

THE SCRIBBLER.

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Tros Rutuluræ suat, nullo discrimine habetur. VIRGIL.

Gentile or Jew, a Briton or a Gaul,
Impartial justice here we give to all ;

Hæstis apud antiquos, peregrinus dicebatur.
POMPEIUS FESTUS.

And tho' mongst some, a stranger's term'd a foe,
Not in our pages will it e'er be so.

*Quo Musa tendis ? desine pervicam
Referre sermones Decorum et
Magna modis tenuare parvis.* HORACE.

But whither mounts th' adventurous muse ? ah ! cease
To vex the high and mighty : hold thy peace ;
Nor tell of viceroys' balls, nor markets, pigs, nor geese.

It is always one of my first cares, to shew that impartiality which is essentially necessary, not only for the due administration of censorial and literary justice, but also for the interests of a work professing to display a true picture of living manners, in order that all may be deterred from misrepresenting or exaggerating the objects that are recommended to my attention, by knowing that they are as open to contradiction by other testimony, and cross-examination by counsel, as if they were in the witness-box of the Court of Kings Bench. The three following communications, therefore, claim a prior attention to others.

District of Montreal, February, 1823.

L. L. MACCULLOH Esq.

Audi alteram partem.

Having always considered your miscellany as a vehicle through which truth could be conveyed, and as having a tendency to correct vice, depravity, and the weaknesses incident to human nature, I must own I was not a little embarrassed the other day, on perusing in your No. 82, a production under the signature of *A Spectator*, replete with such misrepresentations as to excite my indignation, and draw from my pen such seasonable animadversion as the author may justly merit. I am the more induced to do this, by the generous declaration in your last number, that "your pages were open to defence, to extenuation, and even to recrimination. Truth then is the invaluable motto you adopt, and, as it is the noblest characteristic of our nature, the labours of your correspondents ought to be entirely confined to it.

Among christians, ingratitude has always been considered as the vilest and blackest of crimes, so much so that few are to be found that will acknowledge its guilt. In the instance of *A Spectator*, I see it depicted in such colours as ought to draw upon him the odium of every one. "A fact is a stubborn thing." Spectator, as a stranger, was admitted to the assembly of Berthier, as a guest, and not as a designing spy and scrutineer into the *partial* oversights which must unavoidably prevail in the laudable amusements of a country-town—amusements so indispensably necessary to make a long and dreary winter glide insensibly away;* and why should a

*The encouragement and extension of such amusements are my aim, instead of throwing any impediment in the way either of the formation of such parties or of the enjoyment of

demon of discord, like *Spectator*, attempt to sow such piques and animosities as tend to embitter innocent enjoyments, and impair momentary pleasures. "Hail, ye small sweet courtesies of life," said the benevolent Sterne.

Should, however, a want of proper decorum and decency exist in these amusements, then we have an undoubted right to rebuke the authors publicly, the only means left, in my opinion, to correct and remedy all evils in civil and christian society, and which, as I observed before, it is the tendency of your book to do. But, at the Berthier assembly, I was myself a guest, and a better regulated one I have seldom seen, even throughout the country-towns in Europe; with

those who constitute them; and one way to increase that enjoyment is of course to censure what may have been amiss, not with any cynic view of curtailing the few pleasures which tend to dissipate the cares of life, but with that of enhancing them by rendering them more refined, more palatable, more consonant to those rules which have social happiness for their basis, and politeness and good breeding for their support.— My present correspondent admits that *partial oversights* must and do prevail in the assemblies of a country-town. If so, is it not laudable to endeavour to correct them? The mode and tone in which they are corrected is the only thing to be considered; and perhaps *A Spectator* has been both too severe, and has exaggerated them. But if it be true that the room was ill lit up, will it not be better lighted next time? If it be true that some ladies were permitted to have their own choice of numbers, will any one hereafter take out a handful? If it be true that it was not till forced to form a set, that the gentlemen would leave their grog, will they be so backward another time; If it be true that no negus was handed round to the ladies, will they long in vain for a little wine and water next ball? All these are minor oversights which, by not denying, a *stranger* has admitted: nor has he said a word in specific denial of that ungentlemanly practice of drinking to excess either before repairing to, or at, an assembly; one which I must ever most emphatically and constantly stigmatise, as a vile and beastly perversion of the intention of such parties.

