

the parties who thus prevented good. The majority of the Retail Merchants, however, whom we must designate as the most respectable—certainly as the most enlightened—the most capable of appreciating the mental necessities of our nature—have complied; and now, by closing at seven, permit their Clerks some leisure for attention to the mind. It is hoped that those who now close at seven, will continue to do so; for certain it is that nine o'clock is too late to enter either the refined social circle, or the place for mental improvement; and at that hour those places only are accessible where the young man is neither socially nor mentally improved, but both socially and mentally injured.

Conclusion.

The Association, at the close of the year, numbered two hundred and thirty-three Ordinary, sixty-five Merchant, and twenty Honorary Members; and its several departments, as shewn by the preceding details, are in an effective condition. And it is hoped that the averment made at the outset—that the Association is now in a position to realize the objects aimed at in its formation—has been sustained; nay more, that those objects are *now* being realized. There is not wanting reason to believe that actual good has already resulted to many from their connexion with the Association. Distaste for those frivolous amusements, usually so attractive to the young, has been acquired; habits of reading and reflection have been formed—and young men have become impressed, as the fruit of Lectures and reading, with serious and elevated views of their position and responsibilities.