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THE

# SCRIBBLER,

A SERIES OF WEEKLY ESSAYS PUBLISHED IN MONTREAL, I. C.  
ON LITERARY, CRITICAL, SATIRICAL, MORAL, AND  
LOCAL SUBJECTS :

INTERSPERSED WITH PIECES OF POETRY.

By LEWIS LUKE MACCULLOH, Esquire.

Nos. 1 to 52,

From 28th June, 1821, to 20th June, 1822.

FORMING

VOLUME I.

*Sunt bona, sunt quædam mediocria, sunt mala, plu. a,  
Quæ legis..... MARTIAL.*

Voulez vous du public meriter les amours,  
Sans cesse en ecrivant variez vos discours.  
On lit peu ces auteurs nés pour nous ennuyer,  
Quitoujours sur un ton semblent psalmodier. BOILEAU.

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## PREFACE.

The Miscellany of which the first volume is now completed, was originally undertaken while its projector, author, and conductor, was in a state of imprisonment, in Montreal. Not imprisonment for debt, gentle reader, but imprisonment as a felon, upon numerous criminal accusations, some of which affected his life, hatched, and prosecuted, by a clan of the most profligate, unprincipled, and vindictive men, that ever disgraced a British community, namely, the chief partners and directors of the late NORTH WEST COMPANY, OF MONTREAL. Their expected victim, however, triumphed completely over their vile machinations, and the whole of their false, fabricated, and malignant charges, were disposed of, either by his acquittal, or by the abandonment of them by the attorney-general, who plumply told them that they would never find a jury that would believe them upon their oaths. Still unrelenting in their malice, when their own foul perjuries could not prevent his being wholly cleared from their scandalous charges, they contrived to prolong his confinement, by subornation of perjury, procuring a false oath to be taken, in virtue of which he was detained in prison as a debtor for a large sum. Not was it but by the effectual, firm, and finally peremptory, interference of the American government, (he having been forcibly seized and carried off from the American territory,) that he was liberated after a most rigorous and oppressive imprisonment of twenty-two months. The equanimity and fortitude with which he met, suffered, and combated, these iniquitous proceedings, and which could alone have been inspired by a consciousness of innocence, and of the oppression and injustice under which he was labouring, the reader will probably consider as ex-

## PREFACE.

emplified in the execution of this work, but particularly in numbers 19 and 20. The first of these was composed two days, and published one day, before he was tried for his life, upon a false and scandalous charge of forgery; and the motto to No. 20, "Let loud applauses shake the croud-ed court," alludes to the universal shouts of acclamation, with which his acquittal was hailed by the most numerous audience that was ever crammed into the court-house of Montréal. That day was to him the proudest day he ever experienced, completing his triumph over the base and villainous conspiracy which had been formed against his life, and demonstrating the esteem in which he was held, and the interest taken in his fate, by a discerning public, who have since honoured his literary exertions, by unequivocal encouragement, and substantial patronage. In the words of Tully, *Quibus pro tantis rebus, Quirites, nullum monumentum laudis postulo, præterquam hujus diei memoriam sempiternam*: For these reasons therefore. oh, my countrymen! never can I desire from you, a more noble reward, a prouder honour, a more permanent monument of praise, than to hold this triumphant day in everduring remembrance.

It was in the month of May last, that the determined and energetic manner in which the President of the United States demanded from the British government, the author's liberation, forced the present ruler of Canada, who was swayed and prejudiced by the barefaced lies with which the North West Company's directors had poisoned his mind, and who had repeatedly and disdainfully refused to deliver him up, to

"vail his lofty-plumed crest,"

and to comply with the dictates of the laws of

## PREFACE.

nations, and the orders of Lord Bathurst. From that period till the close of the present volume, the author had to struggle against the most powerful, as well as the most underhand, attempts made to suppress his work, by those wealthy, but otherwise despicable, individuals, whom he has attacked and exposed.

