforts and final dissolution of a similar work, will probably appear a hazardous and even a rash enterprise. Notwithstanding the Editors of the Impartial do not despair of success, as they propose publishing this Journal both in French and English. They do not conceal from themselves the numerous difficulties to be met with in the difficult and thorny path, they are about to enter, they had not even dared to hazard it, but for the encouragement offered by persons of the first respectability in this village and its environs, and under their auspices, the Editors courageously commence their work, promising to make every effort to breye and surmount the unpleasant obstacles that shall obstruct their career.

It seems that circumstances render the emission of a journal destined to divert the public mind, fatigued from intense meditation, upon the affairs of the times, is necessary; the Impartial will then be sovelly destined for the public utility, and amusement. It will sketches of the labours of scientific societies, extracts from the most interesting works published in England, France, Germany and Italy, on the Sciences, Arts, History, Literature, Morality, Industry &c. It will treat on Agriculture and Commercial Educations; It will give a summary of the most interesting and authentic foreigners.

The Editors will thankfully receive the articles which their Subscribers shall think proper to send them, and which treat on the above mentioned subjects.

An exact review of the Journals published in Canada, will enable the Editors to offer to their readers any literary articles, which may appear in them, as also the cases pleaded before the tribunals in both hemispheres, which by the interest or any other reason shall deserve to be presented to the Public.

From propriety as well as inclination the Editors will not admit into their columns any of those virulent attacks, which, under a pretexte of the public good, a love of humanity &c. serves but too often to spread abroad the venom with which personal animosity fills some hearts.

They will scrupulously avoid publishing any thing that might be detrimental to religion or morality.

With respect to what is termed the political character of a journal the Editors trust that the title of impartial which they have

will be entirely neutral: it will report the debates of the colonial parliament and the news both of the interior and exterior which are of a nature to prove interesting to the inhabitants of the contry.

Sincere friend to Canada, the Editors leave to others the care of discussing its interests. their motto will be *Utility, Instruction, amusement* and they will have accomplished their object if they succeed in imparting a portion of instruction to some, amusement to others after their labors, and in obtaining a smile from beauty by the recital of some new and lively anecdote.

The wish of the Editors was to have issued their Journal twice a week, but the plan they have adopted of publishing it in both languages and other circumstance have determined them to bring it out but once each week; it least in the commencement: if later, the patronage afforded by subscribers be such as they solicit and hope for, they will hasten to answer to it by doubling the publication.

The Impartial will be published every Thursday, beginning from the second Thursday of november next, the price of subscription will be 15 shillings currency per year, payable every; the commencement being attended with considerable expence the proprietors are under the necessity demanding the first quarters payment on delivery of the second or third number.

LAPRAIRIE, November 2, 1834.

RESPECTABILITY.

Respectability! mysterious ward! indefinite term! phantom! who will presume to say authoritatively what thou art? What metaphysician or mental chemist will analyze thee, and expound to the world the curious substances or essences of which thou art composed: Where is the lexicographer gifted with powers, subtil and fine as the spider's thread, to define thee accurately—satisfactorily—so that the general voice shall cry aloud "that is the meaning of the word;" and every individual whisper to his neighbor, "that was my meaning?" As for the explanations of the existing race of dictionaries, they are mere evasions of the question.

About the boldest and most decided opinion concerning this that I am acquainted with, was that given by a witness in a swindling transaction, who, on being asked the judge his reason for affirming that the defendant was a respectable man, replied, "that he kept a gig." There is some thing in the unhesitating and undoubting confidence of the answer, that carries weight with it. The witness was well acquainted with the defendant's moral obliquities; he knew that he had long been worthy the attention of the laws of his contry; he knew, moreover, that he was only enabled to maintain this two-wheeled vehicle by a constant infringement of the right of meum and tuum; he knew, in short, that he was rich by good management, and unchanged by good luck; but still, there was no getting over the simple fact—he kept his gig; and so long as he did keep it, nothing could impugn his respectability in the mind of the witness. Yet, before we unthinkingly laugh at this man's tenacious adherence to his beau ideal of respectability, let us cautiously examine our own thoughts on the subject. A gig is respectable. A carriage may be dashing—a pha-

eton stylish—a carriage genteel, lofty, magnificent—but a gig is respectable par excellence. Yet, of itself, and independent of other circumstances, it does not wholly and safely constitute respectability, and here lies the difficulty. It is not all in all—"there's the rub," or the question might be settled. Besides, its condition must be looked to. It may be badly lined and worse painted; the shafts and wheels may be in ill-condition; it may, in fact, have a disreputable appearance rather than otherwise; it may be second-hand. All these apparently trivial, but in reality essential circumstances, are to be taken into account before we can definitively pronounce upon the respectability of the possessor; and it behoves us to be cautious; for, to a nice mind, ardently engaged in the pursuit of truth, a hair-breadth distinction is found, at times, more obstinately irreconcilable than a more manifest discrepancy.

Respectability! All pervading power! like light and life, thou art every where; or, at the least, wherever civilization is, there art thou to be found, despotically ruling the minds of men of every grade and station, from the doctor to the dusman—from the lawyer to the laborer. But of all the devotees none, I think, worship thee with the fervor—the intensesness of shopkeepers and small tradesmen. Thou art their idol—their oracle! They consult thee in all they do or say, or in whatever in any hope appertains to them. Thou art ever uppermost in their thoughts, and there is no sacrifice too great for them to make—no deprivation too severe for them to endure, rather than to be banished either in reality, or in the opinion of the world, from thy presence. But thought the face of people are more peculiarly thine own, millions of others put in their claim of kindred to thee on some trivial pretext or other. Thou hast more distant relations than a Scotchman likely to do well in the world, even though his name be Campbell. And it is curious to mark the different ways in which thy multitudinous kith and kin infer an connection. Some are respectable by descent, some by dress, some by the situation of the dwellings in which they have temporarily located themselves. A man in very low circumstances, if he has no better claim, is consanguineous on the strength of a hat with a brim, or a stocking without a hole—"two precious items in a poor man's eye;" the spruce mechanic's dapper coat, or his wife's silk gown, leave no doubt in his own eyes at least, how closely he is allied; the small tradesman's snug house, tiny flower-spot before the door, and neat green railings, distinctly mark him for thine own; while the more aristocratical storekeeper in the wholesale or large retail way, getting above business, successful ship-brokers, cotton-speculators, lottery-office keepers, and other anomalies, forgetful of all thou hast done for them, look above thee, and creep into the back-ranks of gentility and fashion, where they remain neither ish nor flesh—genteel in their own estimation, simply respectable in that of their neighbors.

Some men neglect their personal appearance, and concentrate their claims to respectability in a brass knocker, a plante with their name engraved thereon, venetian blinds, or any other pretty additament to their domiciles; others are respectable by virtue of their connexions—others by going to the private boxes at the theatre—others by a pew next the parson at church; others by the people they visit; others by having every thing in season. Yet, difficult as it is for the mind of man to comprehend all these things, and to decide properly and justly, the women, taking advantage of their superior powers of penetration, and delicacy of discrimination, divide and subdivide respectability as easily as quicksilver. They have their "respectable sort of people—very respectable—highly respectable—extremely respectable—most respectable," which makes the thing about as difficult to understand or explain, as political economy, or electro-magnetism. Indeed there are some men otherwise inefficient in intellect, who have even a glimmering of light upon the subject. Think of the more than Egyptian darkness of Robert Burns, for instance—mark his heresies.

TO BE CONTINUED.