

# THE SCRIBBLER.

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*Est quidem vera lex, recta ratio, natura congruens, diffusa in omnes, constans, sempiterna.* CICERO.

True law is nothing but right reason, consonant to nature, intuitive in all, constantly the same.

"A piece of crack'd gold ever will weigh down  
Silver that's whole."—

FLETCHER—*Custom of the country.*

*Pan curat oves, oviumque magistros.*

VIRGIL.

Both silly sheep and shepherds are  
Of rural Pan the watchful care.

N. B. In the last number in a note, page 285, reference is made to a motto allusive to the verses by C. A. intended to have been prefixed, but which was, by mistake, omitted; it is this.

*Ipsa memor precepta canam; Celabitur Auctor.*

HORACE.

The doctrine's good and ought to be reveal'd,  
Altho' the Author will remain conceal'd.

TRIAL FOR LIBEL, *Abstract of, continued.*

"The liberty of a moral agent, in the use of every other instrument" (than the press,) "is, as has been shewn, co-extensive with good motive and justifiable end; the question therefore resolves itself into this—Is it possible, that in a free country, under a constitution which declares the liberty of the press is essential to the security of freedom, and that it ought not to be restrained—is it possible that it is not the right of every citizen to use the press for a good motive and a justifiable end?"

"If this be, as I think, incontrovertible; if, necessarily, ev-

ery citizen has such a right, then, if called in question for such exercise of right, has he not also consequently, a right to prove the goodness of the motive and the justifiableness of the end? Can the law or constitution, give a right to use an instrument for a particular purpose, or under a specific modification, and deny the right of proving that it was used for that purpose, or under that specific modification?

“If thus he have a right to prove the motive and end, must he not have a right also to prove it according to its nature? That is to say, if, from its nature, the proof to be adduced be a matter of fact, can it be doubted that he has a right to prove it as a matter of fact, before that jurisdiction, which, under our constitution, has the only cognizance of matters of fact—the jury?

“Can it be questioned that motive,—end—intent, are in their nature matters of fact? Are they any thing else than qualities of the act of a moral agent? And if the act of such agent be a fact, can the qualities which inhere in it, and are constituent parts of its nature, be any thing else than facts? If facts, are they not cognizable by a jury, and subject of (to) proof, like other facts?

“In the opinion of this court this right is as inherent in every citizen under our constitution, and a court of justice have no more right to deny to a person charged with a malicious use of the press the liberty to shew that its use was, in the particular case, for a good motive and a justifiable end, than it has a right to deny to a man indicted for murder, the liberty to shew that he gave the blow for a purpose which the law justifies. Both these liberties lie within the same reason, and are founded on that fundamental and universal law of moral nature, according to which, guilt or innocence in a moral agent, is solely qualified by motive or intent.”

After some observations as to the repugnancy of the alleged principles of the English common law in this respect, with the constitution of Massachusetts, in the course of which, it is said:

“The great reason, on which English courts declare the common law excludes the truth in these cases is, that the law punishes publications of a libellous character, on account of their public mischief; that is, of their tendency to produce breaches of the peace;”

Which proposition I have endeavoured, in my

No. 82, to shew the falsity of; the court proceeded :

“Touching the three principles, by the assumption of which English courts of common law have, as has been stated, effected the withdrawing from the jury, the jurisdiction of intent and tendency in cases of libel, and on that raised the doctrine of the inadmissibility, in such cases of the truth in evidence;—the first is—that criminality in publications depends upon their general tendency, and not upon the publisher’s particular intention.” Now this, in the apprehension of this court, is false in nature.

‘In the nature of things, the only foundation of criminality, in a moral agent, is—*intention*. By which is meant—will to do either a particular mischief, or some general mischief.

“If any act of a moral agent be of such a nature as to have, at one and the same time, a particular tendency, and a general tendency, the law often, and justly, considers such act as a crime, because of the mischievous nature of its general tendency, although the particular tendency may have been innocent.

“Thus, if A. ride a horse, accustomed to strike with his heels, into a crowd, and a man be killed by him, it may be murder, or manslaughter in A., according to circumstances. A crime of some kind it will be. Why? Because, although the particular intention of A. might have been innocent, yet he, having been guilty of an act of general mischievous tendency, and the only evidence, in such case, of his general intent being the nature and general tendency of the act, the law, which is only elevated reason, admits, and justly, the general mischievous tendency of the act, as evidence of a general mischievous intent. But here, as in nature, criminality consists in the intent. Tendency is the evidence of that intent.

