

It is gratifying, indeed, to find one occupying so high a station, giving his encouragement and support to associations such as this, and no less pleasant to observe the same feeling so prevalent among all the classes of our fellow-citizens—none of whom have been laggard in coming forward to aid the efforts of the infant society.

Already many valuable donations have been received—and a most interesting lecture, on the objects, merits and uses of such associations, delivered—many gentlemen have become life members, whose contributions will much assist to render the institution available to its promised end—and an address to the public has been prepared, which although it has been already published, we subjoin. A committee has been appointed, to solicit assistance from the public. Their names will be found appended to the list of officers, on the cover:—

TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE CITY AND DISTRICT OF MONTREAL.

The disadvantages under which not only the mechanic population, but all except the wealthier classes of this city, have hitherto laboured, as regards facility for intellectual improvement, rendering it imperative to adopt some means for their removal, an attempt has recently been made to organize a 'Mechanics' Institute, which, it is gratifying to state, has, so far, been crowned with complete success. The design of this Society is to promote, by every means at its command, a knowledge of natural and experimental philosophy—of the arts and sciences—and of their application to the ordinary business of life—in fact, to place within the reach of every one, the improvement of whose mind is to himself an object of solicitude, the ready means of doing so.

The important consequences which must result from the operations of a Society thus constituted, and under proper management, are self apparent. It is the duty of every man to give his attention to the attainment of knowledge—for no one can know the benefits which may accrue from his individual labours. The important discoveries in art and science, which have hitherto been made, have been the result of long and patient study, by those who theoretically and practically understood the principles of their professions. Were it necessary to adduce examples, it might at once be asked what would have availed the discovery of a Savary without the perfecting genius of a Watt? But even such a result is of little moment, compared with the alleviation of human suffering, secured by the simple, yet beautiful discovery of the safety lamp, which of itself would have been sufficient to have rendered illustrious the name of Sir Humphrey Davy? This was the result of studious investigation and perseverance, by one intimately versed in the principles of science, and is perhaps a better example than any that could be adduced of the direct application of knowledge to a specific end. That such results can only follow from the labours of those who are qualified to study the properties, and understand the qualities of the natural bodies that surround them, is a truism that comes with persuasive force to the most sceptic mind.

The mysteries of science—the creative powers of art, by which the labour of men's hands may be abridged, enabling them to give a portion of their lives to the acquirement of that wisdom which it has been the work of ages to garner up, are studies worthy of the greatest—studies which, exhibiting the grandeur of the human intellect, in its illimitable flight achieving wonders today, which yesterday we dared not hope for, have yet placed no barrier beyond which it might not pierce. New paths have, with each new discovery, been opened, in which it might essay its wings—new regions which it might not in vain explore. It shall be the duty of the Mechanics' Institute to encourage and to aid those who endeavour, humbly it may be, to search yet deeper into its mysteries—to add their mite to the great treasury of knowledge won by genius and accumulated by industry.

Independently, however, of these great advantages, which are of rare occurrence, and far beyond the individual benefits which mark the labours of such associations, it may with confidence be anticipated that the common prosperity of our city, and its advancement in respectability and wealth, will be a portion of its natural consequences—nay, the good of which it may become the minister will be reflected in the new being which it will infuse into the intellectual man, and become felt among the whole mass of our colonial brethren, who justly look upon our city as the heart and centre of Canadian prosperity.

The Institution recently organized, and pledged to the advancement of science, and the promotion of a taste for literature, is yet in its infancy—is deficient in means for carrying its views into effect—is without a library, museum, or philosophical apparatus of any kind, and, of consequence—its present sphere of usefulness materially abridged. As a member of society, and responsible according to his position in it, and the advantages which he may possess, it becomes the imperative duty of every man, who lays a claim to the character of a philanthropist or a patriot, to endeavour as far as possible to ameliorate the condition of those around him. The Institute, therefore, feels satisfied that a generous public, appreciating its intentions, and sensibly alive to the benefits which may result from its active operations, will cordially cooperate with it, and takes this method of stating its wants, under the firm conviction that the appeal will not be made in vain.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We beg to return our best thanks to our able correspondent "A. R." for the Retrospective Reviews with which he has favoured us. The reason of their non-appearance is, simply, that previous to their receipt, the whole disposable space was occupied.

Several other accepted articles have been left over from the same cause, for which we beg the forbearance of our contributors.