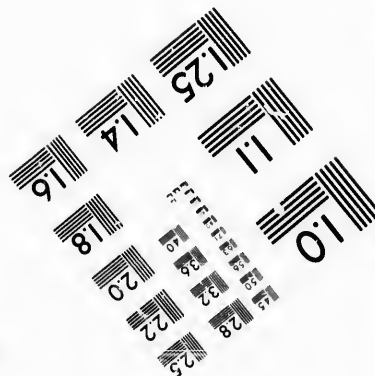
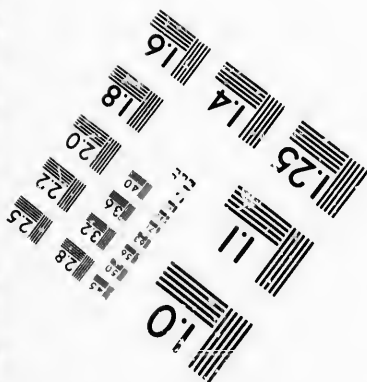
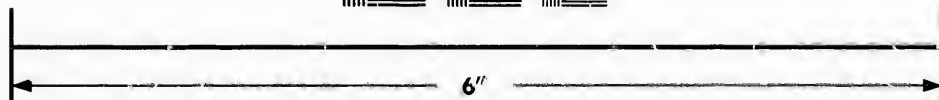
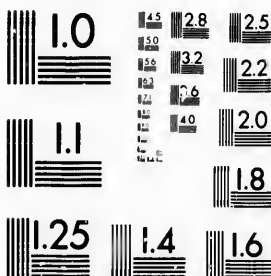


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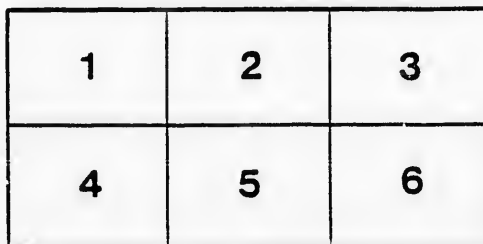
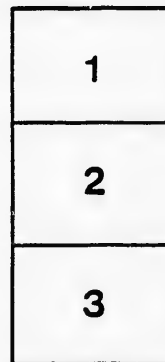
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33 AT THE OPENING OF THE