“But this doctrine would not answer the purpose of English courts of justice, because intent being a fact, the jurisdiction of the question, as a fact, would be transferred to the jury, which it was the purpose of the court to keep in their own hands. Therefore nature was contradicted; criminality was made to depend upon the tendency of the act, instead of the intent. It was now only necessary to make the tendency of the act, a question of law and the magic circle was completed, the jury excluded from the cognizance of the question, and the whole power vested in the court.

“Accordingly, this is the second principle adopted by English courts of justice. That the tendency of the publication is a question of law; and, of consequence to be decided by

the court, and not by the jury. Now this also is false in point of fact.

"Tendency, in the nature of things, is a fact, whether it be physical or moral. What is tendency? It is the direction of an act to an end. If A. aim, with an axe, a stroke at a tree, and he kill B. the direction of the blow is a fact, upon which a jury will have to decide when considering the guilt or innocence of A. So in morals, if a man be indicted for blasphemy, the tendency and meaning of the words are a question for the jury, as matter of fact. The same is true of general tendency, as of particular tendency. Tendency by being general or particular, is only altered in circumstance, not in nature.

"If A. throw down, from a scaffolding, carelessly, into a crowded street, a piece of timber upon B. and he die; it is a crime in A. in consequence of the general tendency of the act. Can any one doubt that the circumstances on which the general tendency depends; (that is—whether a street or not,—or frequented or not—or with precaution, or not,) are not facts to be considered by a jury? Then, why is not the general tendency of a publication also a fact? The particular tendency of the terms is a fact; for courts permit juries, even in England, to decide upon the applicability of the innuendoes. If particular meaning be a fact, why is not general meaning a fact? As such it belongs exclusively to the jury. And of all facts, it is the last of which a jury, in this country, should be divested

"A constitution which grants to the citizen the liberty of the press, secures to him also, from the very nature of that grant, the liberty of using language according to its common meaning and ordinary acceptance. If called in question for the use of that liberty, he has a right to have the meaning, acceptance, general tendency, or bearing of the words, decided by that tribunal which, by our constitution, is (are) the exclusive judges of fact, and who will decide upon that meaning, tendency, bearing or acceptance, according to their general nature or effect; judging by the use of common life, and common sense, and not according to artificial skill, or any technical refinement.

"For which reason, among others, in the opinion of this court, the third doctrine of the English courts—that the truth shall not be given in evidence in cases of prosecutions for libel is false, in consequence. For, if the jury have a right to decide the intent and tendency, the right to have evidence of the truth follows necessarily, and of course."

But it is an erroneous assumption that such is the doctrine of the English courts--such is the doctrine of some of the English lawyers—and such is the doctrine of the *bench* generally; but such is not the doctrine of juries, (at least not of all juries,) who are not only an integral and indispensable part of an English court of justice, but also the superior, and ultimate, tho' not the presiding, power; the bench is a mediator, an interpreter, an expounder, and of counsel both for the crown and the defendant, and the jury, bound as they are to listen with reverence to their interpretation, and their recommendation, are yet the supreme judges, not only whether the defendant is guilty or innocent, but also *whether the bench are right or wrong in their dicta*. Honest and enlightened juries therefore, do not hold the same doctrine, and there are many, and some recent cases in which, in prosecutions for libel, English juries have decided, and their decision has not been impugned, in favour of defendants, in the face of the charge of the judge, when he has laid down the infamous doctrines of lord Mansfield with respect to libel, in his address.

(*To be continued.*)

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FOR THE SCRIBBLER.

*Imitation of HORACE, Od. 5 lib. 1.*

Ah! Pyrrha dear! what favour'd youth  
Is he, who, in thy fragrant bower,  
Now, at thy feet, vows love and truth,  
And owns thy witching beauty's power?

On whom do now those sweet smiles rest?  
Who clasps, adoring, those dear knees?  
Who sighs upon that heaving breast;  
Kneels to subdue, subdues to please?

For whom is now that graceful form  
Array'd in simplest, loosest, dress,

While, clinging to thy beauties warm,  
Those snow-like, lucid, garments press ?

For whom dost thou that flowing hair  
Disclose profuse, and feast his sight  
With unzoned charms, wild, throbbing, bare,—  
Intense, unspeakable, delight ?

