

proper and most necessary that the people should be instructed in the principles of Government Free as any people upon the face of the Earth, every one amongst us is expected to feel an interest in those subjects which fall within the province of Political Economy, we each of us are privileged to adopt opinions, and may each of us be called upon to form practical decisions, it is important then that we be governed by reason and guided by experience, else may we unwittingly commit ourselves to error, be led blindfold into the troubled waters of party strife, become the dupes of prejudices and passion, or the pliant tools of an ambitious purpose, ignorant the while of the responsibility of our action, and of that obedience which is due to those who are in authority. Following Dr. Ryerson came one, of whom as what I can say is that on a very short notice he did his best. The concluding lecture was one by the Rev. J. Roof offering "practical suggestions on the mental culture of Commercial and Mechanical young men." The Rev. Lecturer urged upon his hearers, the practice of all those virtues by which social life is adorned and by which business pursuits are rendered safe successful and honorable. His essay gave a practical direction and a new value to the whole course, he showed that it was not by frivolous or futile efforts, thoughtlessly made and quickly abandoned, that distinction in any pursuit is to be attained, but by steady purpose and persevering application, by constant and patient industry and untiring devotion, directed by prudence and governed by honor. Let us hope that such an use may be made of the teaching of this admirable course of lectures, and that whilst we warmly acknowledge the services which our guests have rendered, we give them that which I am sure will be ever more acceptable, an assurance that we will steadily pursue that path which the eloquence and learning have so temptingly displayed. Having trespassed upon your indulgence, I dare scarcely attempt to submit to you in any detail, the working of our Institute in its other branches. You will be glad to hear that since 1847 the number of members has nearly doubled, being now 310. Large additions have been made during the past year to the Library which now contains 1544 books, selected with great care by the Committee with a view to the direction of the taste of the junior members into channels of sound and useful knowledge. The Library alone ought to commend the Institute to an extended support, and I could indulge in the expression of a hope that some of my fair hearers who do not intend to devote their lives to Crochet work and Berlin wool, will permit our Librarian to supply them with a few patterns of the flowers and fruits of Literature. Our reading room, regularly supplied with the best periodicals and journals of the day both English and American (to the number of 34) continues to be well attended and is the source of much pleasure and utility to our members. The drawing class too, has, under most able supervision, been markedly successful, indeed there is in every department most gratifying evidence of vitality and success. Added to all this I am happy to announce that we are out of debt, and have a balance in the hands of our Treasurer, a small one it is true, because our duty is to extend the usefulness rather than to nurse the income of the Institute. Agreeable, however, as is the statement which I am enabled to make to you in these important points, we have still our troubles; and as it is scarcely fair that you should join in our rejoicing without sharing also in our sorrow, we anticipate your sympathy when we declare that we are "cabin'd, crib'd, d, confined" in a building altogether inadequate to our wants, and whose locality is a serious impediment to our progress. A new and more commodious building in a better situation has become necessary to the full development of the powers of our Institute; but for success in such an enterprise we must in some degree rely on the assistance and co-operation of our fellow citizens, and truly, if the excellence of the subject be any justification, I am bold to say that we have some right to claim it. And who is there amongst us uninterested in its success, or who is not

benefited by the influence which it exercises. Did Birkbeck and Brougham err when they founded Mechanics Institutions, or is the eloquent pleading of Carlisle, the most refined and accomplished of his peers to be distrusted. Who will not assent to the aphorism.

"If flowers will plant not, vice will fill the mind,
And weeds take up the space for flowers decen'd."

and who, having assented will coldly refuse to labour in such a Vineyard. For my part, I regard the support of such an Institution as a positive duty, in the exercise or neglect of which no sectional interest or purpose can be served. It is indeed an oasis in the desert, for it is neutral ground where we are neither troubled by political squabbles nor pained by religious controversy—and pursuing the even tenor of our way, the acquirement and dissemination of sound and useful knowledge is our high object, and basing our action and our purposes on the good and broad foundation of a common Christianity, whilst we avoid the Scylla of sectarianism, we turn and flee from the Charybdis of Infidelity.—The Chairman resumed his seat amidst great applause.

