

almost the whole body of the talented, and affluent of the community have volunteered *en masse*, to further the advancement of knowledge, and to communicate to operative mechanics, such information as will guide them in their industry, and widen their intellectual capacities. Whoever contemplates the vast amount of information which has been given to the people of Great Britain by Mechanic's Institute's, upon the principle of mutual instruction, and views the results of enlightening mankind generally, cannot but rejoice that the barrier which formerly confined education to the rich, is broken down, and the pure streams of knowledge now roll downward even to the beggars offspring.— No longer concealed in the monastery and college, and confined to men of secluded habits, the fountain of learning is open, and all may drink of the unalloyed pleasure arising from illumination of mind. Until a system of national education is established which shall secure to all classes a certain degree of useful information, it is necessary that no effort should be spared, nor delayed, that can ameliorate the condition of the unlearned.— But there is an object of far higher importance than those to which I have already referred. It is the influence education holds upon the moral habits of man. It is certain that trades unions and other political associations of men, recently disturbing the peace of the mother country, and endeavouring to keep the price of wages far higher than the market will afford, thrive upon the ignorance of their blind votaries, who are ever liable to become the dupes of cunning and unprincipled men. It is there fore not only wise policy to grant information to the ignorant, but the duty of all who wish the safety and happiness of themselves and their country; and if the diffusion of science, and literature deter men from vice, what higher object can be offered as a reward for our benevolence, and philanthropy.

In contemplating the numerous branches of learning, and the wide circle of the natural sciences, we cannot but feel surprised at the powers of the human mind, and the perfection to which many studies have arrived. But no one human intellect could ever hold within its grasp but a small share of knowledge when it is generally considered, and it has only been by taking a single track in the wide field of nature, that any have arrived at celebrity. Knowledge is boundless and millions may march in its pursuit without the fear of interrupting each other by the way.

Nothing is more common than to hear of the great disparity in the capacities of different persons, and we are told that some are fitted for nothing. But the difference of talent in different individuals is far less than has ever been supposed. It is by