

research, giving a general view of the whole body of British Literature, will be found an extremely valuable guide; to this, some of the *classed catalogues* of the more celebrated libraries may be added as useful auxiliaries.

The improved utility which would result from rendering the stores accumulated of easy access, by means of a constant attention to a scientific arrangement, and of a *classed catalogue*, is self-evident, and to enlarge upon it would be quite *superfluous*.

These remarks are becoming somewhat prolix, and the writer would have hesitated in obtruding to such an extent on your columns; had he not thought from the circumstance of several libraries having been formed, and forming, which so far as he can learn from their mode of conducting, appear to be new undertakings, the nature of which is generally imperfectly and insufficiently understood, that they might be of service.

It merely remains to offer a remark or two on the admission of Strangers, and of Honorary members.

A stranger should certainly, on the highest authority; on that which teaches us to do that to others which in similar cases we might reasonably and rightfully wish to have done to us; be treated hospitably—and without making *chere entiere*, we may put the key of our Library into his hands. If the stranger be a man fond of learning, he will be more thankful for this than for our wine and our dinners—if he be not, his host will take care how he introduce him. The gratitude of a scientific stranger, experiencing liberal treatment, might possibly confer essential benefits.

As for Honorary members, the very nature of such societies implies not only their existence, but that the favour of their accepting such a designation should be solicited and courted. In this march of intellect age, in this age of freedom of the press, of which it has been said, that it is like the air we breathe, and that without it we die, in this age of slave emancipation and of universal education, it would be strange, if in a society, professing to be literary, and animated and guided by liberal and literary sentiments, any vile feeling of pounds, shillings and pence, or any personal or political hostility, still viler and more despicable, should interfere and prevent the conferring of the only reward and encouragement, which such a society has in its power to confer on those best entitled to its investiture.

As the object of such a society is the encouraging of literature, and the attainment of learning, the utmost liberality should be shown in its conduct and management,—and it might be said that so long as the pecuniary interests of the proprietors were constantly observed, and nothing like interloping encouraged, any person of literary or scientific attainments, and not in circumstances enabling him to purchase, should, though a townsman and resident, be an Honorary Member. It would not even be too great an extension of liberality to allow any person, resident or not, a non-subscriber, to consult a book occasionally, for casual reference, in