

tion; and from its commencement has taken the most lively interest in its welfare, and under all circumstances, has been found ready to meet the exigencies of its infancy. The Doctor commenced by giving a brief account of the rise of the Roman Empire, which was ascribed more to the advancement of literature, and the arts and sciences, than to the power of arms; and the cause of the decline and fall of a great nation, was clearly proved to have resulted from the lack of religion, and a moral basis upon which alone the most powerful empires can remain secure. A comparison was drawn between the British and Roman Governments, and it was rendered evident that the strength, power, and durability of Great Britain, was to be found in the religion of her inhabitants. It was said in the address: "Her strength is in her moral constitution; her power is in the virtue and industry of her inhabitants; her riches are in the high mental cultivation of her people, and the progress of the arts and sciences, and so long as her moral basis remains secure, she can never fall." The great and surprising improvements which had been made in all kinds of machinery, and the inventions which had been introduced to lighten the burden of human labour, and increase mechanical power, were to be attributed to the advancement of the sciences; and a contrast was drawn between the feeble and imperfect mechanical means employed but a few years ago, and the gigantic steam engine, which far surpasses, both in the power and dehcacy of its operations, the greatest efforts that can be performed by the united force of human strength, and the most minute operations of human hands. An account of the rise of the Institution was then introduced, and the young mechanic was stimulated to improve the advantages, which all classes of the community had contributed to supply him.

A number of instances were mentioned to show that many individuals in the humblest walks of life had risen to great eminence by their own patient exertions, and by training the mind to act in co-operation with the hand, have produced discoveries and inventions of the first importance in the civilisation and happiness of the human race. A just compliment was paid to His Excellency Sir John Harvey, the worthy and enlightened Governor, and the Councils and Legislature of the Province; who had all given their support to this, the most important Institution of learning in the country. Well deserved praise was also given to the inhabitants of Saint John, who, amidst the embarrassments produced by the great recent fires, had fully sustained the Mechanics' Institute; which, as the speaker said, "had risen above the embers of the devouring element." Nor did the Doctor fail in his recollection of the ladies, who, he said, had so often cheered the drooping spirits of the lecturer, and elevated the character of every audience. In concluding his subject, the advantages thus enjoyed were stated to be the result of the blessed Constitution under which we live. It is under the British Government that these public blessings are fostered and protected. It is under the British flag that security and peace are granted to all who walk in the paths of literature and science. A tone of high moral feeling pervad-

ed the whole address, which was as creditable to the Doctor's heart as to his head.

It cannot be possible that Mechanics' Institutes in the present day, can supply any considerable amount of religious instruction. The necessity of combining such instruction with other knowledge, was, notwithstanding, forcibly enunciated, and those who have the charge of the young and succeeding generation, were earnestly recommended to make this consideration their part of the great work of mental improvement.

As a wide and liberal view was taken of the arts and sciences, and their application to the wants of man, and especially to the requirements of a country comparatively new; it would be impossible to do justice to the speaker or his address, without giving the whole, which carried with it the evidences of great research and peculiar originality.

On the 11th December, Mr. GEORGE BLATCH delivered a Lecture on Self Instruction. At the onset the lecturer gave a clear account of the advantages mankind had received from the introduction of the art of Printing, and different systems of education. An expanded view was then taken of the means that had been employed to disseminate useful knowledge among all orders of men; and more especially the improved systems of education which were so truly characteristic of the present age. If it be admitted that "knowledge is power," the general diffusion of science and literature becomes of the highest importance to a nation, a country, and even to a family;—and a number of plain and convincing evidences were brought forward to shew that the present enlightened state of the world was the result of that progressive and never-ending expansion of intelligence which the human mind possesses in a god-like degree. Galileo, Sir Isaac Newton, Archimedes, Franklin, and others, were adduced as instances, to shew that the greatest discoveries in science were the result of deep reflection and research, and not the casual inventions of ignorance and chance; and hence an inference was drawn, that steady perseverance in the pursuit of knowledge, was the most probable mode of obtaining success and distinction. Notwithstanding the increasing advantages arising from an extended plan of education, and the facilities offered for supplying the great storehouse of the mind with necessary information, and those embellishments which ornament the best societies;—it was shewn that the success of each individual, in the acquisition of learning was solely dependent upon himself; and the degree of mental labour independently performed by him. In proof of this interesting part of the subject, a great number of instances were brought forward, in which persons in the humblest and most obscure situations, had by their own exertion, by "self-instruction," become persons of great usefulness and eminence in various departments of science or literature. Sir Humphrey Davy, Watt, Arkwright, Simpson, Ferguson, Burns, Allan Ramsay, Columbus, Shakespeare, and others, were very happily referred to; and the whole lecture was admirably adapted for encouraging the young, and such as do not possess the means of obtaining collegiate instruction. The whole was de-