

shall be considered abortive, either through a lack of Lectures or debates, or an audience taking a lively interest in the several subjects discussed and enlarged upon.

I maintain, therefore, from what I have myself heard and witnessed, that there is no probability of our failure in either of these three main elements of our social and intellectual composition, as the Literary Association of Three Rivers.

First, as to the Lectures:—(and I must here regret my distance from this scene of action, which disables me from participating in the business of the Institution, as often as my inclination would otherwise lead me to do;) I shall, therefore, speak only from what I have myself known. What could be more interesting and pleasingly intelligible, than the Lecture delivered last winter on the study of Botany? We must all remember the explanations given of the general structure of flowers and plants; and, from the thousand instances of palpable design exhibited in the floral kingdom, that remarkable one selected by the Lecturer, which he had drawn out at large, for the sake of rendering its peculiar construction more sensibly apparent,—I mean the design of that flower, whose frame enabled it to entrap insects, with all the ingenuity of an understanding will; and, after its particular purpose had been attained, released the distressed prisoners, by withdrawing that vegetable grating, that had so craftily and securely inclosed them. I am not aware of the permanent winter residence of the Doctor; were it in our neighbourhood, it might not, perhaps, be too much to hope, that he would continue to lend his aid occasionally, to set forth more at large, the results of his studies in this particular department of knowledge; seconded, as I know them to be, by an unwearied pursuit after the wonders of vegetable nature, in the forest, in the plain, on the mountain, and among the lakes and streams. A person of his enthusiastic love for botany, and ready talent for communicating what he has ascertained, is not everywhere to be found; still we must not despair, even in this department, for there are others interested in the like pursuit, and their assistance may perhaps be counted upon. If it be not too much to touch upon such a subject, I may merely hint, that the postponement of the period for the necessary registration of our titles and leases, &c. may so far prove a benefit to us, as