

in the several articles we have published from European technical journals.

In our article for July last year we set out by showing that upwards of \$150,000 has been annually appropriated by the Legislature, for "professional or college education," in Upper and Lower Canada, whilst but \$4,000 per annum had been appropriated to Arts and Manufactures; that although practical mathematics, geometry, chemistry, &c., are taught in our colleges and universities, yet so little prominence is given to these studies, and so much importance to the classics, and the abstruse sciences, that the minds of the students are entirely unfitted to grapple with practical matters; and, consequently, almost to a man, they enter the learned professions, become grammar school teachers, or connect themselves with the daily newspaper press. Evidence of the truth of these statements are shown by the fact, that, scarcely can a graduate of a university be found in any manufacturing or mechanical business, or in any of the other ordinary industrial pursuits of life.

Our correspondent "Worker," in the last number of the *Journal*, demonstrated that all the grammar schools are also tending in the same direction—cramming the sons of mechanics and tradesmen with Greek and Latin, and leaving them entirely ignorant of business principles, or of the philosophy of common things with which they every day come in contact. We have never complained of the absence of facilities for acquiring what we term a "higher education," what we say, is, these are too numerous, compared with the opportunities for obtaining the more useful and practical. What is the answer of "S. R." to these arguments? Abundance of universities, colleges, and high schools! We admit it; but will "S. R." explain to us, how a boy who is destined for a workshop, at say 14 years of age, can avail himself of the facilities these universities and colleges afford, even were they adapted to his wants? Or where the institutes are located in which the boy, who only remains at school sufficiently long to enable him to acquire the ordinary branches of an English education, can learn anything of the nature of the materials in which he proposes to work, whether it be in wood or stone; iron or the finer metals; flax or wool; leather or any other substance; or in which he will be sufficiently taught the rudiments of chemistry, as to enable him to pursue the subject and bring it into practice in his future manufacturing operations; or so far instructed in the principle of mechanics and mechanical drawing, as to render the knowledge thus acquired useful to him when he takes his place as an apprentice at the mechanics' bench? Or will "S. R." name the

school in which the future cook, housekeeper, or head of a family, can learn anything of the chemistry of food, or the philosophy of cooking it aright; or the son of a farmer, or farm labourer, anything of the nature of the soils, drainage, plant food, and the growth of plants, or the proper time for cutting timber for mechanical or fuel purposes, the use of trees, and the advantages of fruit and horticulture. &c.; or the farmer's daughter, the philosophy of butter and cheese making, poultry raising, and food preserving, &c. We ask these questions in reference to "our Canada." Is the Mother Country any more favourably situated in this respect? We answer, No! if the statements of the many writers for British technical journals are any authority, or the opinions of a host of other practical men who have recently written or spoken on the subject, are of any account.

We have not the means of ascertaining what are the facilities afforded in the continental countries of Europe; but taking it for granted that not a few of the writers referred to are correct, we believe that technical education is far more liberally provided for in some of these countries than it is in Britain.

It would be easy to show, that, scarcely any of the institutions or publications of Great Britain, to which "S. R." has referred, supplies what is demanded by or adapted to the wants of the workman. It would, however, be a useless task for us to pursue the subject, as we have not now the space to do so; and, with the issue of this number of the journal, our opportunities for doing so in these pages will cease. It is an important subject to discuss; and we would be pleased to see it taken up by an abler pen than ours. Let all who feel interested in it—and who does not? read the able speech of Mr. Lowe, M. P., in another portion of this number.

#### ASSOCIATION OF MECHANICS' INSTITUTES.

At the close of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Arts and Manufactures, on Tuesday, the 21st January, last, a meeting of the representatives of the Institutes was held, and an "Association of Mechanics' Institutes of Ontario" formed. Dr. Beatty, of Cobourg, President of the Board, was elected the first President of the Association; John Shier, Esq., of Whitby, the Vice-President; and John Moss, Esq., Secretary of the Toronto Mechanics' Institute, its Secretary.

A committee was also appointed to draft a constitution and rules, and to report at the meeting to be held at the place and during the week of holding the next Provincial Exhibition.