WINTER COURSE OF LECTURES

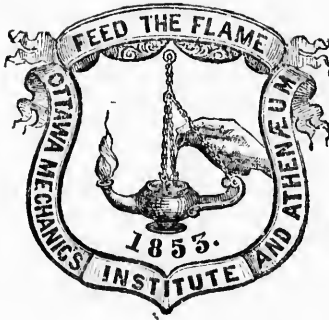
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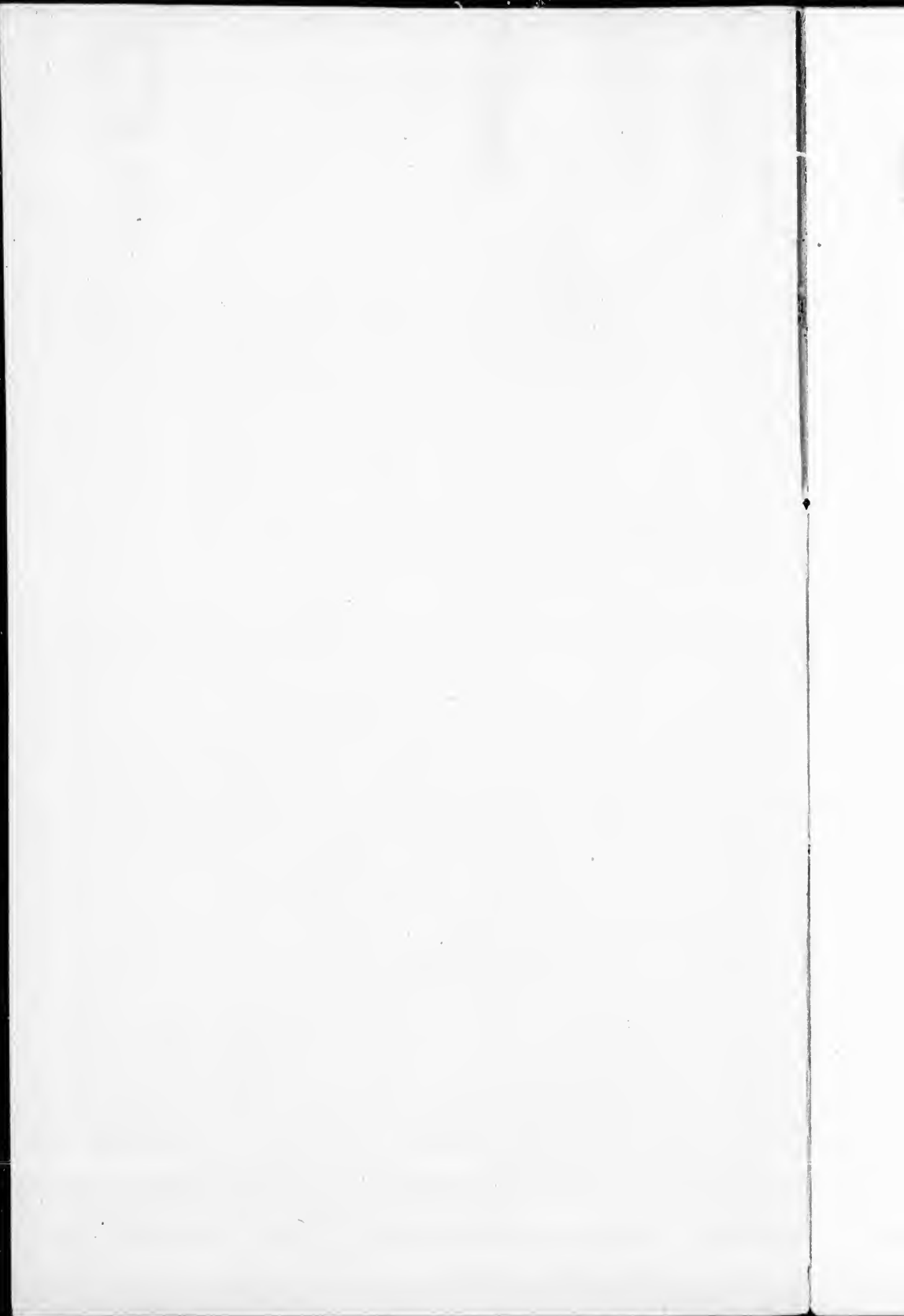
OCTOBER 2nd, 1855.

Published by Order of the Trustees.



PRINTED AT THE OTTAWA CITIZEN OFFICE.

1855.



INAUGURAL ADDRESS,
AT THE OPENING OF THE
WINTER COURSE OF LECTURES,

BEFORE THE

Ottawa Mechanics' Institute and Athenaeum,

OCTOBER 2nd, 1855.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEES.

LECTURE ROOM,
2nd October, 1855. }

The Managing Committee of the Institute having leased the Temperance Hall for a Lecture Room, a building well adapted, and in a central position, the usual public announcement was given that the course would open on this evening, and at eight o'clock the Hall was well filled by the Members of the Institute and other respectable citizens.

On the platform seats were provided for the Trustees of the Institution. Previous to the delivery of the Address the grand overture of "Der Freischutz" was performed by the orchestra, under the direction of Messrs. Fecht and Mercer.

