

THE CALLIOPE.

TUESDAY, MAY 24.

We should be as careful of our words, as our actions; and as far from speaking, as from doing ill.

All small towns are noted for scandal. Ours far from being an exception to this rule, might without injustice to others, or usurping a position which did not rightfully belong to her, take her stand at the head of them in that regard. I have frequently heard the victims of our merciless scourges with contracted brows, compressed teeth and deep curses call, our otherwise pleasant city, a foul hole, from which nothing but the poisonous exhalations of scandal rise, shocking the nostrils of offending and unoffending indiscriminately. And we must confess, on account of a bitter experience, that we almost concur in this judgment; we have however sufficient charity remaining to make a few allowances; we take into consideration the weakness of human nature, the upper emptiness of many of the propagators, &c. Our scandal mongers, (in common with all others we suppose) male and female, take a sort of diabolical delight in tearing to shreds the characters of all, upon which they can have the least cause for seizing. No mercy need be expected at their hands, the hapless wight who falls into them, must give himself over to despair or indifference without much hope of ever being able again to restore his cruelly lacerated character. There are some, undoubtedly, who by their immoral conduct deserve to have their names spread abroad loaded with disgrace, in order that others may shun them; but that does not excuse in the least the unchristian propensity of

those who seize with avidity upon every trivial circumstance and exaggerate it into a serious offence without any other object apparently but that of having the pleasure of striking a painful or fatal blow at the characters of some of their fellow citizens, and these often intimate acquaintances. If many were but aware of the injury they caused, we feel confident that consideration if nothing else, would lead them to restrain, if not wholly suppress their uncharitable tendency. We ourselves have seen a first offender, reluctantly led into his first deviation from the path of rectitude, and who would in all likelihood never have repeated it, so exasperated at the reports circulated regarding him, as to rush deeper into the evil, from which different treatment might have drawn him, declaring that he was now perfectly indifferent as to what was said about him. It is wonderful the power, which the individuals under consideration possess of amplifying their invention in matters relating to scandal is truly amazing; how it is to be regretted that some were not so prolific in matters which more nearly concern themselves.

Some author (I forget his name) says: "No quality is more surely a concomitant of the highest order of genius than its *expansive* character." To what conclusion does the above lead us? Why, that we have in our midst geniuses "of the highest order," who constantly display the *expansive* powers of their intellects at the cost of the *contraction* of the good repute of others. Small cost in their eyes. Our geniuses surely belong to the class of "evil genii" which plays so important a part in the "Arabian nights."