

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 23th 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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.....
1822.

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THE SCRIBBLER.

MONTREAL.

THURSDAY, 27th DECEMBER, 1821.

No. XXVII.

*Vixere fortes ante Agamemnona
Multi; sed omnes illacrymabiles
Urgentur, ignotaque longa
Nocte, carent quia vate sacro.*—HORACE.

Heroes there many lived before old Homer sung,
Some worthy of a crown, some worthy to be hung;
But since by bards and chroniclers they all have been forgotten
Unfam'd they died, and, bless their souls! their bones are even rotten.

—*Ut unda impellitur unda,
Urgetque prior venienti, urgetque priorem,
Tempora sic fugiunt pariter, pariterque sequuntur;
Et nova sunt semper.*

OVID.

As wave to wave succeeds, each pressing each,
And press'd in turn behind, so flit our years,
The present pressing on the last, and prest
By that which comes; the same, yet ever new.

Montreal, 20th Dec. 1821.

MR. SCRIBBLER,

It has been remarked by Horace that many illustrious names before the time of Agamemnon have been lost to posterity for want of a bard to transmit them in immortal song. Now I conceive the fashionables in Montreal are much in the same predicament with respect to their entertainments, balls, and parties; they are lost to the public for want of a proper chronicler; the newspapers seldom taking any notice of these interesting topics. In order, therefore, to remedy this defect, and that you may set the negligent editors an example, and furnish them with a model, I inclose you for insertion in your next publication in any way you shall think best, an account of a grand Fête that took place last Tuesday, drawn up in the style of the London Morning Post, which I take to be the true pattern for all such compositions. The *Beau-monde* can not but be highly pleased with the prospect of having their splendid doings thus blazoned in print, and must feel grateful to you for beginning so useful a practice. In London, next to giving a party, the highest gratification is to have it known; this is doubtless also the feeling here.

I am, Sir, your obdt. servant.

AN AMATEUR OF FASHION.

THE COUNTESS OF OLDJOSEPH STAREWELL'S GRAND FÊTE.

This fashionable lady last night opened her splendid mansion in the worst part of St. Paul's Street, to all the leaders of *ton* in Montreal. It is not within the compass of language to convey by

description any idea of this sumptuous enterment—the very acme of elegance and taste. That magnificent suite of apartments on the *ground floor*, where art has exhausted itself in embellishment, was thrown open for the reception of company. The grand entrance, stair-case, and ball-room, were decorated by a profusion of shrubs and evergreens, giving them the appearance, and shedding the fragrance, of an Eastern grove; at the same time diffusing a coolness inconceivably pleasant at this season of the year, when the ground is covered with snow two feet deep, and the thermometer several degrees below the freezing point. The supper consisted of every delicacy in and out of season, catered in the market by the munificent host himself, and it is even said, though we will not vouch for its truth, that he gave last Friday morning 4s. 6d. for a couple of ducks. The wines were of the rarest and choicest flavour.

Carriones, sleighs, berlins, traineaux, and every description of vehicle on runners, continued to arrive and set down from half past eight till half past nine. Precisely at nine dancing commenced by a quadrille, led off by the following well known elegant votaries of Terpsichore:

The Countess	and	Baron Grunt;
Mrs. Longlass		Baron Loftystone;
Miss Carolina Wilhelmina	}	Capt. Le Sly;
Amelia Loverule		
Miss Hogsflesh		Dr. Drugwell;

and continued with an alternation of country-dances till two, when supper was announced, and by five the whole of the *beau-monde* had withdrawn.

We regret to say that an accident equally unforeseen as never-to-be-sufficiently-lamented and irreparable, eclipsed in a great degree the brilliancy of the arrangements. An immense number of the most tastefully variegated lamps^[A] had been provided, but when they came to receive the Promethean touch of the lighter it was found impossible to kindle them into flame; whether this was owing to inexperience, bad materials, or an awkward attempt at imitation beyond the possibility of execution, we can not pretend to determine, but this agonizing failure cast an obscurity over the festivity of the evening, which not all the sparkling wit and well known convivial talents of the elegant host, nor the enchanting fascinations of his accomplished lady could dispel. Among the fashionable crowd we noticed

Duchesses	}	None
Marchionesses		
Countesses		
Dowagers		

Ladies a very few, namely; (here unfortunately my inkstand fell over the manuscript, and obliterated all the names of the distinguished guests with which I am therefore not able to oblige the public. The *Amateur of Fashion* I trust will excuse this accident and favour me with his occasional reports of what is going forward in the little great world of Montreal which can not fail to be gratifying to the entertainers, and highly amusing to the entertained.)