Ah ! little scans the doating boy,  
Those moments of delight how few !  
How soon his younger love will cloy,  
When others please, and others woo !

So when, with light and favouring breeze,  
The seaman blithe his sails unfurls,  
He dreams not of or storms, or seas,  
Where death upon each billow curls.

But he who thee, sweet girl, hath tasted,  
Should hang his votive tablet high,  
Inscribed that, time nor love were wasted  
Beneath that zone, before that eye.

Who thy rich, golden mines of joy  
But once hath delved, let him then boast  
Peru's, Golconda's, base alloy  
Are nought, are trash, to what thou shew'st.

What tho' unconstant, wanton, wild,  
Yet, Pyrrha ! thou'lt return to me,  
And I will bless the wayward child  
That brings me such felicity.

Mean while, in Venus' fane, on high,  
My votive offering I suspend,—  
A garter, which that knee did tie,  
Gate to the heaven 'fore which I bend.

MAURICE MASK.\*

\* Mr. Mask appears to have borrowed from Cowley, both in his imitation of the same ode, and in his *Mistress*,

"To whom now, Pyrrha, art thou kind,  
To what heart ravish'd lover,  
Dost thou thy raven locks unbind,  
Thy hidden sweets discover,  
And, with large bounty, open se  
All the bright stores of thy rich cabinet."

———"With comely grace,  
Put off his hat, to put his case.'

A'as! dear Scribbler, tho' your art  
Can trace the passions of the heart;  
Can virtue praise, or vice expose;  
In various ways, in verse or prose;  
It can not fill an empty purse—  
A lawyer-following, righteous curse,  
Which a just heaven on those bestows  
Who sell their words for crowns and joes.  
Nor can it teach our legal tables  
To smoke with lusty eatables,  
Nor damp the dryness of our throats,  
Nor change our shabby thread-bare coats.  
'Twas t'other day, (alas poor-sinner!)  
I borrow'd sixpence for a dinner  
For, having, not a week before,  
Exhausted all my scanty store,  
To have a hop, and coax a whore, }  
I felt obliged to steal or beg,  
And pawn'd my snuff-box for an egg,  
To clear my throat, before I spoke,  
Or laugh'd at judge or jailor's joke.  
'T is true I am but late admitted,  
(I would to Jove I'd ne'er been fitted,)  
But still I've seen enough to know  
The lawyers' arts to keep up show;  
For, trav'ling o'er some of their carcasses,  
You'll find their three weeks' linen dark as is  
A chimneysweep's, tho' well starch'd collars  
And six-inch frills, bright as new dollars,  
Cover, as charity does sin,  
A fair outside, but foul within.  
The people say our souls we've sold

"Mine, mine, her fair East Indies were above,  
Where those suns rise which cheer the world of love,  
Where beauties shine, like gems of richest price,  
Where coral grows, and every breath is spice;  
Mine too, her rich West Indies were below,  
Where mines of gold and endless treasures grow."

At the close he has reversed the sentiment of the Roman poet, and instead of dedicating his *vestimenta uvida* in thankfulness for his release from the changing tide of Pyrrha's *aspera æquora*, has hung up a beacon to warn the syren where her former willing victim may again be found. But Horace justifies him for this, in his ode 9 lib. 3, where

——— *prisca redit Venus*  
*Diductosque jugo cogit ahenco.*

To our firm patron Nick the old,  
 By deed of sale, *non rachetable*,  
 But this to prove I am not able,  
 For if I'd bargain'd with th' old boy,  
 I'd had more gold, and less alloy ;  
 Whilst now, for instance, put the case—  
 With hungry chops, and smiling face,  
 Would we, young lawyers, our lean jaws  
 Regale on books and musty laws,  
 And, tottering thro' the dirty streets,  
 In yonder court-house take our seats ;  
 Where, sitting, like a crowd of asses,  
 Listless of every thing that passes,  
 We bite our nails, to shew our science ;  
 Unless by chance we get, as clients,  
 Some ragged knaves who pray the court  
 T' assign them counsel ; would, in short,  
 We lead such lives, if we had sold  
 Ourselves to Satan, for his gold ?  
 But here's the rub, good scribbling cousin,  
 What might do one, won't feed a dozen—  
 And scores of hungry, briefless, lawyers,  
 Had better been, smiths snips, or sawyers.  
 Seeing which, I'll pray, at the next session,  
 The House to hang the whole profession,—  
 Myself excepted for you know,  
 One would not tread on one's own toe.  
 Adieu ! I swear the thing I'll settle,  
 And boil my tea in my own kettle

A LAW-PEDLAR.

