

THE SECRET

VOL. I.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1879.

NO. 1.

THE "SECRET,"

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The Secret.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., MARCH 8, 1879.

OUR MISSION.

We present to the public our first copy of the SECRET, which, we hope, will meet the public want, and receive the patronage of the citizens of the city of St. John. Our aim is to supply a paper that will enable them to know the real causes of evil which exist among us, to expose the undermining influences which so often prove ruinous to young men, to give a more detailed account of the private doings of those who cause parents and friends such deep concern, to show the reason why, that so much discord, lack of energy and christian charity exist in churches, societies, and public gatherings. We do not intend to make any discrimination in our remarks, but to give a fair and impartial statement of each in its turn, with its consequent effects, and endeavour to point out some way to alleviate the troubles.

No doubt many of our readers will at times feel displeased with our criticisms, but persons who conduct themselves as good members of society need not fear them, as we hold the highest respect for such, and purpose using them at times as examples for imitation.

In all our writings we purpose using no language that would be offensive to the most refined, or that would cause a blush to the most sensitive cheek, but in all cases to submit to our wives, sisters and daughters such reading matter as will be new, amus-

ing and instructive, while opening up the avenues to the sight of those who are starting out in life that will enable them to take advantage of the experiences of others.

If any language is used that is not in strict accordance with the standard rules of society it will be for the purpose of exposing their folly, the bad effects it has on themselves and its influences on others, and any wit or humor, even though it is at the expense of individuals, will be published for the amusement of all. We purpose giving some wholesome advice to the extravagant and show the evil tendency it has to close the avenues of legitimate trade, the notice of all failures in business and any probable failures which are expected by persons in a position to judge. There are many ideas which we could express suggestive of wit, humor and reform, but we reserve our remarks for a future issue, submitting our work to the inspection of the public.

THE LADIES.

We have often been perplexed by the ready wit of ladies who have thwarted our best efforts to show our superiority of intellect and social position, but our embarrassment has been mingled with feelings of respect on account of the good sense and leniency shewn on their part, even though the rejoinder was at our expense. There is another class of ladies, whose feelings and sympathies are so sensitive that they cannot refuse the slightest favor, will not usher themselves in the company of a lady and gentleman, for fear remarks are passed to the effect that it is their desire to captivate the young man for her own. We believe this is one of the marks of true modesty—if not carried too far, but such examples are rather the exception than the rule. There are a class of ladies which we will perhaps point out in a future issue who make a study of relieving young ladies of their suitors, not

by their beauty nor their winning ways, but by a forward movement they have of ushering themselves in the company of others, where their presence is neither desired nor sought for. This forwardness is the result of ignorance and a delusion that young men are continually happy in their presence. This is by no means confined to persons of low social standing but often seen in the higher circles of society. A few examples will, no doubt, suffice in the future to break up this growing tendency among the young ladies of our city who are just learning to talk love with their handkerchiefs.

We have concluded that Mr. Smith, of the *Miramichi Advance*, has spent all his fury on Mr. Venning, for the reason, we believe, that he has nothing more to write, and from what he has written, we express the opinion of the people of New Brunswick, when we say that he was in a much better position in the eyes of the public when he commenced than when he finished. Mr. Smith's deep interest in the Bass Fishery may be genuine, but we judge that his prejudices are calculated to defeat the object he has in view (if he has any); we presume that Mr. Smith, must either be a poor judge of human nature, or underrates the intelligence of the people of New Brunswick, when he thinks that it would be called an argument to call a man a pig-headed self-conceit. We can imagine every feeling that prompts a man to work for a laudable purpose, but this expression does not come under that head. Mr. Venning has held the position under many changes of government, and old fogyism may be attributed to him, but we think such an important position requires to be filled by a man of long experience who progresses in knowledge as well as years, and such a person is not misrepresented in Mr. Venning, who, we hope, will pay no attention to such pent up bursts of indignation, but fill the duties of that office regardless of the opinion of men who make questions of so much importance a pretext to make use of old animosities.