

enjoyment. Much less will any one deny that, in proportion as a skilled mechanic increases his stock of knowledge, he increases his value both to himself and his employer.

Here, then, is the aim and object of a Mechanics' Institute. It supplies to the illiterate and uneducated man the means of acquiring knowledge, at such rates as he is able to pay. By doing so, it may enable him to rise to the top of his profession, or, what is more probable, it may simply increase his stock of information sufficiently to enable him to do his work with less labour, fewer errors, and much more pleasure to himself and others. The great change produced in the masses of the people within the last half-century, is the effect of reading. Men who labour with their hands all the time, used to be, and are now to a very great extent, disinclined to employ their minds in reading or thinking, and this must always result from an overworked body. On the contrary, those who will engage the mind in reading, and in useful study, in addition to their ordinary labour, will invariably find that they are able to do their work with more pleasure, with less labour, and at an increased pecuniary value.

Young men of the present day have very superior advantages over those of days gone by. Let us instance the case of the members and pupils of the Toronto Mechanics' Institute as an example. Classes have been organized for the study and practice of book-keeping, penmanship, English grammar and composition, practical arithmetic, architectural and mechanical drawing, ornamental drawing, and French. Over one hundred pupils have connected themselves with one or more of these classes, at an average cost of two dollars and a quarter per annum. Each class receives forty lessons, meeting two nights per week during the five winter months. At a glance it will be seen that here is the nucleus of a great work. Some thirty are learning book-keeping, which, to the clerk, the employer, or man of business anywhere, tends essentially to success in life. How large a proportion of men fail in business, and themselves and their families become ruined, because of their incompetency to take charge of their own books, and to make proper business calculations! About twenty are learning the art of penmanship, one of the most desirable of accomplishments. A few industrious apprentices are working hard to learn mechanical drawing; and so on. Perhaps out of them all, not one Watt or one Stephenson may be produced; but undoubtedly their value to the state, and to themselves, will be immeasurably increased; and their capacity for observation, for understanding, and for enjoying, will be proportionately augmented.

We sincerely hope that the trustees or directors of Mechanics' Institutes in our towns and villages, as well as in the larger cities, will see it to be the interest of their several institutions to make strenuous efforts to organize one or more classes; and that at the next annual examination of this Board, instead of two institutions, as last year, ten or a dozen will be sending for the necessary examination papers for their numerous candidates.—*Journal of the Board of Arts and Manufactures for Upper Canada.*

VII. Papers on Literature and Art.

1. LITERATURE AND ART IN MONTREAL.

The pleasures of the Eye and the Ear are the cheapest and the sweetest of our luxuries; and when they shall be equally appreciated by the classes of our community whom no common sympathy blend, society will be wedged together by more enduring bonds. It will perhaps not be out of our province, as public journalists, if we take a review of what has been done by our citizens during the past year for the improvement of our University, the extension of higher education, and the fostering a taste for the fine arts.

First in order was the Montreal Literary Club; it has a respectable "local habitation" at the corner of Cathcart and University Streets. It is furnished with a comfortable reading room, and chiefly through the munificence of its members, it has acquired a library numbering over 500 volumes, that will put to blush, considering the short space of time the club has been in existence, the other libraries of Montreal. The reason of its success is obvious, the ordinary members as well as the directorate, have felt an individual interest in their own work. It further has a regular monthly session for the reading and discussion of papers or lectures. Some already read, have possessed great literary merits.—One of the fellows has recently given to the world a poem "Jephthah's Daughter," which we have already reviewed. There is a vitality in the CLUB, and we hope like Shakspeare's LANCE it will be brandished at the eyes of ignorance.