L. L. M.

one exception, however, namely that the Hebrew tribe is considered as admissible to the assemblies at Berthier; a thing never allowed at the large assemblies where I have sometimes had the honour of acting as manager;* and in truth it ap-

*I have reluctantly printed this part of a Stranger's otherwise liberal and gentlemanly defence, in order to enter my protest against any distinctions of the nature alluded to: I beg likewise to say, that at the assemblies at which I have had occasionally the honour of acting as manager, in England, Holland, and Flanders, no such exclusion was ever thought of; and in several places, and in Amsterdam & Francfort in particular, the ladies and gentleman of the Jewish race, not only intermix with the first society, at all their parties, but are invariably considered as ornaments, and a desirable accession to that society. At the court of Great Britain, no such distinction is made, nor at any court in Europe that I know of, save those of France and Spain before the revolution. In the upper circles of fashion, at the west end of London, none more gay, none more splendid, none more sought after. I might instance the Lord Mayor's balls at the mansion-house, but these smack so much of the city, and of tradesmen, that they will not be admitted as criteria *here*. In all countries where I have been, the upper ranks of the Jews are as indubitably ladies and gentlemen, as those of the nation they form a part of: the men liberal minded, generally learned, and often accomplished; the ladies proverbially radiant in almost unrivalled beauty, and from the very essence of their civil and religious institutions, more free and friendly, more affable and captivating, than the more gloomy and retired manners that prevail too generally amongst those of other persuasions, will permit other women to be. That much obloquy has been thrown, and deservedly as to the actual circumstances, upon the lower ranks of Jews, the trading, dishonest, tricking part of their society, is true; but it is the *unchristian* treatment they have experienced from the *christians*; the *savage* persecution they have suffered at the hands of the *civilized*; and the *illiberal* scorn in what they have been held by the *liberal*; that have driven them to be what they are. No christian state in Europe, save republican Holland and republican Poland, (in which last country the Jews form almost a distinct nation,) allowed a Hebrew to possess land: you cut him off from the most pleasing part of life; he can not see his corn grow, or his flocks multiply; he can not plough, nor

appears to me, from the aversion shewn by *A Spectator*, to that *proud flesh* (pork) being eaten, "in large lumps," by the ladies, as if his production was engendered by the "thickness of intellect," of one of that descent. I can not likewise but admire the compassionate and sympathetic disposition of our *Spectator*, in pitying the poor ladies for being condemned to be annoyed with the fumes of leeward, whiskey, and black strap. Notwithstanding the falsity of this assertion; how it shews his considerate and refined feelings! and how amiably do not his sympathy and refinement display themselves, towards the nice feelings of those poor ladies, when he,—modest, delectable *Spectator*,—attempts to sap the very foundations of their virtue, chastity, and reputation! What! you were scandalised at seeing some ladies lolling on the beds in open view of gentlemen? and did you not blush when you wrote this? not I mean, from modesty, but from consciousness of its untruth? If true, I contend it might be innocently and harmlessly done, and unless in minds, pregnant with obscene ideas, need not have raised either blush or censure.—But it argues a mean and unmanly spirit to wound female delicacy, and it is as false as it is injurious to the ladies feelings, and as malignant as it is discouraging to that hospitality and politeness which the inhabitants of Berthier have

plant, nor sow, nor reap; you drive him then to the low arts of trade (for what is the most extended trade in the abstract, but taking advantage of the wants of others to increase your own wealth,) you drive him to be a pedlar, a cheat, and when he has realized some money, he must be an usurer, and prey upon your follies and your vices, or he must starve with his coffers full of gold. Let me not hear any more of such invidious distinctions in a free and enlightened community.