He has deemed it right to enter into this short sketch of the circumstances under which this first volume of the SCRIBBLER, was cominenced, and carried on, to account for the discrepancies and inconsistencies that may be found, and to extenuate the defects that may appear, in it. Deprived of the means of consulting authorities, debarred from any mixture with the world if he has yet found means to entertain, instruct, and amend the society of which he was once a not unregarded member, he hopes that his faults will be overlooked, his mistakes forgiven, and even his vanity pardoned. However humble his claim to literary rank in his native country, (and there his name is not totally unknown amongst 'living authors,') he could not but perceive that,

as

*Parmi les aveugles les borgnes sont rois,*

so in Canada, a very moderate share of learning and ability, would pass current for more sterling talents, and entitle him to assume a tone and station which he would not have ventured upon at home. By pursuing this policy, however, he has not only improved himself, but has called forth into action and exercise, much latent talent; and whilst he acknowledges the great obligations he is under, to his numerous correspondents for their contributions, he trusts that he has been able so to digest, arrange, and dress them up, that the SCRIBBLER may be considered both by its contemporaries in England, and by posterity

## PREFACE.

in Canada, as a fair specimen of Canadian literature, talents, and manners, in the first part of the nineteenth century.

He enters upon the second volume, under the best of auspices ; an established reputation ; unrestrained liberty of thought, of action, and of the press ; a most extensive and varied correspondence ; and an increasing list of subscribers.

*Esto perpetua.*

## DEDICATION.

*TO MY BELOVED ALTHEA.*

To whom can I with more propriety dedicate this first volume of a work, begun at your suggestion, carried on by your assistance, and consecrated by your smiles and approbation, than to you, the MUSE that inspires my pen, the GRACE that spreads a charm over my labours, the GODDESS that approves and rewards my toil.

“A mortal mixing with the queen of love,”

But it is not by these mythological personifications alone, that I wish to express my esteem, my gratitude, and affection. Let me praise and record, the tried attachment, the unshaken friendship, the devoted and persevering service, the warm and unabated love, with which the WOMAN cheered my hours of imprisonment; ministered to my wants, and devoted herself with matchless assiduity, to solace, cherish, and relieve, a calumniated, persecuted, and friendless, being.

Forlorn, accused, abandoned by children, family, and friends, *you* supplied to me the place of all the world. *You* hesitated not, to visit the FELON at his grate, *you* hesitated not to endure the sneers, and sarcasms, of the world, the insults, and brutal usage of gaolers, the arrogance of official tyrants, the rude annoyance of the rabble. *You* braved also,—*you* felt not,—the “pelt-  
ing of the pitiless storm.” Midst deepest snows, unchecked by Canadian winters; undeterred by the burning heats of summer, at all seasons and all times; through rain, sleet, or hail; sunshine or cloud; alike to *you*: Each morning saw you appear the guardian angel of my life; and there—at my prison gate—the livelong day was passed;—there *you* took your meals;—there lingered, till the closing gates compelled you to retire.—Thus passed your life and mine, for two and twenty dreary months. But why dwell on this? Does not all Montreal know, and bear witness

## DEDICATION.

to these unparalleled facts? Do not those who scorned and jeered, now respect and admire?

"And those who came to scoff, remain'd to praise."

Do they not all now see, and feel, and know, that *you* stand high upon a pinnacle of unfading honour, the pride and boast of the man who has so triumphantly overcome his enemies on whom he now looks down with contempt and pity, and who beholds in you his chiefest worldly good, "in all time of our tribulation, in all time of our wealth, and at the hour of death."

But you not only encouraged me, and rewarded me as I went on, in my literary employment; you also furnished me with topics, provided me with matter, served me as an amanuensis;—*you* solicited subscriptions; *you* daily visited the post-office for me; *you* attended at the printing-office; *you* have *yourself*, at all times—regardless of weather, regardless of fatigue, regardless of contumely,—been even the runner and distributor; the errand-boy, the carrier—what have you not been to me, and to this work? To *you*, therefore, I dedicate both myself and it.

"Years have not seen, time shall not see,  
The hour that tears my soul from thee."

