

comparatively, has been done to mark an equal progress in the higher qualities which adorn and accompany civilization. When one walks along King and Yonge Streets, and views with mingled feelings of surprise and admiration, the splendid Cathedral, the handsome St. Lawrence Building, and the princely stores already built or in the course of erection, the mind will naturally revert to the intelligence which designed, and the skill which is completing them; and a desire will as naturally arise to ascertain the character and extent of the institutions appropriated to the furtherance of intellectual pursuits. Alas! shall we confess it, in this we are miserably deficient. Not a solitary building is to be seen answering this description. There is not even a public library! In the St. Lawrence Buildings there is a very large and convenient room, appropriated as a reading-room, and kept well supplied with the current periodical literature of the day—but that is all. Nor is there a room even devoted to the collection of specimens of art, or the fruits of genius. It may be said that we are unreasonable in this accusation; that the place is too young for such matters. But when we call to remembrance the work of this nature which has been done in smaller, less wealthy, and less important communities, we cannot refrain from expressing our conviction that much more ought to have been accomplished in Toronto.

Much to the credit of its promoters, there is a flourishing Mechanics' Institute, possessing a library, worthy of better accommodation.

Within the past two years, also, a Society has been organized, under the appellation of "The Canadian Institute," which has for its object the promotion of literature, science, and art. Under the auspices of this Association, (which has been chartered,) a monthly publication is shortly to make its appearance, devoted to the cultivation of these pursuits. We hail this as a good omen of what we may shortly expect on a more extended and comprehensive scale.

We must also enter our protest against the injudicious manner in which most of the public buildings are "located," (to borrow a Columbian idiomatic term). The general effect of a fine proportionate building, however classical its style and elaborate its ornamentation, is completely destroyed by being crowded in

among other less pretending structures, in an out-of-the-way place. Witness the result in the St. Lawrence Buildings—in the new Post Office, a truly chaste and well-designed piece of architecture, poked away behind an uninteresting row of fire-proof windows, in Messrs. Whittemore's four-storied warehouses. The same remark will apply to many others, but these examples will suffice.

The absence of large spaces, in the form of public squares, gardens and arrangements of a similar kind, is also most remarkable, and very much to be regretted. In a city whose local disadvantages, as far as public health is concerned, have been made the subject of frequent comment, we opine that the wisest policy would be to make a sacrifice of present wealth, for the purpose of future good.

The railroads to the north and west, and eventually to the east—the increasing means of water communication—the vast extent of cleared and highly cultivated farms around it, and the extending settlement of large tracts of land, point to a prosperous future for this city. We might expatiate on this and kindred topics to greater length, but we should only tire the patience of the reader, and exceed the proper bounds allotted to our subject.

[A View of the City had been completed for publication, but being disappointed with it, we have refrained from inserting it in the present issue. There are very great difficulties to be encountered in attempting a faithful picture of the place. We have seen several productions of various professional artists and amateurs, and in all, the failure has been nearly alike, and has arisen from the same causes. In one, we remember, to have discovered the nearest approach to accuracy of detail combined with decided pictorial effect, but its minuteness and panoramic character rendered it unsuitable for the purposes of this publication. The difficulties which preclude the possibility of taking a good general view, partake of the same nature which obtains with respect to all cities which are situated on low and flat surfaces, where the principal buildings are not isolated or separated to any extent from the surrounding houses, and where there are no contiguous heights from which an extended prospect is afforded to the eye.]