

mark your steady progress in all that should characterize a literary institution, and to observe that, in conjunction with your Sister Society, the Mechanics' Institute, you have achieved the creation, in this community, of a taste for exercises such as the present. The time was, when it would have been impracticable to attract an audience of any extent, to listen to such prelections, upon philosophical and scientific subjects, as those which for several years you have provided. Whatever the Theatre might have done, the Lecture-Room could not have drawn a multitude. Unless I mistake, however, the case is now so strikingly otherwise, that you have had to provide once and again a larger space, which has been speedily filled. This result is matter of gratulation in every point of view. It induces the healthful exercise of the intellect, and offers such inducement for its culture as greatly detracts from the otherwise potent influences that draw into evil. It is fitted to make better merchants, better citizens, and better men. It is not for me to repeat now sentiments uttered five years since, on the occasion of your opening new rooms; but subsequent observation and reflection have only served to confirm the estimate then formed of the advantages of well-conducted Mercantile Library Associations. Assuredly you deserve well of the community.

Therefore, if his Lordship will pardon the allusion, do we rejoice in the distinguished patronage and presence by which your first gathering for the present season is graced. It is truly an epoch in your history, — a point from which we hope you will start into greater success. The Representative of our beloved Queen doubtless regards with complacency your persevering efforts to promote self-improvement, and the well-being of the community; and the more so because they are the exertions of a succession of young men, the future merchants of Canada. Delicacy forbids more than the expression of delight that a nobleman of such high character and attainments, and in a position so exalted, should in this truly simple and kind manner cast the weight of his influence into this good cause. You cannot fail to be greatly encouraged in your laudable efforts, by this token of his Excellency's regard. Nor will the example be without its effect upon that community to