To C\*\*\*\*\*

C\*\*\*\*\* ! join that false throng ; go ;—  
 I've sworn to love no more,  
 A woman's smile yields nought but woe,  
 Their charms with me are o'er.

I've dwelt on thy bewitching smile,  
 And envied not the gods ;  
 But, victim of thy faithless guile,  
 I freely grant them odds.

Woman ! thou art deception's bubble,  
 Gliding so smooth along :



And thoughtless man thou fill'st with trouble,  
Lured by thy syren-song.

I once implicitly believed thee,  
Which class'd me fool with many ;—  
And yet, altho' thou hast deceived me,—  
I think thee best of any.

Thou false, vain, cheating, smiling, ruin,  
There's nothing true about thee—  
Yet ; faith, I don't know what I'm doing—  
*I can not live without thee.*

MONTEZUMA.

It generally happens with conquering armies, that, after a victory, greater pretensions are set up, and a larger extent of country is subdued, than either formed the original ground of the war, or was ever contemplated to be within reach. So, in defending my acquired dominion in Lower Canada against the army that marched forth to attack me, under the late renowned Sir Tressilian of York, I have not only pushed my outposts into Upper Canada, but have actually received proposals of submission to my Scriblerian and Censorial authority from the shores of Lake Ontario ; and so likely does it appear that the moral, literary, and satirical government of the Upper province will also be vested in me, that I have an application for the office of Deputy Inspector General for the district of Cataroqua, which will be seen in the following letter. I am, indeed, afraid that the duties of my high station, will become so complicated and extended, that many parts of my territories will have occasionally to complain of being neglected : yet, with the ambition that is ever a companion of us heroes, whether of the sword or the quill, I have not the self-denial to forego whatever extension of dominion appears within my grasp ; and in "this

seat of ours" in Burlington, this snug small room, furnished with a couple of chairs, and an old battered bureau for a writing desk, it seems as if I could exclaim with Constance in the play,

This is my throne, let kings come bow to it."

*Cream-street, April 1823.*

DEAR SCRIB,

I made application some time ago to you to be appointed one of your deputies in this quarter, but I have to conclude that you have not yet received my communication, by which too I gave you an account of the ball at the hotel on Paddy's day evening.\* Should you be inclined to send me a commission as deputy-inspector-general, I request you will do so, and put me on full pay, immediately. As a specimen of my qualification for that important post, I have made a selection from my journal for you; and shall begin with telling you that you have more enemies here than subscribers, and more friends than enemies; *par exemple*, you have all the young bloods, and most of the ladies on your side, which, in my estimation is worth all the rest of the town put together, the member of parliament who has (this year) "a greater respect for the opinion of the meanest mechanic among his constituents than he has for many of the worthy and learned members he has the honour of sitting with;" and our late worthy, independent, and impartial editor, who could not print the whole of the speech of one of the directors of the late bank of Upper Canada, on account of some personalities, but could not possibly see any reason for rejecting any part of another director's reply, although it was quite as bad, excepted. I have

\*These dispatches have not yet reached head quarters; and it is not unlikely have been intercepted by the enemy.

L. L. M.

also to inform you that Mr. Kilwie of Point Henry, has threatened to discharge one of the officers if he brings another of your dirty blackguard things from the post,\* and a gentleman who shall be nameless for the present, has told his clerk that they will keep those addressed to Mr. Kilwie in their own office, to see what Paul Crimps will say of the folks in Cream-street. It I am appointed your deputy, you shall receive punctual reports from

Your's respectfully,  
PAUL CRIMPS.

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*A commission, in due form, for the appointment of Mr. Crimps as deputy inspector-general, for the district of Cataroqua, will issue as soon as the secretary and treasurer can attend to that department, but having been engaged in the arduous and fatiguing duty of collecting arrears, some repose and recreation are necessary; he is, in the mean time, authorised to commence his functions forthwith, and his full pay to commence from this date; witness my hand this 8th day of May 1823.*

LEWIS LUKE MACCULLOH.

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DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCER, No. XXI.

