

The chair was taken at 7:30 by J. C. Becket, Esq., and upon the platform were his Lordship the Bishop of the Diocese and Metropolitan; the Hon. P. J. O. Chauveau, Superintendent of Education for Lower Canada; Hon. T. D. McGee; the Rev. Dr. Taylor, and other gentlemen.

Arranged on tables in front of the platform were a number of well executed specimens of architectural and mechanical drawings, as well as specimens of writing, all of which reflected great credit both on the classes and their teachers, and demonstrated the great benefits which must result from such a system.

Mr. J. C. Becket in opening the proceedings, addressed those present as follows:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—The place I have the honor to occupy this evening seems to involve some explanation of the object of our meeting. It may be thought also that advantage should be taken of this opportunity of bringing before the public the importance, as well as the aims and object of the Mechanics' Institute. But fortunately I need not say much on either of these points, as we are to be favored with the assistance of others this evening, who will, no doubt, do them justice. I may be permitted to say, however, that though our Institute, as its name implies, should be sustained by the mechanics of this city, at least the English-speaking portion of them, yet we would not have it understood that it is, or should, be confined to that class of the community; on the contrary, we think it would be for the interest of all classes, without distinction, to foster and encourage this and similar institutions, by extending to them a cordial and liberal support, for it cannot be doubted that just in proportion to the general enlightenment of the masses, and the prevalence of correct principle as a rule of action, will the best interests of the entire community be promoted. Our present membership embraces only 641, individually divided into four classes:—

Life Members	257
1st Class do.....	80
2nd Class do.....	100
3rd Class do.....	204

Life members by the payment of \$20 purchase for life the privileges of the Institute. The three last named classes, by the payment of \$3, \$2, \$1, respectively, have the free use of the well-stocked library, reading-room, classes, and occasional lectures. This latter, for two or three years past, has not been attended to as it ought; in the future, no doubt, steps will be taken to revive these. The more direct business of the evening, as announced, is the examination of the classes and the distribution of the prizes. The teachers will conduct the examination. The prizes allotted to the drawing-class will be distributed by His Lordship Bishop Fulford, and those of the English class by the Hon. T. D'Arcy McGee. The studies in the English class have been: writing, spelling dictation, arithmetic and book-keeping. With respect to the studies for these prizes, it should be explained that in two or three cases though only one prize has been awarded, more than one was merited by the same individual, but the Committee thought it better to extend the prizes over the pupils as generally as circumstances would permit. We ought also to state that the attendance upon the classes this season has been unusually good, and the attention bestowed by the scholars generally gratifying to the teachers. Complaints having been made in former years of the inattention of the members, especially of the English and French classes—for we have had French classes also, but not during the past winter—it was agreed this season to require all to pay 1s. 3d. as an entry fee, with the understanding that this would be returned to all who were orderly and attentive to the duties of the class.

	Pupils.
English Class	70
Drawing Class, Architectural	27
do Mechanical.....	9

I would only further remark, the friends of the Institute ought to know, that in years past, these classes have been the means of great good, it has come to our knowledge that there are several now in prominent positions, filling responsible situations, whose first lessons, in drawing especially, were obtained in these classes. Indeed the present teacher of the drawing class had not only his first lessons here, but also a taste awakened for such studies as promise at no distant day to place him in the front ranks of his profession. We will now proceed with the examination of the classes, and will take first the English class.

Mr. Muir then proceeded to examine the English class, who went through a number of exercises, testing their knowledge of Etymology and writing, with great credit. Mr. Muir explaining that he did not intend to go into a full examination, but only so far as to give an idea of the progress made by the members of the class.

Mr. Hutchison then proceeded with the examination of the drawing classes in practical geometry, as applied to mechanics. He then put a few questions relative to the simpler orders of architecture, such as the Tuscan, Doric, and Ionic, to shew the knowledge acquired of the elements of architecture. In conclusion, he spoke of the want of a modelling room, where pupils could construct objects from their drawings.

The exercises being brought to a conclusion, the Chairman announced an address by the Lord Bishop of Montreal, who would afterwards distribute the prizes for the drawing classes.

The Lord Bishop said—In distributing these prizes, I shall not attempt to enter largely into any discussion of the nature of your particular studies, such as your architectural drawing, and so forth. I shall especially avoid going into the details of such studies, as I should, thereby, perhaps, only expose my own ignorance, these not being branches that I am deeply learned in. But at the same time, I may express generally my satisfaction at seeing that this school seems to be increasing in value, united with increasing attention and usefulness as regards the pupils, during preceding years, as we have been told by the President of the meeting. Some years ago, when this building was first opened, I was asked to deliver a lecture here, when I particularly noticed the fact that persons like yourselves, connected with the Mechanics' Institute, would enjoy the advantage of classes for instruction, in which they might carry on their studies even after they had entered on the varied business of life. The presumption is, that all you who come here now, being voluntary students, really come for the purpose of making the best use of your time, independent of the positive amount of knowledge you may gain. For you should bear in mind, that if you are really making good use of your time, you are gaining those advantages arising from the improvement of your general faculties by their application to any particular study. There may be some branches of study that draw out the mind more than others, but there can be no branch of study carefully carried out that will not bring its own special advantages to the mind, in enabling it to concentrate itself upon a particular subject, and give the mind a clearness of thought and understanding, and application for any other purpose in after life. There are, no doubt, among all communities, now and then, what we may call master minds, that will distinguish themselves under any difficulties, and overcome any obstacles in either acquiring knowledge, or pushing themselves on in life; but these are the exceptions. The generality of men are those possessed of average abilities, and who cannot be expected to force their way on like those few exceptions I have mentioned. But if there are facilities given for improvement and study, in any way, there are a great many who might be very well qualified to take advantage of them, and profit by them in after life; and especially in a community like this, where there are such openings in life for all of you; it is of very great importance you should not lose such opportunities as are now afforded you in classes of this value. I see here a silver medal, which will be given by and by to one who is considered to have distinguished himself in general proficiency; and I may mention—I hope without any improper allusion to my own early life—that, though it is now nearly half a century ago, I remember, when I was at school, having had a silver medal given to myself. And I now remember perfectly well the satisfaction I experienced at having that little honorary distinction conferred upon me. I treasure it to this day as a memorial of my school days, and I trust that any prizes you may get now will be, in the same way, retained by you hereafter as memorials of your progress, and as a stimulus to the further prosecution of your studies, and not be regarded as a matter of mere gratification at the moment. I shall not take up more of your time by making other remarks, but proceed at once to the distribution of the prizes. (Loud applause.)

His Lordship now gave out the following prizes in the order observed:—

ARCHITECTURAL CLASS.

1st Prize, John Rutherford, a set of compasses from Dr. Bernard; 2nd do, George Scott, a set of Planes, from H. Evans, Esq.; 3rd do, Thomas Ford, a set of Squares, from C. Snowdon, Esq.; 4th do, Rufus Dorman, a set of Instruments.

MECHANICAL CLASS.

1st Prize, H. Ward, set of Instruments; 2nd do, H. B. Warren, a spirit level, from J. Walker & Co.

The chairman then introduced, The Hon. T. D. McGee who came forward and said, that it was only in consequence of the absence of Mr. Chamberlin that he was present. Hitherto he had had an honorary connection with the institution, but until that evening he had never been with them. He would take the liberty of urging upon the English class the importance of