The chair was taken by the President of the Institute, H. J. Friel, Esq., who delivered the following Address:—

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

"The public mind is thrown off its balance," "a whirlwind of tempestuous jubilee is sweeping over the country," "the tedium of suspended excitement is past," "the powers now paramount in the world are not those of fanaticism and barbaric absolutism," "the power of Russia in the Euxine is at an end," "the victory is as boundless as the Globe," "Sebastopol has fallen!!!" Such are the phrases in which the London press proclaim the triumphant victory which now challenges the first consideration in the mind of every lover of his country, every friend of humanity,

and every man whose heart is in the right place. After twelve months of unremitting toil, incredible hardships and heartrending privations, the brave armies of the Allies have crowned their labors by the storming of the Gibraltar of the Euxine.

The thunder-cloud which threatened to burst over Europe, has passed away, and sunshine warms the hearts of the 200,000, who, 3,000 miles from home, form the forlorn hope of civilization. The chaunt of victory is heard over the land; in every gathering the public pulse beats audibly in the fever of excitement. We who are met tonight in peaceful consultation, in matters of mere local moment, feel that the first honors are due to the brave sons of France and England, who have planted the blended colors of these countries on the battlements of Sebastopol, and that we could not enter upon our ordinary duties without a sigh for the fallen, and a cheer for the triumph of justice and of right. [Applause.]

Another year with its many changes has passed away since last we met to inaugurate the annual course of lectures before this Institute. We meet on this occasion to perform a like duty for the present year. In conformity with usage, we shall undertake the pleasing duty of reviewing the progress of the Institution, and will also take the liberty of offering some suggestions calculated to induce a consideration of measures whereby the sphere of its operations may be extended.

Since the incorporation of the Institute in 1853, it has gone on and prospered. It is now the most popular public institution in the Ottawa country, and numbers among its members the most respected and valuable citizens of this region. It is a common centre where all unite, of all classes, of all shades of opinion, and of every country. Education, literature and science have thrown out their shields for its protection. Within it they reign supreme, and from their court is banished envy and all uncharitableness. Its paths lead to the highway of progress, and are illuminated by the stars of the past and the present; these paths are filled by travellers towards the regions of knowledge, who lack not sustenance from its stores to sustain them on the way.

In its beneficial effects on society this institution is steadily progressing. Its Library contains costly and careful selections in science, literature and art, standard works of reference; and its shelves are well filled with instructive and entertaining literature, including the best and latest productions of living authors, a new and valuable addition having been made within a few months past.

The standard Literary Reviews and Monthlies form a portion of the arrangements of the News Room attached to the Library and Museum. The newspaper literature of the day is well represented, from the Royal Thunderer to its humblest village representative. Apart from Canadian journalism, of which there is a large selection, we have the principal papers of London, Paris, Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool and Leeds, and from the neighboring Republic we have intelligence from all points—New York, Boston, New Orleans, Washington, Portland, Buffalo, and the minor towns and cities from whence news is an object to the Ottawa country or to visitors from the United States, as well as to the large and intelligent class of Americans, who have with keen appreciation located in this quarter, in order to take advantage of the splendid manufacturing facilities with which this favored part of Canada abounds.

The local journals—valuable above all, as the historical record of the times at home are carefully filed for reference.

The illustrated journals and magazines, now so prominent a feature in the literary improvements of the times, have a fair representation in the news room.

The rules for the regulation of admission to membership in this Institution, are substantially as follows:—

Any respectable person may become a member on payment of subscription to the Custodian, or the Treasurer, or Secretary; and upon signing an agreement to observe the By-laws of the Institution.

Merchants, Mechanics, Professional men, and others in business on their own account twenty shillings per annum.

All others ten shillings per annum.

Subscription to the Library only seven shillings and six pence per annum.

Persons residing beyond a mile of the city limits, ten shillings per annum.

In all, the Library consists of 1,000 volumes, the cost of which has been estimated at £350. Of this amount £100 has been expended during the present year.

The different donations amount to 200 volumes.

