

SPEECH

DELIVERED BEFORE THE MEMBERS OF THE
MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, MON-
TREAL, ON THE OPENING OF THE WINTER'S
COURSE OF LECTURES, 1848-49, BY HIS EX-
CELLENCY THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF
ELGIN AND KINCARDINE, K. T., GOVERNOR
GENERAL OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA, &c.,
PATRON OF THE INSTITUTION.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I feel assured in advance that I shall be pardoned by you if I venture to speak in your name for a single moment, in order that I may tender our united and most hearty thanks to the Rev. Gentleman for the useful and instructive lecture that he has just delivered.—(Loud cheers.) We have heard from him much that well deserves to be remembered, conveyed to us in language so forcible and eloquent, that it is not likely soon to be forgotten.—(Cheers.) As I have risen for this purpose, I desire, with your permission, to take advantage of the opportunity to express the very deep interest that I feel in the welfare of this Institution, the Members of which have done me the favour to request that I would become its Patron.—(Loud cheers.) From what has fallen from the Rev. Gentleman, and from what I have heard from other sources, I gather that this Association was mainly founded by the exertions of some of the leading merchants of the City of Montreal, with a view of affording to the junior Members of the mercantile body opportunities of self-improvement and inducements sufficiently powerful to enable them to resist those temptations to idleness and dissipation which unhappily abound in all large communities.—(Hear, hear.) I understand, moreover, that those exertions have been by no means unavailing, but that year after year, large and increasing numbers of the class for whose benefit the Institution was especially designed, have shown their sense of its value by enrolling their names on the books of the Association as Members.—(Cheers.) These are most gratifying circumstances, creditable to all who have concurred in this good work; and, for myself, I can truly say that, whether as an individual sincerely desirous to promote the happiness and well-being of my fellow-men, or as the Representative