

“ ————— Our human ker.  
 “ Reaches too far, since all that we behold  
 “ Is but the havoc of wide waning time,  
 “ Or what he soon will spoil.”

A melancholy feeling overspreads the mind when it is left to reflect on the instability of all that is terrestrial, yet it points our minds to higher and nobler pursuits, not to be affected by the changes of time.

The history of our own country, however, claims our especial study. Canada is yet too young a country to have a written history, though it is not for want of sufficient materials of deep and varied interest for such a work. But the task to give those incidents a regular form, if yet attempted, has not been accomplished. There is, however, in the history of the British empire, much to study, and much that particularly affects this young branch of the parent tree. The rise and progress of her intelligence, of arts and sciences, her extensive commerce, her immense power and wealth, and her colonial possessions in every part of the globe, are all subjects well worthy our attention and investigation.

To youth—it is necessary for the proper fulfilment of the duties they owe society, that they should attentively study history, particularly that of their own country. In all free states, when a certain proportion of the civil power is vested in the mass of the people, a knowledge of history is essential to its due exercise.

By the study of history, I do not wish to be understood to mean mere Chronology—a recollection of facts and dates without any enquiry into causes and effect. The study of history must consist in a careful investigation of the causes which produced the various changes and revolutions which mark the history of the past world, the effects of particular laws and institutions on the morals of communities, and what influence certain manners and customs peculiar to a nation may have on the happiness of its people. Such are some of

the many questions that arise out of this study, and their solution must ever be beneficial to the mind of the student.

In conclusion, this is a study open to all: it requires no extensive learning which would make it open only to one class. All its advantages are within the reach of the humble as well as the more wealthy, while no study can in a greater degree expand the nerve and strengthen the mind, and at the same time produce equal interest and pleasure. J. M.

Toronto, April 20, 1836.

*To the Editor of the Youth's Monitor.*

ON GOOD HUMOUR.

Good Humour only teaches charms to last,  
 Still makes new conquests and maintains the past.  
 Pope.

Inasmuch as the gay season of nature, in which every natural object teems with animation, life and cheerfulness, is rapidly approaching, I think it would not be amiss to communicate through your very interesting work, to the youths of our country into whose hands it may fall, a few observations on Good Humour. In the natural world, the year is divided into several distinct portions—each division is equally necessary to carry on its regular operations—and all these changes are found necessary to render the soil productive and to give variety and pleasure to the mind of man; for the one continued monotonous season if deprived of these changes would be irksome and injurious, and would render an alteration of the present constitution of man indispensably necessary.

In the dreary months of winter, nature is clad with a melancholy gloom, and the general sadness of creation is often found depressive to the animal spirits; but if this season was destined to be perpetual how dismal and insupportable would existence be!—So, in the moral world it becomes necessary that there should be a regular succession of chan-