The works are classified under the different heads:—Agriculture, Architecture, Arts in general, Astronomy, Biography, Botany, Chemistry, Commerce, Dictionaries, and Encyclopedias, Dramatic Works, Engineering, Fiction, Geography, Geology, Mineralogy, History, Literature in general, Law, Mathematics, Medicine, Surgery, Anatomy, Magazines, Reviews, Natural History, Moral Philosophy, Poetry, Sciences, Useful Arts, Voyages, Travels and Parliamentary Documents, all of which are either books of reference or “in circulation.”

The Reviews and Monthlies regularly received are—The London Quarterly, New Quarterly, Westminster, Edinburgh, Blackwood's, Hunt's, Silliman's, Putman's, Anglo-American, Canadian Journal, Scientific American, American Polytechnic Journal, and Rural New Yorker.

As a slight evidence of the progress of the Institute, we give a comparison between the past year and the present:

NUMBER OF SUBSCRIBERS TO 1st OCTOBER, 1854.

Heads of Families at 20s, (82)	£82	0	0
Employees, at 10s, (80)	40	0	0
Apprentices, at 5s, (2)	0	10	0
Ladies, at 7s. 6d., (4)	1	10	0
Total Number, 168	£124	0	0

NUMBER OF SUBSCRIBERS TO 1st OCTOBER, 1855

Heads of Families, at 20s, (100)	£100	0	0
Employees, at 10s, (122)	61	0	0
Apprentices, at 5s, (20)	5	0	0
Ladies, at 7s. 6d., (12)	4	10	0
Total Number, 254	£170	10	0
1854	124	0	0
	86	£46	10 0

There are three life members, making the total number of subscribers, 257.

The average number of books lent per day may possess some interest, and at the same time give an indication of the benefit of a Public Library :

<i>Month.</i>	<i>Average lent per Day.</i>
March.....	15
April.....	15
May.....	12
June.....	9
July.....	8
August.....	8
September.....	12
October.....	16

There remains unpaid of last year's subscriptions, but two pounds—the number of subscribers being 168.

Of the books borrowed not one remained unaccounted for at the end of the year.

Occupying a common habitation with our Institution, and enriching its scientific stores with rare and valuable specimens, is the Silurian Society, whose members devote their attention more particularly to the development of the mineralogical and geological resources of the country, scientifically and economically. This society numbers among its members men of deep research in the scientific school; and one at least who has claimed the attention of the savans of the Old World, by the originality of his investigations, and even discoveries, in geological science.

The Museum will claim a favourable comparison with that of any other scientific institution in the Province, whether for the variety of its specimens, or the careful classification of its contents, under the management of the Curator, Mr. Billings. To Dr. VanCortlandt the Institute is indebted for valuable services in this department during past years. In the Museum there are some thousand specimens, including fossils, minerals, antiquities, coins, objects illustrative of natural history, Indian remains, war trophies, and prepared specimens of the different woods of the country. The formation of a Museum is a work of time, and our progress in three years is cause of congratulation.

The Museum is at present undergoing a thorough re-arrangement.

The Lectures, which form a valuable feature in popular instruction, were not so successful last year as might reasonably have been expected. Every endeavour will be

mada to render the present course effective and popular.

This course will consist of 24 lectures, divided into two parts, the first commencing to-night, and the second in January. There will be a vacation during the Christmas holidays. The choice of subject is left to the lecturer.—We are precluded from any lengthy review of the subjects chosen for elucidation by the different lecturers in the present course, as some of our kind friends have not as yet announced the subject selected by them for discussion.—The names of the lecturers, are, however, a sufficient guarantee, that the subject and the manner of treating it will be satisfactory in every instance. The following is the list as published :

