

for the springtime. There is a world of work to do for which sleighing is especially adapted—there are journeys to market, to the sawmill, to the plaster beds, to the cedar swamp, and to distant friends, which can only be taken *via* the Snow Road, not to speak of evening pleasure-drives, the memory of which makes grey-haired men feel young again.

"Jingle, jingle, clear the way,
'Tis the merry, merry sleigh!"

What rare music the steel runner brings out of the frozen snow surface, how cheery is the sound of the bells, how gleesome the laugh of the passengers, and, altogether, what a choir of wintry melody wakes the echoes along the highway, or in the forest shades, as the sleigh, like a thing of life, skims over the glazed surface of the Snow Road. How many of the luxuries of south-temperate or tropic lands would it take to buy from us our Snow Road? We can easily bring here, the orange, pine-apple, raisin and fig; or grow them under glass in our own gardens. Commerce lays down at our doors every desirable product of southern climes; but, while we can readily get all these things from thence, we cannot take our Snow Road there. When we emigrate south we must leave that behind us, and accept gelid mud or burning sand instead. It is easy, both in-doors and out of doors, to get up what artificial warmth we need to make us comfortable, but nowhere, save in regions in which the mercury ranges between freezing point and zero, can we have that inestimable wintry boon, the Snow Road. They who rashly say, "Give us warmth and never mind the sleighing," need only be banished for a twelvemonth to some region where winter is literally the "rainy season," to feel as they never felt before, the value of what they so thoughtlessly despise.

Arts and Manufactures.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTES: THEIR POSITION, OBJECTS, AND DUTIES.

These Institutions were originally established for the purposes of imparting practical instruction, and affording healthful means of recreation to their members and the public, by means of circulating and reference libraries of books,

lectures, reading rooms, and evening instruction classes. From the best information within our reach, we gather that there are about sixty Mechanics' Institutes now in existence in this Province. About half of the number are, doubtless, existing little more than in name; while, of the remainder, but few are in prosperous condition. We regret this, because we have always looked upon these and similar institutions as calculated—if rightly conducted and liberally supported—to confer great good upon the industrial classes, and through them, upon society in general.

From long acquaintance with their working, we can appreciate the financial difficulties under which most of them are now laboring. From the year 1847 to the year 1859, the Legislature of Canada granted to each incorporated Institute, upon application, an annual sum of \$200; but the mode of distribution being so unequal—not being based upon either membership or work done, and, in many cases, the public money not expended for legitimate purposes, the Government in 1859, withheld the usual grants; but under a distinct promise by the Finance Minister to a deputation of the Board of Arts and Manufactures, that they should be renewed under a more judicious system of distribution, and with better security for a proper expenditure of the money, consented to continue them. The late Board of Arts, year by year, reminded the Government of its promise, and urged the renewal of the grant, but without success. By the recent Confederation Act, the duty of sustaining our local Institutions was devolved upon the Government of Ontario. During the first session of our Provincial Legislature, the Hon. John Carling, Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works, introduced a bill for the organization of the Bureau of Agriculture and Arts, and the better management of Agricultural and other Societies; and also, providing for a moderate appropriation of Legislative aid to Mechanics' Institutes. The conditions upon which such aid is given, are, that the Institute receiving it must have previously contributed or appropriated for that year a sum of money to be expended in the purchase of books of a practical character, or in the maintenance of evening class instruction. On the Secretary's affidavit of such ex-