At a Court of Oyer and Terminer, and general town-delivery, held in this city, the following persons were found guilty, by twelve honest men of the parish, and condemned to six months trans-

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\*Tho' Mr. Kilwie does vilify my book, I wish every one would behave in as gentlemanly a manner as he has done; for his note declining to take the work was couched in the most polite terms, and unlike those who keep it, and refuse either to return or pay for it, of whom there are a good many who will in due time appear in the black list, Mr. K. paid for an entire volume, when perhaps he did not get half the numbers.

L. L. M.

portation. All embarked on board the steam-boat Quebec for their destination.

*Bobbishaw*, for Scotch presence of mind, otherwise known by the denomination of brass, or impudence. The evidences against him were numerous. The court recommended him never in future to attempt lacing ladies boots in public, (free license being proclaimed, by the crier, to all persons, to perform that operation in private, as often as the ladies pleased,) for fear of another exposure in the blue book.

*Jemmy Barbe*, for shyness, and fear of looking ladies full in the face. The court recommended him to shake off some of his bashfulness, and expressed their reliance that on his return he would be found to have got clear of his rust.

*Jemmy Le Brun*, for ambition and a desire of aspiring to the hand of one of the princesses. The judge, in passing sentence, earnestly recommended him to offer his hand and heart to Miss Charley Nimrod.

*Catamount L'amoureux*, for carelessness in carrying on his nocturnal amours. He was greatly censured by the court for allowing his watch to be taken from him, and the thief to escape. After being properly admonished, he was cautioned to be more circumspect, as the jurors of Government-city might grant him *no quarters*.

The following were found guilty of misdemeanors and sentenced to be pilloried once in the Scribbler.

*The Revd. Mr. Noates*, for easiness of disposition, in giving a certificate to a grammatical quack, without due examination, or indeed being himself qualified to be a judge.

*Camel Hogsflesh Esquire*, for want of memory, and naughtiness, when dunned for 3 s. 6 d. by a maker and mender of small clothes. This was

rather an atrocious case and the sentence was considered extremely lenient: it appeared in evidence that defendant, actually "wondered," "was astonished," and "greatly surprised," that plaintiff should take upon himself to insult a gentleman of his rank by troubling him for so small a sum, when plaintiff must have known defendant had determined to forget it.

A young man was brought up, tried, and found guilty of getting most vilely intoxicated at a hop, where the dancers were *in luck* as they had a large cake to keep them in spirits. He pleaded hard for mercy, and as it was the first time he had been before the court, and he had severely suffered all the next day with headache and nausea, he was discharged with a reprimand.

Two or three indictments were laid before the grand jury against married couples, for the singular crime of being too loving in public, and too uxorious at home; but only one was brought to trial. The case excited much meriment, *Tommy Showbelle*, it appeared, was so extravagantly fond of his wife, that he could not avoid kissing her in public. Attempts were made to prove that being mightily desirous of a son and heir, he recommends warm baths, and port-wine to Mrs. S. and takes steel-drops &c. himself, but the court overruled the introduction of such testimony, both on account of the laudable motive, and that they did not consider themselves as having jurisdiction in such matters; but he was found guilty on the act, *de billing et cooing in publico*, and sentenced to do penance in one of his wife's chemises at the next agricultural show. The other parties were, for the present, excused, in order to give them an opportunity to compound matters with the censor-general, according to the statute it that case made and provided.

A greater number of delinquents than usual appearing on the calendar, it is presumed the court will sit again in a very short time; and some interesting cases that occurred this session are postponed for want of room.

#### NUPTIALS ON AND OFF THE TAPIS, &c.

The long expected nuptials of the accomplished widow Ogledeem, with her military admirer, will certainly, it is said, be completed before the regiment receives marching-orders. Perseverance and constancy of affection have here gained a triumph over avarice and arrogance, and the grumbling and tardy consent of the lady's family, will neither damp the love that has been proof against obstacles and time, nor diminish the felicity of a domestic union, to which the amiable vivacity, kind disposition, and personal charms, of the widow, can not fail to give a zest, worth more than all the untold gold of a richer hymen.

Tho' sportive sallies oft have spoke,  
Of foibles, whims, and flirting Oggy;  
This warm, true, wish is not in joke,—  
May she be happy with her Spoggy.

Lord Goddamnhim has reluctantly been obliged to relinquish all claims to the hand of Miss Foresight, (a result on which we sincerely congratulate the young lady,) and matters are said to be in a fair way for her marriage with count Grig, his paternal seat, Grig-castle, being consigned to the care of a numerous band of upholsterers, who are to furnish it, previous to the wedding, in such a style, as will do credit to the taste of the elegant intended mistress of the mansion.