October 2.	H. J. FRIEL, Esq.,	President— <i>Inaugural Address.</i>			
“ 9.	Rev. J. A. MORRIS,	} <i>On the necessity and advantages of Physical Social and Religious Education.</i>			
“ 12.	Rev. J. A. MORRIS,				
“ 23.	Dr. HILL,	
“ 30.	Rev. WM. AITKEN,	
Nov'ber 6.	ANDREW DICKSON, Esq.,	— <i>Geology.</i>			
“ 13.	Dr. GARVY,	— <i>Mental Cultivation.</i>			
“ 20.	Rev. THOS. WARDROPE,	— <i>Woman, Her Duties and Her Rights.</i>			
“ 27.	* Rev. J. JOHNSTON.	
Dec'e'r. 4.	ROBT. LEES, Esq.,	— <i>Labour.</i>			
“ 11.	Dr. J. A. GRANT,	— <i>Atmosphere.</i>			
“ 18.	Rev. J. A. DUNCAN,	— <i>Formation of Character.</i>			

It will be observed that no less than five of the Lecturers are residents in different localities, who have obligingly offered to visit the City of Ottawa for the purpose of assisting this Institution, viz. : The Rev. Messrs. Morris, Aitken, Johnston and Duncan, and A. Dickson, Esq.—The philanthropic and liberal disposition evinced by those gentlemen is deserving of all praise ; and we trust that the effect of their example will be to induce an interchange of ideas and information between the different institutions in neighboring cities and towns.

* NOVEMBER 30, 1855.

MINUTE OF MANAGING COMMITTEE.—Nine of the Lectures have been delivered at this date. Judge Armstrong occupied the place announced for Dr. Hill, choosing for his subject,—“*Drunkenness—Its Legal Consequences.*” Rev. Mr. Aitken lectured upon “*Chemical Science,*” and Rev. Mr. Johnson upon “*Domestic Affection.*” The Committee have the satisfaction to note that the Lecture Room has been crowded on each evening, and on some occasions the room could not contain all who were desirous of profiting by the Lectures.

To the gentlemen who have thus responded to the invitation of the Institute, our acknowledgements are justly due, and are thankfully tendered. We indulge in the hope that the members of the Institute will exhibit by their general attendance, their appreciation of the respectability, talent and exertions of the gentlemen who have thus come forward to assist in promoting the objects of this Institution.

This beautiful Hall, so creditable to its owners, has been leased for the season. The most careful attention will be paid to the comfort and convenience of the audience at each lecture.

It has been announced that a small charge would be made for admission to the lectures. This is attributable to the circumstances that the expenses of leasing this hall, lighting and heating it, as well as providing for other contingencies inseparably connected with the success of the course, rendered it imperative upon the Managing Committee to provide a fund from the Lectures which would meet the expenses incurred; the funds of the Institute proper, being barely sufficient to supply the steadily increasing demand for Library and Museum.

The only motive being the welfare of the Institute, the Committee have full reliance on its members for a hearty support in their exertions to place its finances in a healthy condition, while leaving no means untried to provide for the necessities of the whole organization. The charge is evidently light to each, but in the aggregate will amount to such a sum as will meet the intended purpose.

It is the intention of the Committee to introduce a new feature in the evening arrangements. Each lecture will be appropriately preceded and followed by vocal and instrumental exercises in the most refined and seductive of all sciences—music; under the directions of a talented musical professor, a member of the Institute.

Music may be well pronounced an appropriate accompaniment to literary discourse—for music is said to be not only a language, but of a higher order than ordinary speech. It is a language of the soul, and begins where the most perfect revealings of ordinary speech end; it embodies

affections and feelings, and it is for this reason that its strains are generally provocative of such intense delight. Music affords pleasure to the mind without racking the brain or disturbing the spirit. Among students music is a favorite recreation ; in fine, music accompanies us like a faithful friend through life ; the first melody we hear is the cradle hymn—and in the funeral dirge, Music pays us the last honors : let us then warmly cherish this bosom friend.

It is thus, while the somewhat tedious, though essential, discussion of the abstruse dogmas of science, and the simplification of the philosophy of history, as well as the instructive critical or literary essays form the staple of the programme, there will be rational amusement and recreation for those at least whose avocations force them to look towards evening as a time when the spirit breathes a free air—a time when instruction, friendly association, and amusement

“Breathes a soothing fervor o’er the mind,
And leads the heart to rapture unconfined.”

