

requested to become Patron of the Institute. Carried unanimously.

Moved by the Hon. R. B. Sullivan, and seconded by the Rev. Mr. Cooney,

That an Institution for the diffusion of Literary, Scientific and useful knowledge, guided by practical Mechanics, tends to the advancement of the moral character, skill and ability of the productive classes: and that the erection of the present building for a Mechanics' Hall, will enable the Institute more widely to diffuse its benefits, extend its usefulness, and secure the confidence of the public.

The Hon. and learned Gentleman, Mr. Sullivan, in speaking to this resolution, burst into a strain of eloquence which chained and entranced his hearers, so that time flew by unheeded. He described the difficulties of acquiring knowledge in by-gone days—the scanty number to whom it was entrusted—the hieroglyphics and obscure figures in which it was wrapped, and the oaths of secrecy imposed on those to whom it was imparted, and the contempt with which the vulgar were spurned who attempted to approach the Temple of Science. This he beautifully contrasted with the facilities of acquiring knowledge at the present day, the ramification of schools in every obscure village—our elementary books,—the science and knowledge that are scattered abroad, in every man's reach and every man's power; the value of our Lectures and the riches of our Library. Both wealth or station were shewn to be but of secondary consideration. The true way to distinction consisted in the right use and training of the mind, and the culture of elegance of thought; men so trained constitute the aristocracy of the present day, before whom all other distinction faded away in the distance.

The learned gentleman concluded by a thrilling appeal to the audience, to cherish, support and appreciate the advantages of the Institute.