You have one fault my beloved; you think too little of yourself, and will not believe that you are entitled to the praises my fond heart desires to lavish upon you. It is, therefore, in your absence, and unknown to you, that I pen this dedication. You will not see it till it is published; and then it will be too late for you to prevent my giving vent to the strong feeling I possess, of the unequalled merits of your mind, and the unrivalled beauties of your person, in the words of a modern author who has a peculiar felicitous energy of diction, IF EVER A DIVINITY DESCENDED UPON EARTH IN MODERN TIMES, IT MUST BE FEMALE, AND THIS IS SHE.

## ERRATA.

- P. 1 bottom line, *after woven, insert as it.*  
 38 6th line from bottom, *for melhodian, read methodien.*  
 75 9th line, *for any, read and.*  
 85 28th line, *for is, read arc.*  
 86 2d line from bottom, *for ad abusu, read ab abusu.*  
 103 7th line do. *for meretrices, read meretricum.*  
 121 2d line do. *for erat, read erit.*  
 134 16th line, *for you, read your.*  
 136 4th line, *for clash, read clasp.*  
 183 remove the four bottom lines to the top of the page.  
 196 3d line, *for rhapsody, read rhapsody.*  
 207 5th line from bottom, *for Connty, read County.*  
 208 13th line do. *for magazine, read review.*  
 209 13th line *for sequenter, read sequantur.*  
 220 12th line from bottom, *dele if.*  
 308 4th line do. *for suffuse, read suffuses.*  
 312 6th line do. *for ingenious, read ingenuous.*  
 333 35th line *for, brings read beings.*  
 341 25th line *for lamb in wolf's, read wolf in lamb's.*  
 347 8th line *after Intelligencer, insert No. V.*  
 413 2d line *for a stranger, read strangers.*  
 438 14th line *dele a.*  
 450 18th line *after to the, insert modern.*  
 460 21st line *after to, insert be.*

# THE SCRIBBLER.

MONTREAL.

THURSDAY, 28th JUNE 1821.

No. I.

*Scribimus docti, indoctique.*—HORACE.

Both for the learned and the unlearned we write.

EASY as scribbling is to every ready penman; readily as a fit of *cacoethes scribendi* finds a vent through the medium of those handy materials, pen, ink and paper; it is a matter of no little difficulty to take up a new task of this kind. To begin a work, which may either sink into insignificance within the first fortnight and die the death of many more worthy predecessors, an oblation to the household gods, by grocers and pastry-cooks; a burnt offering to Bacchus, by the smokers of tobacco; a sacrifice of incense at the shrine of the fragrant goddess; or which, on the contrary, may increase and multiply into volumes and editions, for the instruction and amusement of future ages; requires more consideration than I had supposed necessary to give it, when it came into my grey-haired head to make the attempt. Whether to follow the precept of the French schoolmaster to his pupil, "*mon fils commencez par le commencement,*" or to rush into the middle of things, and begin with a battle or a tempest, like Homer and Virgil; whether to commence with a ceremonious introduction of myself to my patrons, or to leave them to discover by degrees, and by the almost imperceptible traits purposely woven by chance into the work, the birth, parent-

age and education of LEWIS LUKE MACCULLOH, Esquire: whether to lay down a systematic plan by which to scribble, or, like Sterne, say, I do not govern my pen, but my pen governs me: whether to become instantly as familiar with my readers, as the flippancy of French manners, or the loquacity of Yankee curiosity, can make casual acquaintance; or to continue as shy and distant as the gloomy taciturnity of an Englishman, or the wary habits of a Scotchman, generally make fellow-travellers:—these are the questions. Probably in this, as in most cases, a medium course will be best; and, as authors, especially periodical essayists, and their readers, have been very commonly, and very aptly, likened to fellow-passengers in the same vehicle; we will, with your leave, gentle readers, like stage coach companions, after a short introduction, similar to the observations usually made by travellers as to the route they are going together, and the probability of fine or bad weather during the journey, accompanied by a nod, or a squeeze to sit closer, an offer of the best seat, or those glances of intelligence which are a kind of short-hand introduction, jog on quietly together, and let the occurrences on the road, the prospects as we go along, and the reflections and anecdotes they may call forth, furnish the means of our becoming better acquainted, and enjoying an intellectual treat together; hoping only that we may not break down or be overturned, that we may not be runaway with by unruly or headstrong horses, alias passions and prejudices; and above all that we may not become tiresome to each other, and fall asleep for want of—being able to keep awake, which is, twenty times out of a score, the physical cause of nodding over a book, or closing one's eyes at church, however much blame may be laid on the soporific quality

of a heavy page, or the composing effect of a drowsy sermon.

