

THE
COMMUNITY'S JOURNAL;
OR,
STANDARD OF TRUTH.

Useful Knowledge,



Void of Fiction.

THIS VOLUME IS DEVOTED TO
HISTORY, SCIENCE, ART, AND GENERAL AND DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE :
WITH FOREIGN NEWS, ETC.

ALSO, SHEWING THE MORAL, SPIRITUAL, RELIGIOUS, PHYSICAL, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL
CONDITIONS OF THE HUMAN RACE, WITH AUTHENTICATED DOMESTIC TALES,
AND OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION, SELECT VARIETIES, POEMS,
NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS, ETC., ETC.

CONDUCTED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE NOTTINGHAM SPIRITUAL CIRCLE.

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P R E F A C E .

THE principal object for which this Journal was sent before the Public was, that all classes of society, and more especially the down-trodden working classes, might have an organ through which their grievances could be made known to each other ; and the Proprietors of the Journal have spared neither time, trouble, nor expense, to keep its columns open to the Public. But, as the Journal has boldly and fearlessly advocated the rights of man, both politically and religiously, we are sorry to say that the classes for whom it stood forth as the champion of their rights, have listened to those whose worldly interest the Journal opposed, and have rejected it instead of rallying round it, and endeavouring by their support to keep it afloat. True we have staunch friends, who have boldly come forward and offered their assistance, but the Proprietors finding that its circulation is not sufficient to clear one-third of the expense connected with it, they have been compelled to discontinue its publication. When the first number was published, in eight pages, we stated that, as soon as its circulation would warrant such a step, the Journal should be enlarged ; and finding that with the second number more than one thousand was likely to be demanded, we, with the third number, increased its size from eight to sixteen pages, at the same price, viz., one penny, and had two thousand published weekly, at an outlay of seven pounds fifteen shillings per week. Now, if every copy had been sold and the Proprietors had received one penny each, a profit only of eleven shillings and eightpence would have been cleared, for all their outlay and labour ; but instead of receiving one penny each, the greater portion has been sent to the booksellers in London and the provincial towns, who are supplied at the rate of ninepence per dozen, in thirteens, carriage paid ; which, together with there not being more than one thousand copies sent out, and a number of them not sold, notwithstanding its increased size during its enlargement, the Proprietors were sacrificing nearly five pounds per week, besides their labour. Still, feeling anxious for the public welfare, they resolved to keep the Journal afloat, and decreased it again to eight pages, first issuing an address as an appeal to the friends of truth, numbers of whom responded and promised their support, even in its diminished form. But eight weeks have since past, and we find that it meets with still greater opposition on account of the principles it advocates. For the different religious communities in the various towns, on account of its exposure of their hypocrisy, are denouncing it as a devil's work, and are employing persons to go round both to the people and the booksellers, telling the people that if they read this Journal, or any of the works advertised upon it, they will go to hell and be tormented by the devil for ever in fire and brimstone. And the booksellers, they tell them that, to expose these works for sale, it will incur the eternal displeasure of God, and they too must be tormented hereafter for ever and ever. Many of the people, and some of the booksellers, have been weak minded enough to listen to these gross absurdities, and have rejected both the reading and selling of the journal, and hence it is that its circulation is decreasing, and the Proprietors being poor working men, are unable to stand against such heavy losses, otherwise the Journal should continue. But finding that means cannot be obtained to support it, it must be closed ; nevertheless, the cause of truth will prevail, and in defiance of the hypocritical assertions and delusions of the mock religionists,

whose only study is the loaves and fishes, and not the welfare of the immortal souls of their fellow-creatures. Then, in defiance of all they can say or do in the protection of the hypocritical delusions, or to save their salaries, which they plunder from their ignorant followers, and pocket with the grossest effrontery, another Journal or Periodical will shortly appear, which will continue to advocate the rights of the poor, the downfall of oppression, and expose the hypocrisy and deception of those who set themselves forth as the servants of God, followers of Christ, and ministers of the gospel; and will the new Periodical meet with no better encouragement than the "Community's Journal?" Time alone will prove this. We are aware that the people generally will not believe truths. Modern revelations have declared that they will see their error only when too late. Hence we do not anticipate an extensive circulation. How strange it is that the poor down-trodden classes of humanity should be the first who stand forth to oppose, ignore, and ridicule men who are bold enough to advocate their rights, and endeavour to instruct them in the path of justice, righteousness, and freedom; yet it is so, for early tuition hath caused them to believe that no one portion of society would attempt to benefit the condition of the other, without some interested motive on the part of those who offer the benefit, be at stake. This we, the Proprietors, and Members of our Circle, have literally experienced; for although we have devoted our time, labour, and money, and have experienced heavy losses in every work published, the sale of them not being sufficient to cover one-third of the expense connected with their publication. And, in addition to this, hundreds have been gratuitously distributed; and for the last twenty weeks, exclusive of all other losses, the Proprietors have been experiencing an average loss of three pounds per week, with all our labour in the compilation, packing, and posting, sacrificed, all for the welfare of our fellow-creatures; yet, with all our labour and losses, it is unhesitatingly declared by those who are bigoted and prejudiced against us, that we are living on the credulity of the public, and accumulating fortunes for ourselves; but to any person who may be curious enough to wish to prove whether the above statements are correct or not, we can assure them that we have receipts and bills to prove that the only persons who have ever received any benefit from the printing or selling of these works, are the printer and the publisher, the printer being regularly paid, as his receipts will prove, and the publisher pays himself out of the stock sold. Therefore, having thus far shown the cause for the discontinuation of this Journal, we hope our readers will not think we have acted either unwisely or unjust in so doing. While, at the same time, we confidentially recommend to their perusal the "Universal Magazine, or Truthful Recorder of Passing Events," which will be issued in lieu of this Journal; and trusting that the readers of the "Community's Journal" will recommend it to their neighbours, and endeavour by such means to diminish the stock on hand, as its perusal must give satisfaction to all who read it, instructing and interesting young and old of both sexes, it thus becomes a volume which the head of every family should possess.

J. G. H. BROWN,

On behalf of the Spiritual Circle, Nottingham.