A bashful young lady intends, notwithstanding the many obstacles thrown in her way, to tread the gravelly (if not stony) path to wedlock: the result will be innumerable young blunders.

Mr. Massachusetts (not the advocate) after a Hum-haw courtship, is to be braced to Miss Nancy Drews: they have been tuning so long on the same key, that it is to be hoped the duet will not be interrupted even by the squeaking tenors that may be expected to be produced in the course of the performance.

Mr. Le Noir of Shamblee, to Miss McRibbon: a new-fashioned cap of the bride's own invention will be sported on the wedding-day.

The fair Miss Shednot, as report goes, is shortly to be wedded to a Merry Andrew. This is supposed to be a true

love match, as neither is possessed of a superfluity of attraction.

MR. GOSSIP,

I wish you would ask your friend Macculloh, why he says so little now about the big-wigs, or their parties, which have been numerous this winter : we little folks think that if he lets them alone so, they will grow worse instead of better ; and to tell you the truth, the common report is that he is bribed to hold his tongue about them, which would quite destroy his credit with

#### THE SWINISH MULTITUDE.

*As it behoves Mr. Macculloh, to preserve his credit with his very good friends the Swinish Multitude, he has promised to give a satisfactory explanation in an early number, and as soon as he can get clear of his arrears of correspondence, of the causes and motives of his late apparent forbearance with respect to their high mightinesses the would-be swineherds of Mount-Royal.*

EDIOR.

*An Irishman's apology or justification of lying.—* When asked why he preferred telling a lie, even though there seemed no advantage in it ; "From pure caution," said he, "and forethought : you may unsay a lie, if you find it distressing, but you can not unsay the truth, if it is ever so inconvenient : lies are like snails horns, you throw out one or two just to feel your way, and if all's safe, then come out of your shell and welcome."

NOTICE is hereby given that the pews in the Methodist-presbyterian-American chapel will be reduced to half price at the end of the present quarter, in order that persons who resort to the gallery may come down stairs, the society being informed that many single men and their wives are wont to frequent there. Believing likewise that 14s. 6d. per annum is too much for every eighteen inches occupied as a seat, when the hard times and the scarcity of money are considered, they have resolved upon this measure notwithstanding that the *Appleman* and his *Glerk*, have brought an action against them for sundry useless articles, such as timber, lime:

and sand, used in the building of this edifice ; but on account of which, they hope that the charitable donations of the congregation will in future be liberal.

## POET'S CORNER.

### PARODY.

When from Walker's *cheap* shop, my dear Adeline requested  
 A comb her fair locks to adorn ;  
 No, by heaven ! I exclaim'd, may I perish if ever  
 I plant on that forehead a horn.  
 Then I shew'd her the ring, and implored her to marry,  
 When she blush'd like a dark foggy morn ;  
 Nay then, I'll consent, if you'll promise that never  
 A rival shall laugh me to scorn.

*Cætera desunt.*

*Selections from other papers, and a variety of other articles will appear in a Supplement next week.*

TO CORRESPONDENTS. I must again entreat the patience of my friends whose pieces I am desirous of inserting, but am prevented by the press of matter. OLIVER OLLAPOD from St. Johns, will find a place. PARIS must excuse me for not inserting his reply to *a lady* ; the verses to *Lucretia* will appear ; as will POETASTER : the parodies on the Exile of Erin, and Don Juan, will not, I believe do, but they shall be looked over again. D. I. I. and A. W. P. will be availed of. EPAPHUS from Three Rivers as soon as possible. A budget of communications from Quebec has just been received, *inter alia*, J. B. D., MINISINO, B. DE ST. PIERRE, BILLY, (whose further communications are particularly requested,) A LOUNGER, OBSERVER, and AMICUS ; they are under consideration, and will mostly all come into play. AMICUS is especially thanked for his information : he may rely that all original communications, *that are requested to be destroyed*, are burnt, and all others kept most securely, where neither force, stratagem, nor pretended friendship, can ever get at them. After letters reach me they are perfectly safe : I will not say the same of them before, as long as the post-office department is in such treacherous and rascally hands : several letters that were put into the post-office at Quebec for me, are missing, one very recently ; and in one of my present letters allusion is made to a piece signed SPARTACUS, which I have never received.

L. L. M.

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