In this country, where almost general ordinary intelligence prevails, the facilities for popular instruction being greater than in the older countries of Europe, every effort should be made to attract attention towards the study of the higher branches of science ; every legitimate means should be used to render scientific and literary lectures popular. It will not do to clothe them in cold or repulsive garments, nor should an audience be expected to

“Sour and sulky sit like old philosophors.”

To use the word of a philosophic writer on this subject : “We would educate the heart as well as the head, and “cultivate a kindly feeling among all classes towards one another ; and we believe that rational amusements and “recreation, annual gatherings, and social assemblies, “have a humanising tendency.” In all this there should be careful attention to the moral and intellectual character of the proceedings, and to the feelings and prejudices of all engaged therein. We hope that the feeble efforts we are making in this regard may meet with approval.

We feel the necessity of alluding in this address to the warm interest taken by the young men of this city in sup-

port of the Institute. The young men have spared neither time or means to make it respected, and have thus brought credit upon themselves. Let any of the "grave and reverend seigniors" look in of an evening at the Institute Rooms, and see these young men meet, all anxious to know the history and the doings of the world around them.

They are preparing properly for contact with that world. Through these and other kindred studies, they will know how to meet the rude buffets of the crowd, and steer clear of the shoals that beset the stormy sea of life. They are believers in Elihu Burritt's ejaculation—"Young men, think of this great world with all its wealth and woe;—with all its shipping and steamboats, railroads and telegraphs; with all its millions of darkly groping men, and that all the science and progress of ages will be soon given over to the hands of the young men of the present generation. Believe it, and look abroad upon your inheritance, and get ready to enter upon its possession." Young men, persevere; other virtues merit a crown, but perseverance alone is crowned. Let sobriety, industry and intelligence be your watchwords. If there are difficulties in the way endeavor to overcome them; difficulty excites the mind to the dignity which sustains and finally conquers, and the ordeal refines while it chastens. An uncultivated mind has well been compared to untilled ground, which is soon overrun with weeds. The humblest man owes a duty to himself and to posterity, for there are few talents so inconsiderable as to be unalterably excluded from all degrees of fame.

In life's visit man should leave some token of his existence. The laboring man, in the present age, if he does but read, has a wider field and more helps to wordly wisdom than had Solomon, who was accounted the wisest of men in his day; even that most popular of characteristics, "common sense," has been aptly described as but "genius in its working dress." Youth is the time to grasp at knowledge; it may slumber in the memory, but—it never dies: it is like the dormouse in the ivied tower that sleeps through the winter's blast, but awakens with the warm breath of spring.

Then, young men—you who are destined to fill a space which every day is opening for you—store up this knowledge, this information; with it and that energy of will which is the very soul of intellect, you must succeed.—“Remember, that unless a tree has borne blossoms in spring, you will vainly look for fruit on it in autumn;” and remember also, “that diligence is the mistress of success.” The immense performances of art and labour at which we gaze with astonishment, are simple instances of the resistless force of perseverance. There is no lack of opportunities; “where there is a will there is a way.” A writer in a late number of *Blackwood* truly remarks, “That we have come by a wonderfully refined progress to an age of universal acquirement, where every man is bent with the kindest liberality on making his neighbor as wise as himself; a piece of uncommunicated knowledge seems to burn the fingers of its possessor in those days until he is able to fling it abroad into the world.” While we would have our young men look upward, and struggle for a position, we would warn them against the evil of precipitation. Chose what is best—have a fixed and steady aim, and be content to win your position by degrees; each step dignifies your nature, and insures success. Let not ambition be your sole incentive—we mean wild, unsteady ambition. Wild ambition is like a wild horse, which prances unceasingly until it has thrown off its rider. In all things be not above your duty. Labor is man’s birthright; and we should not dispose of it for a mess of pottage. There is no happiness without labor:

“Labor is life—’Tis the still water faileth :
idleness ever despaireth, bewaileth ;
Keep the watch wound, or the dark rust assaileth.”