L. L. M.

too indiscriminately shewn to strangers, and which truth obliges me to say, few but *Spectator* have not received and acknowledged with gratitude and satisfaction.

To conclude, I think it my duty to observe, when speaking of the ladies who attend these assemblies, that their manners, demeanour, virtues, and accomplishments will ever secure them from the censure of characters, honourable by their rank, and respected for their manly qualities, and entitle them to despise that of others.

Should *Spectator* be desirous of continuing a correspondence upon this subject, I shall be fully prepared; but I must say with the Roman, at parting, *Quodconque ostendis mihi sic, incredulus odi.*

A STRANGER.

Montreal, February 7.

MR. MACCULLOH,

Noticing a few days ago, in one of your numbers, a communication respecting the General Hospital of this city, in which it appears that the writer wishes to represent the road to the hospital, as the straight road to destruction and death, rather than as being of that public benefit which was the intention of its first founders, as well as the desire of every well wisher of the like institutions, I deem it right to take up my pen to controvert the evil impressions that might be made on the public mind from that communication. I have been a member of the society from the first establishment of it, and an eyewitness of almost all the transactions. I have never failed to visit the hospital as often as once a quarter, and frequently as often as once a month. I have never failed to find the house clean, and in good order, (at least the matron's apartment,) and on

all occasions a doctor, or an equivalent for one, in the surgery ; for there were always there from five to ten boys, from twelve to fifteen years of age. who, according to the best calculation I can make, ought to make one good doctor ; there are besides a sufficiency of chemical apprentices, and a number of curious experiments are daily trying in the laboratory, which afford great amusement and instruction. But you know that the trying of experiments and the improvement of young men in the sciences of medicine, anatomy, pharmacy, surgery, and midwifery, form the great "end and aim," of all hospitals, to which primary considerations, the relief and care of patients are quite secondary. They have also at the hospital every convenience for bathing, both warm and cold, and beds to put the patients in after bathing, with a number of conveniences for the sick too numerous to mention ; the institution has in fact become so noted for its good doctors and good nurses, that many of the first gentlemen repair there for medical aid and bathing. One of the gentlemen of the weekly committee, who is fond of *try*-ing all things, has set the example : I am told it is very customary for him to go there for the purpose of bathing and sweating, and the governess, who is a very fine woman, and who is willing to do all in her power to accommodate, gives up her own bed, or at least as much of it as she can spare. There is also a servant woman (she is a tall Irish woman, who has been there for some time) whom I should be doing great injustice not to make mention of : she is of great use in keeping secrets, and in assisting the other gentlemen, who visit the hospital for the like purposes. You see, sir, that, in fact, the utility of the hospital has been extended beyond even the humane inten-

tions of its founders, and instead of being, as the calumniatory Jonah insinuates, the way to death and the grave, is more likely to become a means of prolificness and life. I can not also avoid praising the minute attention, paid by Dr. Mac Stephen to the culinary part of the establishment, assisted by his aid de camp Dr. O'Dodge; the former has acquired so thorough a knowledge of gruel, that he knows far better than the cook herself, whether it has boiled long enough; and the latter will not knock under to any French cook whatever, as a taster of soups and broths.

Upon the whole, you see therefore, sir, that the hospital has not been justly dealt with by its decriers, and I think there need no other arguments than those I have produced, to confute the insinuations of Jonah and others; so, for the present, I remain,

Yours, &c.

JAMES IRONY.

But letting *Irony* now alone, I hasten to publish the following letter which has just reached me, and which, although it is rather too vituperative, I can not but, in justice, give as faithfully, as a translation from the French original will admit.

Montreal, 10th Feb.

SIR,

Permit me to state to you that you have been very ill informed, on the subject of what you have published in the *Scribbler*. concerning the officers of the watch of this city; and allow me to put you in possession of the truth.