The ladies' dresses were of the most superb and costly description; the gentlemen were chiefly *à la militaire*. The Count himself appeared in a fancy coat of the most *unique* and singularly tasteful cut, and seemed in the best health.

Montreal, 19th Decr. 1821.

[A] Rumour with her hundred tongues states that these lamps were the same that on His

Majesty's birth day 12th August, last year, 1820, decorated a house in St. Laurent Suburbs, which the newspapers of the day celebrated as exhibiting a blaze of light; and which were borrowed both for that and the present occasion.

L. L. M.

Christmass week. Whoever looks around him during the present season, may entertain some doubt whether the *upper* or the *lower* ranks are most *civil*. Certain it is that all the outward signs of civility are now wonderfully apparent. Never surely was precept better kept than "servants obey your masters in all things," *for eight or ten days*. There is no occasion to ring the bell above once, and no disputes are heard as to *whose business* it is to answer it; the distance between the kitchen and parlour appears to be shortened, and no one *supposes* what is wanted before they go to enquire. *Early rising*, considering how cold and dark the mornings are, is practised with surprising alacrity and cheerfulness; a cheerfulness imparted to the very fire, which blazes most comfortably as soon as it is wanted. The breakfast is got ready *all together*. There is no waiting for the toast when the tea is ready, nor any deficiency of water when the tea pot is exhausted. Not a saucy word in reply to a command, nor a *humph* nor a *hum* to be heard. Dinner is served up to a minute, and done to a tittle. Nothing is forgot, nothing of that lamentable want of memory complained of at other times, and the usual plea, "I did not think of it," is itself not thought of. In the house work every thing is done *before* it is ordered, instead of a month or six weeks *after*. There is plenty of wood always ready for the stove, and abundance of coals in the scuttle. There is no delay in errands, and doors open and shut as gently as if they could not express any passion. Letter-carriers are remarkably attentive in delivering their letters punctually and with dispatch, and the newspapers come in with the hot rolls at breakfast. Even the very printer's devils stir about like merry imps, and I know I shall not have half so many errors of the press to correct in the proofsheets of this Scribbler as I shall have for a twelve month to come.

Christmass boxes and New Year's gifts are customs of very universal usage, and of ancient standing. New Year's gifts were not unknown to the Romans, and traces of them are to be found even in the fragments of Sanchoniathon's Phœnician history. I had intended to have enlarged this week on the good old custom observed in this country of visiting each other on New Year's day. But I must defer that intention to my next, as I can not omit giving a place to the following

LINES TO THE NEW YEAR,—1822.

Now dark December, with his stormy hand,
Hath closed the circle of the rolling year,
That rearward glides along the length of ages,
And yields his place to coming months which spring
New from the lap of time.

Sad was the scene; no incense-breathing gales
Caught his last sigh; no choral groves their hymns—
Of joy and love, gave as he quit, the scene,
Nor genial suns, with love inspiring ray,
Shone on his parting hour.

But sullen winter with congealing touch,
Seal'd first his eyes; and howling Boreas blew
His fiercest blast, and hurl'd the snowy shroud
Furious around him, and flung o'er his grave
An icy monument.

Nature convulsed, confest the parting pangs,
And, as the year sunk in the grave of time,
She travail'd with his son and heir, and lo!
The midnight hour received the new-born babe,
Cradled in wintery storms.

And we, frail mortals, hail'd th'auspicious hour
That told the coming of another year,
With light and life, and all the blessings he,
The sire of being, gives; and grateful hearts
Our joyful bosoms swell'd.

Offspring of time! thrice welcome to our world!
Tho' storms obscure thy birth, and Winter hold
His iron sceptre o'er thy wide domains,
Yet Spring succeeds them, and her virgin-charms
Shall warm thee into life.

The peeping violet on its grassy couch,
Each fairy flower, the dew-bespangled mead,
The forest clothed in green, the joyous birds
That tune their throats to love; all that hath life,
Their all shall bring to thee.