Labor, then, in whatever position you are placed. Labor in small things, that you may hereafter labor in greater things. Be not foiled by the scoffing of the ignorant or the vain. Let the consciousness of growing better enable you to bear the infliction of the pin and mosquito thrusts of the envious, the foolish or the bad.

If you are industrious and intelligent, you will be sober, without the necessity of being misanthropic.

Be not abashed because of your youth. In the words of a great philosopher, Bacon—"a man that is young in years may be old in honors, if he has lost no time ; but that happeneth rarely." Continue your warm friendship for this Institute, and kindred Institutions ; you will thereby consult your best interests.

As we have remarked, the Institute is in a high state of prosperity. It has steadily increased, and has now the firm friendship of every good citizen. There is hardly a professional man, a master-tradesman, or a merchant in the city who is not a member ; and the leading men on the Ottawa, whose business calls them to this city, are day after day adding their names and influence to its extension. The revenues of the Institute are trifling in comparison with the duties it has undertaken. The income does not amount to over £300 per year, including the Government grant of £50. The necessary expenses, and the gradual increase of the Library and Museum, absorb that amount. A Building Fund has, however, been commenced, the corner stone being a generous donation from the ladies of this city, given during the past year.

The Trustees have under consideration a project it may be advisable to bring under public consideration, viz. :—the establishment of a District Institution, the district to comprise the whole Ottawa country. The counties of Carleton, Lanark, Leeds and Grenville, Renfrew, Pontiac, Vandreuil, and Argenteuil, Prescott and Russell, and the county of Ottawa. Distant as this city, the capital of the District we have described, is, from the large cities east and west, and unsympatized with as the people of this region are, except for the purpose of profit, by Montreal or Toronto, it behoves us to be up and doing. We propose, in this view, to make this Institution a great literary and scientific centre for the whole Ottawa country, east and west.

A permanent Institution, of general as well as local utility, having its branches in every village and town, in correspondence with the present Institute, whose members would be entitled to all its privileges, with regular and systematic exchange of lectures and books, would effect a great deal towards the development of the resources of the

country, and tend to promote intellectual and social progress. There would thus be offered a field for local experimentalists and local genius. By a combination of funds the services of men distinguished in the higher walks of science could be procured on choice occasions, and measures taken to procure the publication of important papers in Science, Literature, and Art, and thus give a voice to the intellectuality of the country. Such an Institution would do honor to the country. With a view to extending our influence in this wise, it is our intention to memorialize the different Municipalities for aid and countenance—to make all heads of Municipal institutions honorary members, during their term of office—to endeavor to enlist all men of influence in the project, and to petition the Legislature or Government for aid towards the erection of suitable buildings, either by grant of money or land. Such are the main tangible features of the project. It has been deemed advisable to bring it thus prominently before the public, as it is intended to proceed with the arrangements immediately, it having already obtained the sanction of the Board of Trustees.

This imperfect address, which has already occupied a larger portion of your time than was originally intended, is now brought to a close. We conclude by asking a continuance of your attendance during the course of lectures, as well as your encouragement of every measure for the benefit of the Institute.

The President resumed his seat, amidst the warm applause of the audience.

The following musical selections were then performed—the audience testifying, by repeated plaudits, its appreciation of the efforts made by the musicians on the occasion:

Cavatina, from the *Somnambula*.—BELLINI. Sung by *Sig. Gallarati*.

Serenade—Fantasia for the Piano. *Mr. Fecht*.

Italian Air.—BELLINI. Sung by *Sig. Gallarati*.

Coronation March—*Le Prophete*.—MEYERBEER. Piano and Violin,—*Messrs. Fecht & Mercer*.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

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