In April last under the influence of Shakspeare, many of our citizens, with a laudable desire to save the celebration of his tercentenary from the desecration of mere fire works and pageantry, founded a gold medal to be given annually at the McGill College

for proficiency in English literature from the time of Shakspeare to Addison; a medal for the express object of preserving the purity and force of our noble mother tongue, and of restoring its monosyllabic character, that distinctive character which enables us to express more meaning in a shorter compass than can be done in any other language; a medal, to save the students from the "Johnsonian" swelling and expansion, which has turned the following sentence in Dryden's translation of Juvenal "Look round the world" into the following couplet of bombast and tautology:

"Let observation, with extensive view,
Survey mankind from China to Peru."

Which is, as much as to say, let observation with extensive observation observe mankind extensively.

Mrs. Anne Molson, with the characteristic "do good" of the Molson family, whose name will ever be associated with the noble founder of the McGill University, gave a gold medal for Mathematics and Physical Sciences. Then followed a gold medal for Geology and Natural Science, given by Sir Wm. Logan whose *effigies* and name it will bear, a name that will, as long as Geology is a science, go forth to the ends of the world; a name that Canada may be as proud of as England is of Murchison, and Germany of Humboldt. Subsequently and lastly has been provided for, though not yet formally announced (or the fund handed over) a gold Medal "In memoriam" to do honour to a dear relative of one of the Professors in the faculty of Law; a medal, for what Hooker in his Ecclesiastical Polity so eloquently describes, when he says "of Law her seat is the bosom of God, her voice the harmony of the world: all things in Heaven and Earth do her homage, the very least as feeling her care, and the greatest as not exempted from her power."

All thanks for these medals, gratitude for the spirit that prompted them,—but in order that these incitements to study be not imperative; more is required to be done. The Library of McGill College must be increased—the same generosity that gave us the Molson wing cannot be dead. Our citizens need only to be appealed to in order to remedy the present state of things; whether they are from an apathy on the part of the college authorities, or for want of a properly organized machinery to procure the books that are absolutely needed by the students, we know not; we would respectfully suggest that a list of the books that are indispensable be made known, and we feel certain of the result.

We come now to the "Art Association," which gave its Conversation and threw open its exhibition of oil and water colour paintings and other works of art to the public in February last, an exhibition none who saw will readily forget, one that has borne good fruit, if we may judge of the difficulty now found in selling pictures which ought only to be styled *tea tray or sign paintings*; and also by the number of good pictures that have since been purchased and now adorn the walls of our fellow citizens. Further it has had its influence. Look at the collection of illustrated books recently imported by Dawson Brothers, the which, we have previously reviewed: again, at "Notman's selections," a work that would be a credit to any London publisher. It is a reproduction of many choice engravings and paintings by means of photography, and perhaps has thus given to the art its most important function. There has never been a work published in Canada better calculated to cultivate and elevate the taste in art; because it has put within the reach of the many, faithful translations of the works of the best masters, ancient and modern. In no way can photography take a form so useful to the community, so useful to the many who have never seen, and may never have the opportunity of seeing the European Galleries, as by allowing the pictures to reach them in the form of a photograph; it secures the thought of the artist, and enables art to go hand in hand with literature—the cheap picture thus keeping pace with the cheap newspaper and cheap book.

Look again at our furniture, and the carving and gilding; mark the increased beauty of design and quality of the carving in the productions of Thompson, Hilton and Pell—there is a mind in their work which increases its attractiveness. But how much more might be done if the "Art Association" could meet with sufficient encouragement to establish a school of design; the promotion of such an object for the culture of Art would be supplying a real want; it would raise the value of our manufactures by the artistic excellency of their ornamentations.

This Art Association is needed; it is now about to appeal to the public for funds to establish an Art Union and to have another exhibition in February next, and if possible to erect a permanent gallery. The extension of education, the improvement of our University, the advancement of Science, are all worthy objects, but it is not through them alone that we can refine and elevate and unite the various masses of our community. The depths of science are not to be sounded, nor the heights of philosophy attained even by the most favoured classes, and still less by the overworked, uneducated and neglected sections of society. Science and Philosophy therefore can afford no common ground of study, or of converse to