
The Merchants and Tradesmen of this City having agreed to close their Shops during the Winter at Seven o'clock, for the purpose of affording to the Young Men in their employment an opportunity of gaining Instruction of an evening, it seems essential to the furtherance of their intention, and to guard against an abuse of the indulgence, that the means of employing their leisure hours to the greatest advantage should be prepared and offered to them; and with this view, the Members of the Mechanics' Institute have considered the present an occasion on which they might with propriety step forward with their advice and assistance.

They have accordingly, after much deliberation on the subject, arranged a plan which they believe will answer the purpose, the leading features of which are the following, the details being too extensive to be published on the present occasion:

The Institute propose to throw open their Rooms and Library five nights in the week, from 7 to 10 o'clock, to the Young Men, and such others as may be unemployed of an evening; where they will find prepared for them every means of innocent and instructive amusement. Classes will be formed for one hour at least each night, in Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Book-Keeping, Drawing, &c., and instructive books and periodicals will be amply supplied to fill up the remainder of the evening—the whole being under a code of regulations calculated to maintain the strictest order and propriety in the meeting. The Institute will endeavour to make the Rooms as attractive as possible, by keeping them well lighted and warmed, and rendered in every way comfortable: and they will find Masters, where the subject to be studied requires them, as well as paper, and all the utensils that may be necessary in the Classes.

It is hoped that a well digested plan of this kind, if countenanced by the authority and influence of the upper orders of Society, and the great body of Merchants and Tradesmen, will meet the case, and be thankfully received by those for whose immediate benefit it has been prepared.

There is one difficulty in carrying out the plan, namely, the procuring means. The funds of the Institute are quite inadequate to the purpose; but the Members are willing to believe, that when the Public consider the benefit proposed to be conferred, and, on the other hand, the danger to society in leaving so many young men destitute of the means of properly employing their evenings, a readiness will be shewn to unite with the Institute in removing this difficulty; and the object of the present address is to prepare the public for a personal application for small contributions, that will be made to them within a few days by a Deputation from the Institute.

As soon as the extent of means is ascertained an Address to the Young Men will be circulated, inviting them to meet the Institute; when their feelings in the matter, as far as any reasonable modification of the plans may go, will be consulted, and measures taken for immediately carrying the plan into effect.

By order of the Committee,

Forw. 1st December 1840

J. F. WESTLAND,

Secretary, Mechanics' Institute.