To produce a weekly paper, assuming the form of essays, light, desultory and amusing, intended also to be instructive and profitable, with now and then a lash at the follies, the inconsistencies, and the abuses of the times, of fashions, and of manners; a paper, occasionally directed to literary enquiries, sometimes to matters of public utility, and domestic economy; sometimes also to local matters of praise or of reprehension, but never deviating into personality; and avoiding, as much as possible, all intermixture of party-politics, and of religious controversy, those fatal rocks on which the amenities and comforts of social life have too often split; forms the plan of the Scribbler. The sex emphatically and by excellence THE SEX, who are so far above all praise for excelling charms, and virtues unequalled, that it is almost degrading to designate them as the fair, or as the softer sex, will, as has been the bounden duty of all periodical essayists, attract no inconsiderable portion of attention; and, as amidst the moral essays, elegant criticisms, and higher pursuits of Addison and Steele, it was not beneath their aim to animadvert on the structure of a fan, the placing of a patch, or the form and furbelow of a petticoat, so will the dress, the appearance, the habits, the amusements, and the tea table talk of the ladies, afford topics for scribbling till—till the best tempered quill is worn down to a stump.

One object I propose to myself, is, shortly and impartially to review any literary publications that may appear in Canada, or that may particularly relate to this country, or be considered as interesting to its inhabitants. Literature, however, being as yet but at a low ebb here, this department is not likely soon to occupy a laborious portion of

my time, or much space in my pages ; though even such a review is intended to be retrospective, and to take in such books of the above description, as have lately appeared. It is intended also to fill the quarter or half pages that might otherwise remain vacant in these weekly papers, with short advertisements relative to literature and the arts, to public amusements, or public instruction ; of books published or in the press ; of portrait painters and exhibitions ; of theatrical performances, and of schools and academies.— Communications of this kind, addressed to the Scribbler, at the printer's, will, at the discretion of the author, and, curtailed or modified, as the subject, or the disposable space may require, be inserted gratis.

Not alone, however, on the resources of one mind, and the labours of one pen, will these weekly papers depend for their argument and contents. Ancient and modern authors will be occasionally laid under contribution to supply amusement or instruction ; and when invention flags, subjects fail, or the scribbling fit intermits, the labours of others may be availed of ; and extracts, translations, or epitomes from scarce, valuable, or voluminous books that are not accessible to the generality of readers may be considered as eligible succedanea for original composition ; and, possessing more merit, may be fully as acceptable, in the production of a companion at the breakfast table, and in the parlour-window. Moreover, courteous friends,

“ My very worthy and approved good masters,”

and mistresses too I should add, ye who are, or will be, at the same time my patrons and my pupils, I trust likewise that I shall from time to

time, be favoured with your correspondance, and that many a stout pen from the wing of a goose, and many a slender and delicate crow quill, in the hand of a fair lady, may be flourished, in addressing a billet to the Scribbler; and selections from such communications I flatter myself will make one of the most interesting features of my hebdomedal appearance.

Variegated with occasional pieces of poetry, selections, translations, or originals, I hope to make my miscellany a kind of parterre to gratify the taste of beauty and the eye of science. Having been in my youth a dabbler in the Aonian rill, I shall rummage my old stores, and with the help of the lively, the sentimental, the satiric, and the pathetic part of my correspondants, I expect to have now and then a poet's corner as well as other scribblers.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, without any more prefaratory conversation, we will set out on our journey.

