

then spoke at some length of the Canadian section of the Crystal palace. "To that section," he said, "stunned by the excitement of the scene, the magnificence of the structure, and the surpassing wonders of its contents,—to which, as Lord Brougham has it, "not all the words of all the languages that tongues were ere attuned to speak" can render even feeble justice,—to that section I was always happy to retire: for it was a link which united me with this Institute, and one to which I was proud to point, as illustrative in part, of its usefulness and its energy; of the skill of its members; and of their patriotic efforts to employ that skill as a lever, with which to elevate their country in the eyes of the nations. There may be times when to refrain from active effort would be to commit a positive breach of duty, and such, I think, will be the opportunity to be given us by the Exhibition of the Provincial Agricultural Association, to be held in this City, in September next. I am enabled to state, authoritatively, that the parties engaged in that enterprise are determined to make the Toronto Exhibition, eclipse, in utility and excellence, every previous effort of this sort made within the Province; and it is reasonable that we should assist them zealously in their undertaking. It is a matter of high importance that the character of Toronto should be well sustained on that occasion; and if we would secure to ourselves that position of advancement and priority which capital cities are always expected to hold, (and which we ought not to forget is actively competed for by a very ambitious and not very distant little city,) we should apply ourselves diligently to the work of preparation. In advocating the claims of the Agricultural Association to your support, I do not feel that I am straying from my duty as President of your Institute. It is a part, and a very obstinate part of my faith, that no jealousy ought to divide the Agriculturist and the Mechanic: they are, or ought to be, parallel pursuits: their interests are to a great extent, mutual—if one languishes, the other is far from safe: if one succeeds both are, or ought to be the gainers. Patriotism is the common ground to both: the national good a bond of union. Let us, then, eschew petty differences, and pull harmoniously together; and so far from entertaining a partial and envious spirit, let the Mechanic and the Farmer travel side by side, rendering each to the other brotherly aid upon the way; that so the glorious path which our country is pursuing may be one of pleasantness and peace, the pride and the hope of all good citizens. He then said in reference to the Institute itself—You will, I am sure, be glad to hear that since 1847 the number of members has nearly doubled, being now 340. Large additions have been made during the past year to the library, which now contains 1544 books, selected with great care by the Committee with a view to the direction of the taste of the junior members into channels of sound and useful knowledge. The library alone ought to commend the Institute to an extended support, and I would indulge in the expression of a hope that some of my fair hearers who do not intend to devote their ives to Crotchets and Berlin wool, will permit our Librarian to supply them with a few pat-

terns of the flowers and fruits of Literature. Our reading-room,—regularly supplied with the best periodicals and journals of the day, both English and American, to the number of 34,—continues to be well attended, and is the source of much pleasure and utility to our members. The drawing-class, too, has under most able supervision, been remarkably successful; indeed there is in every department most gratifying evidence of vitality and success. [Great applause.]

Mr. Pell rose to move the following resolution:

"That the members of the Toronto Mechanics' Institute are much indebted to the Lecturers of the past season, for the very valuable assistance which they have rendered the Institute, in disseminating useful information, and in arousing a taste for the acquisition of knowledge among its members and the public generally. That, in a spirit of warm appreciation, they herewith tender to those gentlemen their hearty and united thanks."

He expressed great pleasure in supporting the resolution because he thought they should be grateful to those gentlemen who had devoted their time and talents for their benefit. He had been much edified in listening to the various lectures during the past session, and he felt satisfied that no person who had attended, will rest contented without further examination into the subjects so ably handled. He regretted, however, that the attendance of the young mechanics of the city, had not been larger. It formerly was a common saying that the best mechanics were the most dissipated, the truth of that saying he hoped was passing away, and that in future the best workmen would be the most intelligent. He felt much gratification in the attendance of so many females (applause) during the year, and only regretted that there was not a better, building to which to invite them and the friends of the Institute.

Mr. THOMAS, a member of the Council of the Institute seconded the resolution.

Mr. T. J. ROBERTSON, responded to it at some length. He differed from the resolution in so far—that he considered that instead of requiring thanks for their efforts, they should rather return thanks for the compliment paid them in being requested to lecture before so intelligent an audience as attended these lectures. There was so great an amount of intelligence exhibited in these audiences, that it became a difficult task for a lecturer to stand up and offer instruction to them. Mechanics Institutes had been the means of promoting general and scientific information, and they should consider it a high honor to share the labour in such a cause. Under these circumstances he felt deep gratitude to the compliment paid to him.

Dr. HOBBER also replied to the resolution, and suggested that in future sessions it might be advisable that two or three lecturers, similarly minded should unite together and deliver a series of lectures upon one subject in order that a more full elucidation of that subject might be given.

Rev. Professor LILLIE submitted the following resolution:—

"That the members of this Institute view with much interest and satisfaction the endeavors which are now being made to establish Mechanics' Institutes in many towns of this Province, and they desire to extend to their distant brother Mechanics their hearty good wishes for the healthy progress, and successful completion of their labours, trusting that the day is not far distant when the Institutes of this Province will be enabled to feel and know, both singly and collectively, that 'Union is Strength.'"