

To the young most especially are the objects and purposes of Mechanics' Institutes valuable. In them particularly may a foundation be laid for a life distinguished for that devotion to Science, that thirst for knowledge, and that honorable desire to be useful to the world, which has, in so many instances, conferred great and lasting benefit on society.

There is however one danger, not to be lost sight of, and that is a tendency to pride and vanity, which ought never to be the case with the Student of Philosophy. If he acquires more knowledge than falls to the lot of his fellow men, he is brought so much more into an acquaintance with the works of his Creator, and this ought to teach him humility. Is there a more illustrious name in the annals of Science than that of Newton? And yet Newton was remarkable for nothing more than for modesty and humility.

How many wonderful objects and processes do we meet with in our daily walk through life! How many are the various arts and manufactures invented by man! By what process, or series of processes is the wool from the Sheep's back wrought into the warm texture of our clothing! How is the tissue of the tiny worm converted into the rich and beautiful fabrics that adorn a well dressed lady! How is cotton, the production of the earth, converted into a cloth so useful and so generally worn! How does Hemp, a similar production, become a cable for the ship of war, and form the cords by which its sails are spread out to the breeze! By what curious and most ingenious process does the loom present to us figures so varied, so pleasing, so beautiful! Can you conceive of a mass of sand and salt or flint stone, being converted into the beautiful and transparent form of Glass? Can you tell the manner by which a rough ore taken from the bowels of the earth, is made to flow as a liquid, to become hard as adamant, and to receive a polish that vies with the mirror in brightness? How can we account for a mass of charcoal, sulphur, and saltpetre, each so powerless