

immense variety of children's toys with which Nuremberg supplies the whole world, will suffice to show the progress due to this diffusion of the art of drawing. The very smallest figures, whether men or animals, are all produced with almost artistic forms; and yet all these articles are made in the cottages of the mountainous districts of the country. They find employment for the whole population, from children of tender age, as soon as they can handle a knife, to their parents; and this home manufacture, which does not interfere with field work, contributes greatly to the prosperity of a country naturally poor and sterile.' It has recently been said, by one who ought to know whereof he asserts, that some of the great failures which have recently occurred among manufacturers are largely or wholly due to the fact that the companies have been obliged, of late, to sell their goods below cost because of inferiority in design. Other compar- es manufacturing the same kind of goods, but of superior design, find no difficulty in disposing of all the goods they can produce, and at a large profit.

"A writer in a recent educational journal, in answer to the question why there is such an interest in art education, says: 'It is because the great Industrial Exhibitions of the world, from the first one at London in 1851, to the last at Vienna, show, beyond a scintilla of doubt, that such an education is a leading factor of national prosperity. Because a large class of American manufacturers have discovered that under the levelling influence of steam transportation and telegraphy, they must be completely driven from even the home market, unless they can carry to that market in the future more beautiful products than hitherto. Indeed, nothing is so saleable as beauty. Because American artisans are learning the more artistic the work they can do, the better the wages they can command; that, in truth, there is hardly any limit to such increase. Because they further find, in all varieties of building construction, that a knowledge only sufficient to enable them to interpret the working-drawing placed in their hands (and nearly everything is now made from a drawing), will add one-third to their daily wages.'"

IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS.

In the meantime, however, we are bound to carry out as we best may the twofold objects of the Mechanics' Institutes as they exist and are organized. We have no central Model School of Art like that of South Kensington, and we have an industrial population whose intellectual necessities and appetites must be satisfied and gratified. The Institutes of the Province have at present a most irregular and anomalous aspect and

organization. In many instances great and sometimes successful efforts have been made to raise them to their legitimate uses. Classes for the instruction of adults have been formed, made to introduce science and art studies. In many Institutes classes for elementary instruction to meet the deficiency of early education have been successfully formed, and occasionally lectures of a scientific character have been delivered. The efforts of the Association formed for the affiliation of Mechanics' Institutes are awakening a deeper interest in the work of such Institutes, and a truer conception of their ultimate design, and that Association, if judiciously directed, will, no doubt, offer the bases of all our future labours in developing and advancing industrial education. But in most instances the Institutes of the Province as they stand are simply night schools to supply the deficiencies of early education in the commonest rudiments of knowledge, or in such subjects as students require who are anxious to escape the drudgery and social degradation which they associate with mechanical or agricultural labour, for the more ostentatious and respected, if not respectable, positions opened to them in commercial life; or they are simply resorts for intellectual pastime and entertainment.

IMPORTANCE OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION TO THE INDUSTRIAL CLASSES.

It would be a most unwise and unjust policy, in our efforts for the improvement of these Institutes, to divest them of their popular character. While the ultimate purpose of the Institute is to be kept in view—the technological education of the industrial classes—a very large proportion of that class will rise amongst us wanting in the commonest elementary education; and policy as well as philanthropy demands that we should secure for those classes the best elementary education in our power. Every argument that can be advanced in support of a national system of education for the youth of the country, holds with equal force in behalf of the education of the working masses. They form the dangerous classes of every community while they are ignorant, and in the aspect of their mental helplessness they appeal to the sympathies and benevolence of all educated men and women. With them the great peril is a moral