

as I did, and will join me in congratulation on the prospect we have of again listening to the eloquent lecturer. We have happily amongst us other gentlemen belonging to the learned professions, whose education and habits of composition will render the task of lecturing comparatively easy; and who, I doubt not, will cheerfully assist us in this way. There is a prospect also of some aid from distant parts of the province.

The intention is, to have those lectures delivered once a fortnight until the end of March, though I do not see myself why there might not be one occasionally during the summer. The winter of course is the season most fitted for the promoting of general knowledge in this way. Our great auxiliary—an indispensable one I think—is the library. I am glad to say, that a few excellent volumes have already been presented to our library; and it would much assist us, were this example to be followed by others. There is no need for particularly specifying the subjects on which we should desire to be furnished with books. Whatever work is calculated to give general information, and to be useful, will be acceptable. I might just say, that works on Science, Mechanics, History, Travels, Biography, Geography, and the higher educational works, are particularly adapted to our purpose.

I shall not attempt to give you a history of the rise and progress of Mechanics' Institutes, and the development of those mighty improvements in their extension and usefulness, which could only be supplied by a person intimately acquainted with the subject. I shall leave this to one, who, I believe, is able to do justice to the task.

I shall just advert to the origin of those Institutions. The designation itself evidently points out the intention of its founders. It was to give that valuable class of men, the Mechanics of Great Britain the means of improving themselves in knowledge, not only of Mechanics as a whole, but also in acquiring those branches of Science which were best fitted to