

who were but few in number. Everything useful was sealed and hidden from the mass. But how changed—every intricate subject is now made plain to the humblest capacity—it only requires an evening or two of a skilled hand to make potent to thousands, a subject, the knowledge of which, a few years ago, was confined to those who had spent years within the walls of some eminent University. And every year is adding scores of master spirits to the already extensive catalogue. It is to Mechanics' Institutes, that society, especially in towns, is so much indebted for the general knowledge possessed of many of the occult sciences. Each lecturer leaves his footprints on the sands of time—each unfolds some valuable theme to the enquiring mind; and so the resources and vastness of the Divine Empire are being better understood. Light, heat, attraction, gravitation, electricity, galvanism, with scores of other subjects equally important, are now made plain by a course of lectures. To understand these subjects, and apply them to the wants of man, is the common right of all.

Every village, town, and city, that aims at even the lowest marks of intellectual distinction, has now got its Mechanics' Institute, library, museum, and philosophical apparatus. It is no uncommon thing to see the teacher of elementary knowledge, or the humble plough-boy, in common with the most profound scholar, ascend the platform, and from thence display a knowledge that would astonish our forefathers of even a century ago. If our ancestors, of the beginning of the last century could but arise and witness the representations, panoramas and displays of the works of nature and art, so common in our Mechanics' Institutes, in these times, they would no doubt be utterly astounded—the collections of natural and artificial curiosities—the works of the sculptor's chisel, and painter's brush, surpass all description. The storm, the calm, the landscape, the burning mount, the foliage, the rocks and minerals, the astral heavens, and the hundreds of other objects in the world of nature, are all beautifully portrayed; and when explained by a skilful mind, of which there are a thousand in our times, to one in the days of Greece and Rome's splendor, he who runs may read, and he who reads may understand.

Second only to our Schools, Colleges and Printing Presses, stands Mechanics' Institutes. Wherever a few families are gathered together, there should be a Mechanics' Institute, Museum and Library, to which the people may collect for the acquisition of knowledge and the display of truth.

Let every community provide these means, and it will not be long ere young men will arise in their midst, who will be an honor to society. Most every community has the means and the talent, and all that is wanting is the will. The old adage, 'where there is a will there is a way,' is generally true. It is remarkable to what extent the mind may be led in the walks of research, when the will becomes properly bent