

The call made upon the public by the offer of prizes for meritorious essays or works of art, has not been entirely without success. Some competition for them has appeared the preceding year and this. Since the last annual meeting, the Society has had the satisfaction of awarding a prize for painting ; and other attempts in more than one department, though not deemed worthy of prizes, have yet been such as indicated a love of excellence, an aim at high designs which, if persevered in, must finally prove successful. In such matters, it is above all things necessary to be remembered, that it is the property of Genius, to be stimulated, not repressed by temporary disappointment ; and equally its characteristic, not to be rendered inactive, but on the contrary roused to higher exertions, by every instance of past success.

The addition made to the number of members in the course of the year is deserving of attention. Eight Associate Members, one Ordinary, two Corresponding, and one Honorary, have been elected.

The improvement of our Bye-laws by such alterations as experience suggested, has not been neglected. The alteration by which members continuing to be in arrears for more than two years, cease to be members, promises to be attended with manifest advantage, and has in fact, already proved its utility.

In conclusion, it is fair to state, that, however little we may appear to have performed, that little, if the state of the country be considered, will appear to be much. That we should, in any way, however imperfectly, have pursued our peaceful course, amidst the storm of civil war, and the distractions of political changes, amidst the dreadful note of preparation, and the alarms, real or imaginary, by which the ear was continually assailed, ought to be considered as no slender merit.

The circumstance which forms the best apology for the little we have done, may also be fairly urged as a reason for applying ourselves to the prosecution of our great objects, with re-animated zeal. To what means are we to look for the cure of those aberrations of mind, that have produced our present and recent difficulties? To