It was in the month of June 1818, that the watch, under the command of their second lieutenant, made a seizure of fourteen cases of lem-

ons. These cases were carried to the custom-house the following morning, when the lieutenant and second lieutenant of the watch received permission from the comptroller of the customs, to keep two boxes, provided they paid the same price at which the rest should be sold by auction; and the comptroller, and searcher, each took the same privilege. With respect to the two chests of tea, of which you have made mention; that happened in the month of July last. Six men belonging to the watch, in going their rounds through the streets, met several persons at the old market, who were carrying these chests. These persons, when they saw the watch, threw down the chests and ran away. The watchmen took possession of the tea, and sold it clandestinely, and without the knowledge of their officers; but the lieutenant of the watch having been informed of the circumstance on the following morning, caused the two chests of tea to be restored to the owner; and the six men in question, were dismissed from the service of the watch.— The owner of the tea resides at St. Johns, and will be able to bear witness to the truth of this statement.

You need not, however, be surprised that the lieutenant of the watch of this city, is an object of calumny: he has the misfortune to be a stranger, and a Frenchman. You have yourself resided amongst us, and you must have perceived the great misfortune it is to be a stranger, and particularly so if that stranger be obnoxious to the Scotch. Well, that is actually the case with the lieutenant of the watch here: the Scotch do not like him, and they wish to ruin him, cost whatever it may. You have reason to know well, that cursed race of Scotch unionists, and you can not fail to know their villainy. They do not

shrink at planning the ruin of the father of a numerous family : they care for nothing, if they can but satisfy their hatred. Be therefore, sir, upon your guard, and do not listen to such slanderers ; You have been deceived by them, and will be again, of you place confidence in them ; whilst, if you do not, you can not fail of acquiring the esteem of him who subscribes himself,

Your very humble servant,

L'AMI DE LA VERITE.

I have translated the designations of *contre-maitre*, and *assistant contremaitre*, used in the original of the above, *lieutenant*, and *second lieutenant* : if I am wrong, and that it should be *captain* and *lieutenant*, I will correct the error as soon as pointed out. I am confident my correspondent, NUDA VERITAS, whose communication in No. 84 has called forth this reply, was not actuated by any bad motives ; for though I do not know him, I know the hand-writing to be that of a frequent contributor, on both judicious and entertaining subjects ; but if the counter-statement be correct, and I see no reason to doubt it, he must have been misinformed, and I certainly feel much vexed at the disingenuousness, that could bring forward a transaction three years old, as a testimony of present misconduct, when, as alledged, so many others lay open for animadversion : but as before said I acquit NUDA VERITAS of the blame, and only request him, and all my contributors, to be as cautious as possible in communicating "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth," as they will perceive misstatements are always open to immediate contradiction.

Decies repetita placebit.

HORACE.

Ten times repeated, such a joke ne'er tires.

The hoaxes that have been recorded in the

Scribbler, as put upon the customhouse-officers of Berthier, and St. Johns, appear to have sharpened the wits of other *fair traders* and stultified the discrimination of other *seizers*; and a similar trick has been played in Montreal; where lately an important prize which had been taken possession of, as contraband goods, and bearing the appearance of sundry chests of tea, and kegs of tobacco, was discovered at the customhouse, whither it had been carefully conveyed, guarded by a detachment of soldiers, to consist of a curious and extensive assortment of stones and brickbats, and a quantity of that prime article, of which we may say with Terence,

Ubi, ubi est, diu celare non potest.

Wherever it is, it can not long remain conceal'd for the smell will betray it.

It may be worth while to inquire a little into the cause of that chuckling enjoyment which every one, but the disappointed parties, feels on all occasions when custom or excise-officers are cheated, and successful or ingenious instances of smuggling, are related. Setting aside the propensity there is in human nature, inherited from Mrs. Eve,* to long for prohibited articles, and do forbidden things, which may be considered as a powerful, though unacknowledged, stimulus for rejoicing at the success of such pieces of rogue-

* Mem. It was not, I believe, the fashion in those days for ladies to take their husband's names, although a waggish poet, (Stevenson,) has expressed his doubts on the subject.

