

their Lecture Hall will hold 3000, and the building has the appearance of a palace; these are facts. I would ask, can we not erect a large building as well as they? Are we not as industrious—as good Mechanics? Have we not intelligence? Have we not the means? These queries are easily answered, they are all in your power if you will only make use of the blessings you enjoy. What you want is unity; therefore come forward, join this Institution; every thing is advancing; your railroads will place your friends east and west within a few hours travel of your own doors. Let the New Mechanics' Institute be amongst the first buildings: endeavour to have it commenced next spring. A new era is started: let 1851 never be forgotten by the citizens of Toronto. The late Sir Francis Burdett subscribed £1,000 to the London Institute. I would recommend you to open a subscription list; let it be circulated among your liberal citizens, and who knows but you may find some Burdetts amongst them. Many in this City have risen to opulence and wealth; which they acquired by perseverance and industry; I have no doubt such will subscribe liberally; and I know a number of Mechanics, who will generously follow their example. My ideas to some may appear romantic, but look at the improvements which have taken place in the arts and sciences; improvements which have placed England on the apex of the world, and made her the arbitrator of the destinies of the human family.

Instruction in the elements of reading, writing, drawing, and the rudiments of arithmetic, are now within the reach of all. Even the son of the poorest artisan or labourer has scarcely, in any case, to begin life unprovided with what we may call the great pass-keys to all literary and scientific knowledge. Thus furnished, his future progress depends upon himself; and any degree of proficiency is within his reach. This is a striking proof how independent we really are, if we choose, of those external circumstances which seem to make so vast a difference between the situation of *man* and *man*; and how possible it is for us, in any situation, at least to enrich our minds, if fortune refuse us all other riches.