The fervid suns that Summer's long arch sweep,
The thunder-cloud that wets the teeming earth,
The beauteous harvests rising on the plain,
The gales that fan them; all conspiring, shall
Thy ripening manhood fill.

Matured with Autumn, thou shalt with her too
Decline; and as she sheds her honours round,
In mellow age thy manly self shalt sink,
And pale October's latest sun shall shine
Upon thy lockless brow.

And, like thy sire, hoar Winter's heavy hand
Thou shalt confess, and feel the blasting storms
That shook him from his hold of earthly things—
And, as he gave thee place, so shalt those cede
Unto another year.

Frail man! behold a picture of thyself—
Thy life is but the circle of a year,
Which death will surely close—Then, to the work
Thou hast to do! that, when thy year's complete,
Life may be thine hereafter.

[B] I have to acknowledge the other poetic favours of Erieus, which will receive due attention, as the pressure of other matter will allow. The delicate compliment which accompanies his request for the insertion of “The battle of Lundy’s lane,” is a bribe that my vanity would with difficulty resist even were the verses less entitled to a place than they are from their extrinsic brilliant merit. They will appear in an early succeeding number, with the alterations he suggests.

MR. SCRIBBLER,

A paradox of yours says (*see No. 6.*) “No woman can be perfectly agreeable without a spice of the devil in her composition.” Divines solve this paradox by affirming that *mankind are naturally corrupt*, and were women without this spice they would be angels, and of course not *perfectly agreeable* to men. But do tell me, dear Scribbler, how it happens that a woman can sometimes gorge the spice-box and *all its contents*? In your recondite and extensive readings did you ever meet with such an instance recorded? Or in your travels did you ever know a woman *appearing* to be without a *spice*, who all at once shewed herself to be in possession of the whole box, filled to overflowing, and like the widow’s cruse inexhaustible?

I pray you, Mr. Scribbler, to point out, if you can, the antidotes to the devil’s spices, and by so doing you will kindly relieve the wounds and bruises of perhaps many a suffering husband, but particularly the pelted head of your devoted

TIMOTHY TREMBLE.

Mr. Tremble’s case appearing to be an urgent one, I will take it into consideration next week, and in the mean time, *pendente lite*, I do order and direct Mrs. Tremble to abstain from the use of her hands and nails, as well as of all tea-cups, wine-glasses and other missile weapons, in contention with her husband, and moreover not to exalt her voice above *c flat basso* and to begin and end her speeches with “my dear”; until further orders. Witness my hand.

LEWIS LUKE MACCULLOH.

The SCRIBBLER is published every Thursday by James Lane, St. Paul street, price 6*d.* per No. or 6*s.* per quarter, 11*s.* 6*d.* for six months, or 22*s.* per annum. Sent postage free to any part of the British American dominions. Letters, and advertisements relating to literature or the arts (which are inserted gratis, modified or curtailed at the option of the Editor,) to be addressed to Lewis Luke Macculloh, Esquire, Post Office, Montreal, or left at the Printer’s.

ADVERTISEMENT.

“That is to say they are a trading copartnery, to do the devil’s business without mentioning his name in the firm.”

Kenilworth, vol. 1, ch. 4.

S. H. Wilcocke hereby gives notice to the North West Company, and others whom it may concern, that, if they do not publish a report of his trial at the late Court of Oyer and Terminer, upon the false and scandalous charge of forgery brought against him, he intends to publish an

abstract of the same with remarks on ALL THE WITNESSES and their evidence and HIS DEFENCE AT LARGE. He will give them till the second week in January for revising their minutes, after which he will say with the psalmist:

“These things hast thou done and I kept silence, thou thoughtest that I was altogether such a one as thyself, but I will reprove thee and set them in order before thine eyes.” Ps. L. v. 21.

Errata in No. 26, p. 207, 5th line from bottom, for *Connty* read *Country*.
203, 13th do. do. for *Magazine* read
Review.

TRANSCRIBER NOTES

Misspelled words and printer errors have been corrected. Where multiple spellings occur, majority use has been employed.

Punctuation has been maintained except where obvious printer errors occur.

[The end of *The Scribbler 1821-08-09 Volume 1, Issue 27* edited by Samuel Hull Wilcocke]