

of wealthier classes ; and while it already affords enjoyment and occupation to many who have been fortunate enough to possess higher tastes, its destiny is to enlarge itself—to become the popular College and Reading-room and Library and Lecture-room. Just as our Public Schools increase and improve, Mechanics' Institutes will grow and

increase, to continue the work of industrial education, and to satisfy the intellectual wants of their members ; and it is therefore the wisest policy as well as the duty of the nation and the Government, to support and foster the Institutes, and increase their numbers and strengthen their powers.

### SYNOPSIS OF THE OTHER ESSAYS.

ON the 22nd of Dec. 1875, the Association of Mechanics' Institutes of Ontario offered two prizes of \$40 and \$20 respectively, for the best and second best Essays on "Mechanics' Institutes and the best means of improving them." Fifteen compositions were sent in, the prizes being awarded to the two essays in the foregoing pages (Nos. 14 and 15). The mottoes of the fifteen essays were as follows :

1. Perseverance is better than talent.
2. Union is strength.
3. Tell me not in mournful numbers,  
Life is but an empty dream.
4. Labor omnia vincit.
5. Perseverantia omnia vincit.
6. Pro bono publico.
7. Rex.
8. Archimedes.
9. Non sine labore.
10. Suum cuique.
11. Progression, extermination, and repudiation.
12. Libraries were intended for the perpetuation, the increase, and diffusion of knowledge.
13. Arole.
14. To make the Mechanic a better man, the man a better Mechanic.
15. To make the man a better Mechanic, and the Mechanic a better man.

It having been thought that a useful purpose might be served by making a brief synopsis of the improvements suggested in

the essays which were not successful in getting a prize, the authors were written to for permission to use their essays in this way. The required permission was given by all the writers except one, that of Essay No. 12. The following is the synopsis which has been made of the unsuccessful essays, other than the one just mentioned.

#### STIMULATION OF THE DESIRE FOR KNOWLEDGE.

No. 8 thinks it "desirable that measures be adopted by the Central Association to beget in the minds of Mechanics generally, a greater thirst for knowledge, especially in those particular branches of information which more intimately relate to their professions." To effect this he suggests "the delivery, by persons of high qualifications, in each town and larger village of the Province, and at moderate rates of admission, of two or three lectures upon the principles and progress of the Mechanic Arts generally ; also the publication of a periodical devoted to the interests of Mechanics."

No. 9 thinks that Mechanics' Institutes "can only be increased in usefulness by an increase in the demand for moral or intellectual occupations." "We must first see," he says, "whether they address themselves to the task of supplying any actual needs of men in general, or whether they can only hope to supply a few of a particular class.