'Tis an early and bright morning in June. A haze growing out of the short twilight we have in these latitudes, still hangs on the horizon, and is the harbinger of a cloudless and sultry day. Observe now the glorious rising of the sun, the majesty of his broad orb of fire breaking from behind the distant range that extends its blue outline to the eastward of Chambly mountain, dispelling the mists and awakening all nature to renovated life and joy. Ah! little do those who waste so many hours in the baleful indulgence of sleeping late, know the happiness, the hilarity and the elasticity that attends a habit of early rising. Once accustomed to the practice, the pleasures and advantages derived from it will endear it to every reflecting mind, will make the gay and thoughtless more blithe and bounding, and cause it to be

cherished even by the sensualist. That it is, in the highest degree, conducive to the preservation of health, has never been doubted or denied; that it adds at least an eighth part to the absolute duration of conscious existence, the slightest arithmetical calculation of the hours it rescues from oblivion, will prove. To the man of contemplative mind, to the lover of literary pursuits, it affords better opportunities for reflection, develops more clearly the ideas, and embodies the ratiocinations of the soul more vividly and tangibly than all the evening studies, the watching and the wasting of midnight lamps, that erudition boasts of, and that have been generally, but falsely, considered as essential habits of the studious. To the observer of nature, the adorer of Divine goodness, it affords the fittest season for pouring forth the soul in admiration and extacy. To the man of business it is a precious portion of the day, and to him no time can be more adapted for arranging his plans and concerns against the bustle of the coming day, than a few hours early in the morning. Even the mere loungeur, the idler, if he rises early, will enjoy his morning walk along the riverside or through the mazes of the wood, with something like zest when opposed to the vapidness and languor of a mid-day stroll. The ladies ought to be both advocates for, and practicers of, this embellishing and healthful habit. It is the best cosmetic in the world, gives animation, playfulness, and an expression of delighted feeling that no revels of the night, no loo or cassino table, nay that no country-dance, waltz or cotillion can bestow. Not that I am an enemy to these amusements; on the contrary, in due moderation and at seasonable intervals, they are not only to be approved, but, if injunction were necessary in such matters, to the young, to the gay, and to the char-

ming, I would enjoin the occasional enjoyment of them to all my female friends.

To those who can not muster resolution to shake off the fetters of sleep, who, maugre their best intentions, feel a kind of bodily preponderating inclination, a heavy wish that they can not shake off; for "yet a little more sleep, yet a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep," I would propose an effectual, and, as they will find, not an unpleasing, method of curing this lethargy of habit. Premising that regular and rather early hours over night, for

" Early to bed, and early to rise,  
Is the way to be healthy, wealthy and wise ;"

are requisite to ensure the efficacy of my prescription, let them cause themselves to be awakened at first one half hour before the time they have been accustomed to rise, and a glare of light to be thrown into the apartment. The result will be that, if not on the first morning, they will, on the second, be up rather before their usual time, without feeling any inconvenience. Then let each successive morning, the time be anticipated by half an hour, or if they are very far gone in the disease of "lye-abeds," then every other morning, by a quarter of an hour, and in a very short period they will get gradually accustomed to the exertion, and will afterwards find as much difficulty in sleeping away the finest hours of the day, as they before had in rousing themselves to enjoy them. To change a habit of this kind at once is certainly impracticable with any degree of comfort, and the sensations experienced by a person accustomed to lie late, when forced to be up hours before the usual time, tend much to create disgust towards the practice. A feeling of sickness and qualmy lassitude, is almost invaria-

bly a consequence of a sudden change in this respect, but can never occur, if the alteration be gradually made as here recommended.

I am happy, however, to bear testimony that lying late is much less a habit in this country than in the more dissipated circles of European society. Much business is done both in the counting-house and in the ware-house before breakfast; and the white arm and diamond decked hand of many a domestic lady, may be seen employed in the laudable and no less pleasing pursuit of examining the fattest poultry, and the finest fruits; destined for the tables of their families, whilst the sun yet darts its rays horizontally upon our markets. This is a custom which can never be too much commended. The virtues of housewifery are not incompatible with the accomplishments of elegance and fashion, and the lustre of one reflects grace upon the comforts derived from the other.

As I have now fairly got you all up and broad awake, I shall make my bow, with "*au plaisir*" — and *valete et plaudite*.

LEWIS LUKE MACCOLLOH.

---

JUST PUBLISHED,

No. 1.

OF A WEEKLY ESSAY, CALLED  
THE SCRIBBLER;

Intended as a miscellany of literature, amusement, criticism, satire and poetry; excluding news, party politics, religious controversy, and personal scandal.

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