

FRANKLIN EVANS, OR THE INEBRIATE.

AN American novel, written with a view to further the cause of temperance, and of the Temperance Reform. It portrays in a lively manner the terrible evils flowing from an indulgence in the vicious habits which have for centuries warred against the welfare and the happiness of the human race. As an assistant in so good a cause, we cannot look without interest on this unpretending story, and we but perform a duty when we recommend it to the perusal of all, and more particularly to the serious attention of the young.

THE NEIGHBOURS, A TALE OF EVERY DAY LIFE—
BY FREDERICA BREMER—TRANSLATED BY
MARY HOWITT.

THIS is a very interesting, and to some extent, a useful work, particularly as it will probably be the means of opening up a new source of literary entertainment. It is translated from a work originally written in the language of Sweden, a country the literature of which has hitherto been almost altogether unknown. Indeed, up to the present time, attention has rarely been directed to it. The mine, however, is now discovered, and while so many are looking after novelty, it is scarcely probable that there will be experienced any lack of travellers in this hitherto unbeaten track. The Neighbours is said to be a very fair specimen of Swedish literature, and if, as the fair translator says, there be many such, the intellectual markets of the world will, it is not unlikely, derive from this new source, for some time to come, enough to supply the deficiency which of late has begun to be experienced.

LITERARY SOCIETIES.

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.—This Society, numbering among its members many of our most intelligent and respectable inhabitants, pursues the even tenor of its way, quietly and unobtrusively gathering up rich and varied stores of valuable and curious information respecting the Colony—its present condition, and former history and inhabitants. Among its members are several gentlemen whose names are associated with whatever advances have been made in science and literature in Canada. They have done their share of the goodly work. We gladly note that the number of their followers and assistants is increasing. We learn that a Committee of Members has been appointed to revise the Transactions of the Society and the papers which have been laid before it, with a view to their publication. We are certain that when the book is laid before the public it will be found to contain much varied and useful as well as curious information.

THE LITERARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Quebec has for many years been a beacon light for those who hope to see the Colony one day occupy its proper sphere in the world, as a country where the arts and sciences are cultivated and flourishing. There are connected with this Society many gentlemen eminent for their talents, and for the persevering exertions they have made to rescue the Province from its almost nothingness in the literary world. They have not laboured altogether in vain, as may be seen by their published "Transactions" during former years. We have heard it stated that some further publications are in contemplation. We hope it may be so, assured as we are that such efforts will do much to stir up the active minded to the completion of the task already so well begun.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—This Association, which has been in existence only about three years, has already done much towards the achievement of those purposes for which it was originally designed. The winter season, in particular, is dedicated to the advancement of its members in all necessary and useful knowledge. They have been favoured with several courses of valuable Lectures, on subjects peculiarly interesting, which, if not so well attended as they might have been, have yet afforded evidence that there are among the industrious working classes a fair proportion who are anxious to avail themselves of such means as are afforded them, for mental improvement. The Library connected with the Institution is furnished with many valuable works, the privilege of access to which is highly and universally valued. The reading room is indifferently attended, the members generally appearing to prefer their own residences for the perusal of the books at their command. This Institution deserves the support of every individual, whether mechanic or not, who desires the mental and moral improvement of his fellow men.

THE MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION is another Society, the intention of which is to afford to the future inhabitants of the city such instruction as is best calculated to add to their respectability and usefulness. The spirited managers of the Association are well seconded. Many valuable Lectures have already been delivered—many are yet in store, to be given during the long winter months. These Associations deserve well of the community, and we are glad to learn that, generally speaking, they are well supported. It speaks well for the philanthropy of the inhabitants that they are so, and we trust they may long continue to dispense their blessings, and to derive a cheerful support from the classes for whose benefit they are more particularly designed.