

for the interest of the Institute and the members. The union of the two sexes gives an attraction to every assembly, whether in the lecture room or the church, and cannot fail to be advantageous to the success of the classes; while the competition arising from the two sexes studying together would have the best effect on their educational progress. Add to all this, too, that the final purpose of all education is moral as well as intellectual, and the Institute which fails in any point to offer the highest and fullest inducements to women to become members, as well as men, will lose in finances as well as in influence and general usefulness.

CO-OPERATION OF TEMPERANCE SOCIETIES.

In discussing the subject of Mechanics' Institutes too much importance cannot be attached to the great moral issues of the question. The Institute may be made the agent for elevating the intellectual character of the industrial classes. It may be a most successful agent for spreading all the art and science knowledge necessary to the improvement and development of our manufactures. But its high and enduring value is, that by mental culture it gives steadiness to character, occupation to the mind, refinement and correctness to the taste, and wisdom to the judgment. It is in this light that it becomes the ally of every good social and moral movement, and of none more than that which now so much engages public attention—the Temperance cause. Prohibitory laws and the reduction of licenses for selling liquor will be of little avail themselves while there is a vast population destitute of mental occupation—incapable of deriving enjoyment from intellectual pursuits. The almost certain resort of such a class, thirsting for something to do—something to excite and carry away thought—is the tavern and the bar-room. It is certain, on the other hand, that all prohibitory laws will be more effective as they act upon an educated population. In this view of the subject the Mechanics' Institutes have special claims on the organized Temperance Societies of the country. These organizations draw the largest number of their members from the very class for which the Institutes are supposed to be established, and that class suffer the most from the vice of intemperance. Now, the Temperance organization, however laudable its object, has a very weak

point. It trusts too much to principle, and expects too much from human nature. It aims to reform the drunkard, but it offers no counter-attraction to that of strong drink. The occupation of the members in a Temperance Lodge is a dull exchange to men who have been accustomed to the wild excitement of the whiskey saloon; and hence it too often happens that the convert to temperance principles, suffering from the craving of old excitements, and finding no compensation for those excitements in the dull routine of the Temperance Lodge, lapses back into his old habits, with no desire to change them for the dull associations he has deserted. If Temperance organizations studied human nature better, they would give occupation, and the attraction of mental pursuits, to the mind too much diseased and weakened by pernicious habits to be satisfied with the change of sensual excitements for abstract principles. The Temperance Lodge could co-operate with the Mechanics' Institute by uniting the privilege of membership with both organizations. The reading room, the library, the classes, the Mutual Instruction Society, the debate, the music, and the literary exercise, would offer occupation of the very best kind to minds disordered and distempered by long intemperance; and in the mental culture, the improved taste, and the new attractions of study, as well as all the influences of a new created self-respect, there would be established a most powerful aid to the work of reformation.

MISCELLANEOUS SUGGESTIONS.

The importance of making the Institute attractive has been frequently urged in this essay; and in view of the attractions which vice and worthless pursuits and indulgences hold out to their victims, it is a wise policy to avail ourselves of the methods by which self-interest throws charms around temptation to make it successful, and to imitate in every legitimate way its expedients. Hence it is a safe expenditure of the funds to make the sitting rooms of the members not only cheerful, but, as far as practicable, elegant and luxurious. Many a slave to intemperance leaves the home which his vicious habits have made cheerless, wretched, and dirty, to enjoy the elegance, the light, and the luxuriance which are studiously attached to the bar-room and the drinking