

THE
British American Journal.

MONTREAL, JANUARY, 1860.

TO OUR READERS.

WITH the auspicious epoch of the commencement of another year, the **BRITISH AMERICAN JOURNAL** enters upon a new phase of its existence with cheering prospects of a vigorous and healthy future. Into the causes which have conspired to interrupt its course, as well as that of every succeeding attempt of a like nature, it is not our present purpose to enquire. Nevertheless the broad fact lies before us, that the Medical Profession, one, which in the British American Provinces, may almost count its numbers by thousands, is the only one which has not supported effectually its own periodical. And when we consider the value of such a medium of communication to such a Profession—to advocate its wants, to diffuse its improvements and discoveries, to furnish from time to time, an instructive epitome of all that transpires in the medical world, we cannot doubt that this, our renewed effort, will command sufficient support to ensure prosperity and length of days, provided always that the editorial duties are discharged with fidelity and singleness of purpose.

It is scarcely necessary in such an undertaking as the present, to state at length the nature of its claims upon general support. In the case of political journals it is otherwise. The shades of political opinion which characterize the various parties into which the community is divided, demand from the journalist who enters the arena of politics, an explicit statement of his views. But the oneness of sentiment, which distinguishes scientific pursuits, renders such a proceeding on our part unnecessary. We deem it right, however, to state that we have no purpose to serve apart from the highest good of our Profession; that we desire to pursue a perfectly independent course, unfettered by any feelings of partizanship whatever; that our grand object is to diffuse among the scattered members of the Profession in these vast Provinces, as large an amount of sound practical information as we may be able to command, furnishing at the same time a permanent record for the observations and experience of every practitioner, be the *locale* of his labours ever so distant,—the sphere of his action limited or enlarged; and finally to elevate and purify, to the utmost of our ability, the character of the Profession.

Such being our purpose, such the principles which actuate us, may we not hope to contribute to the improvement of science in these British Colonies; to prove to our brethren of distant countries, that we are not laggards in the common race for distinction and usefulness; and to demonstrate, that we are especially