Mr. Pelt said he had much pleasure in submitting the resolution entrusted to him, because he considered the members of the Institute should be grateful to those gentlemen who devote their time and talents for our benefit. He had been much benefitted personally in listening to the various lectures of the past season, and he felt satisfied that no one who attended these lectures would rest contented without further examination into the various subjects so ably discussed. He could not help taking the present opportunity of saying that the attendance of young mechanics during this past season has not been so large as he could have wished it. It formerly was a common saying that the best mechanics were the most dissipated men; but he hoped that this saying would now be found to be erroneous, and that the best mechanics would also be found to be the most intelligent men. He felt much gratification at the attendance of so many females (cheers) at the lectures; but he regretted that an Institution numbering 310 members had not a better situation for their place of meeting, and a better building to invite their friends to. With a building such as this Hall it would be a credit to the mechanics of Toronto. Without however trespassing further, he begged to move the following resolution,

"That the members of the Toronto Mechanics' Institute are much indebted to the Lecturers of the past season for the very valuable assistance which they have rendered the Institute in disseminating useful information, and in arousing a taste for the acquisition of knowledge among its members, and the public generally. That in a spirit of warm appreciation they herewith tender to those gentlemen their hearty and united thanks."

Mr. THOMAS briefly seconded the resolution, which was then submitted to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr. T. G. ROBERTSON, said he felt called upon to express the gratitude of those gentlemen who, as well as himself, had had the opportunity of addressing the Institute during the past season. He wished however to dissent to a certain extent from the resolution submitted on this occasion. They were all well aware that Mechanics' Institutes have progressed so rapidly in public favour, that they have an entirely different aspect now to what they once had. The audiences which assemble to these lectures include a great amount of information and ability, to which it must be considered a degree of honour to have the privilege of delivering an address. He for one had felt that so far from requiring thanks for the efforts he had made, that they should rather return thanks to the Institute for the compliment paid them in being permitted to enjoy the pleasure of delivering lectures to these audiences. These lectures are frequently devoted to abstruse subjects and such as would excite little general interest, but he felt that in Toronto there was a great amount of intelligence and taste displayed in regard

to those lectures, so much so, that it rendered it a difficult task for a lecturer to stand up to offer instruction to such an audience. A general theoretical and scientific knowledge is to a certain degree necessary for those who pursue the most common Mechanical pursuits, and among the many ways adopted by society to convey such information, Mechanics' Institutes have been a powerful means, and those who are desirous for the progress of their country should feel it a proud and high boast to be permitted to share the labour in such a cause,—to be thought worthy of lending their efforts to aid such an Institute. Under these circumstances he felt the deepest gratitude for the complimentary manner in which the vote of thanks had been passed, and he felt a still greater degree of pride, if possible, in being permitted to share in such a gratitude. One lecture was however passed over in silence by the President in the happy enumeration which he gave, His bashfulness caused him to pass it, (Mr. R.)

... aware that the President was called upon at very short notice to deliver a lecture before the Institute, and that lecture was spoken of in the highest terms as an effort of considerable ability and skill. While he has passed it over in silence we should take the opportunity of recording our sense of that lecture and of the skill it exhibited and that it was as deeply interesting and valuable as those who had more time bestowed in their preparation.—Applause.

Dr. HONDER, was happy that the lectures had been so well attended during the season. He just wished to make one observation to the committee who might undertake to make arrangements for the lectures of another season, Lecturers should aim more at the dissemination of useful knowledge, and if two or three gentlemen who were similarly minded, and whose tastes were alike, were to unite in giving a short series of lectures upon some one subject it would tend more to the advantage of the Institution than the practice hitherto adopted.—Applause.

Rev. Mr. LULLIE moved the following resolution:

"That the members of this Institute view with much interest and satisfaction the endeavours which are now being made to establish Mechanics' Institutes in many towns of this Province; and they desire to extend to their distant brother Mechanics their hearty good wishes for the healthy progress and successful completion of their labours, trusting that the day is not far distant when the Institutes of this Province will be enabled to feel and know, both singly and collectively, that 'Union is Strength.'"

He congratulated the Chairman upon the position he occupied as President of this Institute, and trusted that the Institute would progress as satisfactorily under his presidency as it had done under that of his able predecessor, Professor Croft. To the lectures of that gentleman he had often listened with delight, and he was gratified that a gentleman occupying a position so honourable should interest himself in an Institution like this for the spread of intelligence throughout the community. He complimented the President on the excellent address he had just delivered. The description he had given of the essays was most admirable—of course he wished to exclude any reference to his own lectures, (great applause.) That able address had given them all a chance for immortality, and he thought that at all events they should feel thankful, (applause.) He concurred most heartily in the resolution he had the pleasure to submit. He rejoiced, and he thought every lover of his country would rejoice in the efforts made to extend Mechanics' Institutes through this young, rapidly growing, and very noble country. The influence of these Institutes when properly conducted is pre-eminently good. He had felt in listening to the lectures that it was peculiarly healthful to himself. Of course it would be out of place to preach in a Mechanics' Institute; but he felt it to be a privilege that a lecturer who believes in the Bible, and loves to keep its precious sayings on his memory, does not need to be afraid in addressing this Institute