“Talking of Adam makes me wonder,
And 't is a doubt I can't keep under,
Whether or no
Our first great-grand-mother below,
Was miss or madam ;
Or whether our progenitor thought right,
Having observed her with delight,
To say miss Eve or mistress Adam.”

ry; a higher and more praiseworthy cause may be found in the natural sense implanted in man, that all such restrictions as tend to curtail the bounties of nature, deaden the energies of industry, and deprive mankind of those enjoyments which the munificence of the governor of the world, and the art and ingenuity of his creatures, have provided, are, in reality, outrages against the crown and dignity of the great bestower of all good; and, whether dictated by the sordid desire of grasping at money, the narrow policy of cribbing in the resources of a neighbouring state, or the scarcely less justifiable motive of becoming exclusive merchants, manufacturers, or growers, of certain articles or goods, that conduce to the necessities and enjoyments of life, are all, in their nature, invidious, oppressive, and in fact, though modern state policy is too blind to perceive it, ultimately always injurious to the government or people who impose them. In the celebrated speech of the Hon. Tory Loverule at the Gossip-room, on this subject, much stress was laid on the *demoralizing* effects of smuggling; but I would ask, imitating their own revolutionary language (for it should be recollected that *demoralizing* is a word coined in the worst times of revolutionary France,) who are the *demoralizers*? I answer; those who form such prohibitory enactments; those who think that statutes of the British parliament that sin against nature and common sense, as well as against all sound policy, which I contend all such as impose any kind of duty, pro or con, between Canada and the United States, must do, will stop the ingress and egress of adroit and hardy adventurers along a frontier of 2000 miles; those who lay the temptation in the way, and in a great measure point out in what, and how, smuggling can best be car-

ried on; these are the real *demoralizers*; but the field is too wide, and I must rein my courser in, or rather transfer him to *my friend*, the Editor of the Free Press, to whom it more properly belongs to ride the great warhorses of Politics, and Statistics; whilst I jog on, on the more humble, but no less useful, ponies, Satire, Criticism, and Literature, with now and then a ride on that skitish filly, Poetry.

L. L. M.

Quebec, 12th Jan. 1823.*

L. L. MACCULLOH Esq.

You do not appear to have many reports from this place, where it seems as if your old correspondents, Tom Brown, Junius, Observator, &c. &c. are all asleep. I have been told indeed, that some of them, have discontinued their contributions, on account of your having taken the line of politics you have done, as editor of the Free Press, which they do not approve of: but that I think both an unworthy and an illiberal motive, for the interests of morality, good manners, literature, and satire, have nothing to do with pure politics. Be that as it may, as I have some leisure, and am naturally of an observant disposition, I have resolved upon sending you some slight remarks on two public parties, at which I was present here, of which probably you may be able to make some use.

* This letter bears the appearance of having been missent, (which would account for the delay,) and of having been opened and sealed again: it appears to have been first wafered, and afterwards sealed with very bad wax, and the impression of a counting-house wafer-seal. Egon will know by this whether any thing unfair has occurred. I would advise the Quebec post-office not to let me catch them out again in their dirty tricks.
L. L. M.

One was the ball at Malhiot's on the 28th Dec. It was not well attended, and many of the guests felt dissatisfied at the consequence assumed by some who seemed to consider themselves as arbiters of the company, and dictated every thing, from the forming of a quadrille-set, to the mode of handing round the refreshments. I would, in particular, recommend the *chevalier à la Lorgnette* not to be so monopolizing in future, and to have the charity to believe that others besides himself have some pretensions to a knowledge both of the art of dancing, and of etiquette. He should recollect that even first-rate abilities are tarnished when accompanied by presumption and superciliousness towards others; his partner in quadrilling, Mad. de la Chataigne, *l'angloise* as the Canadian ladies call her, I am afraid seriously displeased a son of Mars, who withdrew, declaring with smothered oaths, that he would never see her again; but I don't know whether he has been as good as his word.

