

THE PATCHWORK OF REFLECTION

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The patchwork of reflection by Thomas Latter

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THOMAS LATTER

**THE PATCHWORK
OF REFLECTION**

THE
PATCHWORK OF REFLECTION.

BY

THOMAS LATTEK,

AUTHOR OF "THE MONOPOLIST, OR, THE POWER OF CONSCIENCE,"
"THE BURDENS OF THE CHURCH," ETC.

(Published by the *late* Mr. ADAM SCOTT.)



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ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.

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TO FRIENDS,

You will, no doubt, say on reading some of the pieces in 'The Patchwork,' "They ought to have appeared years ago, when the subjects were fresh before the public." They should at such time have been printed; but then, as now, I was unacquainted with a person likely to bring them into notice. And as I may pass through life without ever being known to any one from whom such aid may come, I have published them, in the hope that they may interest my friends, and drift perchance before a kindred spirit, desirous and capable of drawing attention to them. Once, and only once, I sought to have a piece (the Death of Lincoln) copied into a newspaper. I was told by a gentleman in the office of *The Morning Star*, "The lines may be to the point, and ever so beautiful, but we cannot insert them; for it is a rule with us to print in our paper the contributions only of our own staff. I do not doubt the merit of the lines, but it is useless my looking at them."

Some years ago a retired physician told me that his work on physical science was for months in the hands of the publisher, and not a copy was sold until a review of it appeared in *The Times*, and then the whole edition was quickly disposed of. The work is now deservedly popular; and large excerpts are made from it.

Most works of art when they are seen, at once please or dissatisfy. Not so with books; they require a medium for their sale. Readers do not inquire about a book until they hear or read some comments upon it; and better that its contents were roundly abused, than that it should drop still-born from the press, for in matters of taste, that which gives offence to one, and is strongly set down, yields approval to another, and is as strongly upheld, while both may agree on the moral of the design. Hence it is variety of subjects has the greatest chance of success.

Of course these remarks do not apply to authors whose names are constantly kept before the public, whose works unmistakably speak out their individualities, and amongst whom exist facilities for notoriety wholly beyond the reach of amateurs.



THE
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Genius.

Poor lowly Genius, nought is yours ;
Save distant pride which naught implores.
Neglect, and pain, contempt, and scorn
Your lot—and you are lowly born,
Abashèd creature missing bliss—
Born to adorn the world you miss.

Go, genius, go, reside with birth,
And round thee in a life of mirth :
Live where thou mayst sublimely shine,
Where thy bright deeds will be divine.
Why, frowning, stride in measured steps away
With solemn dignity at what I say ?

There ever will be found a spiteful race
Who, when surpass'd in beauty, will deface :