

THE LANTERN

VOL. 1. MONTREAL, MARCH 21st, 1848. No. 2.

To the Courteous Reader

As will be seen from our pages, the spirits in our Lantern still burn brightly.

Since our last issue was in the hands of the printer, several falls of snow have taken place, together with some other occurrences of minor importance, such as the election of a gentleman ironically termed speaker, because he speaks less than any other individual in the Assembly. The funeral obsequies of the old and the introduction to the world of the new Ministry, which latter appears to be a promising youth and likely to be a great comfort to his harassed parent, who was brought to the verge of ruin, by the misconduct of his deceased brother. He has all the experience of an old head on young shoulders, and the soul which animates him, having for the last four years been transmigrating among the inferior animals such as the Hyena, the Bat and the Bull Frog, will now endeavour by good conduct, to avoid in future such a degrading metempsychosis. We will now leave him for a fortnight, trusting, that he may be a good boy, and knowing, that he will take care of himself, not to mention relations and friends.

The convex glass of our double-refracting humbug-penetrating lantern, actually grew dim, when the discriminating duty, on imported widows was promulgated. After profound deliberation we came to the conclusion, that the ex-minister who proposed it, had through the recent catastrophe become soured to the world and proposed the measure in a fit of spleen at the species; how is he to manage in a case where a woman, embarks a wife, and arrives on our shores a sorrowing widow, is he to take advantage of the judgment of God in this case, to exact tribute; we hope not.

But perhaps we mistake the motives of the worthy ex-minister, he may be actuated by a laudable desire, to protect the home made article, very good! but in our opinion, Free Trade ought to be the order of the day and our Factories in Griffintown and the Emigrant sheds, are now in such a thriving state, as to defy competition. If this tax be instituted, an addition to the protective force will be necessary, of course entailing additional expense on the already almost bankrupt province; on the arrival of each Emigrant ship, an officer, will have to search the trunks of the passengers, to see, that no lurking widows be buried beneath the relays of Cor-de-roys, notwithstanding which widow smuggling will be carried on, and no mistake, so says our Magician and we believe him.

The Municipal elections, strange to say, passed off without effecting the lumbering interest in the slightest degree, timber being in no demand.

Among the lucky candidates, we at last see our respected townsman Mr. Smith, it is but fair he should at length succeed, for his aspirations to municipal distinction have been as constantly directed in the now successful direction, as is the needle to the Pole, we wish him much joy of it, and hope it may suit him as well as he fits others.

Seely the swindler is reported dead, though the possessor of sundry lottery tickets, our Magician forgives him, may he rest in peace.

We have been induced to reduce the price of our paper by several cogent reasons, some of which we shall give. Firstly,—several of the carrier boys burst their breeches pockets by the reptition of copper coin under which they suffered, while but a few numbers of the paper were sold by them. In charity to these poor little individuals, we hope that our patrons will be induced to buy five copies each, and thus be enabled to make their payments in silver. Secondly,—A large amount of copper currency has, by these means, been withdrawn from circulation, and several parties have sent us threatening messages, complaining of our wickedness in causing this scarcity. The sale of marbles and tops have been surprisingly diminished from this cause. Thirdly,—We wish all classes to benefit by the extended information to be gleaned from our pages. Ours will serve the purpose to which Diogenes applied his Lantern: our patrons will find it serviceable in daylight, wherewith to find an honest man. In the words of a famous naval character, "when found" they will please "take a note of" and report to us. Under the new regime. The man who has no "Lantern" in his "house" is fit for treasons, stratagems and spoils.

Medical Intelligence.

The river is still very low, and unable to rise, though the cold applications we mentioned in our last have some what strengthened it. Yet its constitution, naturally consumptive, must very shortly break up.

Tournaquet Lodge, Grimly
March 13th, 1848.

Dear Magician O' the Lantern,

Permit me my dear fellow to offer you my most sincere congratulations on your exceedingly luminous