But it is lady Viceroy's gala of the 2d instant, that is of more consequence, of which great treat I mean to give you a feeble account of some particulars. Having received a card of invitation, I repaired on the appointed evening to the chateau, for, although I have a kind of philosophic indifference for the parties of the great, I was wishful to scrutinize into the apeings of high life, which I expected to see in the medley there assembled. Amongst some fashion and elegance, and intermingled with a variety of brilliant apparel, and a proportion of real gentility of demeanour, which were to be found particularly in the old French noblesse, I observed much vulgarity, some tawdriness, not a few mean and unbecoming dresses, and the frequent assumed arrogance of the *parvenu*, with the ungainly *mauvaise honte* of the tradesman out of his shop. I

was rather surprised at seeing the little barber-surgeon Per-annum, and his Esquimaux wife amongst the crowd: the lady had her delicate brown fingers, and alabaster-neck loaded with rings and trinkets; she was doomed to sit in a corner, and be only a looker-on the whole evening; and it is said that, on their return home, the fair lady shaved her *bon homme* with a blunt razor, for not having procured her a partner to dance a quadrille. Another subject of astonishment, was that lady Viceroy had condescended to send a card of invitation to Mr. Francois Le Blanc, a collecting clerk in a brewery, whilst the chief of the establishment, and an M. P. into the bargain, was mortifyingly left at home to warm his knees behind the stove. The schoolmistress's daughter too, with her *good man* whose best company never before soared higher than the character of ale-house frequenters, were there, and excited enquiry how they could have gained admittance. Upon the whole, the right honourable hostess, I am afraid, has not made herself sufficiently acquainted with the different *assortments* (to employ a trader's term) that exist in society here, to use a due discretion and selection in her invitations. I will not here enquire into the origin of Mad. De la Chataige, whom I have before mentioned, or in what character she first came to this country, for her husband's rank and station entitle her to admittance at the chateau; but others, who have not such claims, might be pointed out; and it is the general opinion here, that lady Viceroy would gain more popularity, were she to exercise her own judgement in her invitations, and not wholly rely upon the recommendations of intriguers and favourites.

I have a few characters in my eye, whom I mean to bring to your notice another time, and remain,
 Your's &c,
 ÆGON.

It is with feelings of vexation and indignation, that I find my correspondent under the signature of MARIA, has imposed upon me as original, both of the little pieces which appeared in No. 84, and whose merit induced me to solicit a continuation of her poetic favours; but which are borrowed from other publications. The address to Contentment appeared in No. 37 of the Albany Microscope, and the Sonnet, I believe, is taken from Blackwood's Magazine. Of course the other verses I have received under the same signature, though I can not point out whence they are stolen; lie under the same suspicion, and can not be inserted. On this occasion I must also take leave to reprehend my old contributor WILL-O-THE-WISP; the lines to *Azura*, which appeared in No. 66, are printed, addressed to *Narcissa*, in the *Canadian Songster*: I have reason to believe they are the original composition of the gentleman who sent them, but he ought to have stated that they had before been published. The impracticability of an editor being able to detect all such plagiarisms, renders the disingenuousness of the pretenders who thus impose on him, more culpable; and, although I am exceedingly averse to endeavouring to find out who my correspondents are in other instances, I shall certainly try, in similar cases, to discover the impostors, and if I find them out, I will expose them by name, to the odium they deserve.

L. L. M.

TO CORRESPONDENTS. Occupation has delayed the intended letter to PARIS: he will now find one at the office. A CONSTANT READER, is thanked for his extracts from Oxtord. NICODEMUS's dream next week. APPLESAUCE, is put by in the cupboard, for the present, along with OBADIAH IDLE, and PHILO, for reasons which will hereafter appear. CORPORAL RAMROD is under consideration.

The Old market, a comic Song, to which allusion is made in the motto, has been shut out. It will appear next week.

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