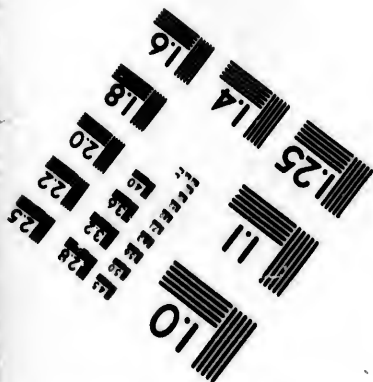
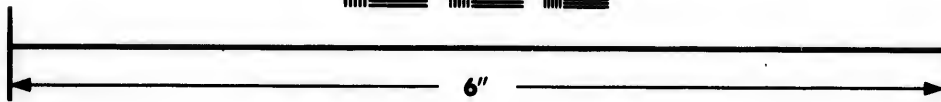
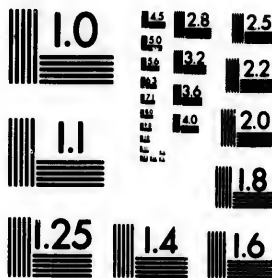


**IMAGE EVALUATION
TEST TARGET (MT-3)**



**Photographic
Sciences
Corporation**

23 WEST MAIN STREET
WEBSTER, N.Y. 14580
(716) 873-4503

1.8
2.0
2.2
2.5
2.8
3.2
3.6
4.0

**CIHM/ICMH
Microfiche
Series.**

**CIHM/ICMH
Collection de
microfiches.**



Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions / Institut canadien de microreproductions historiques

10
01

© 1984

Technical and Bibliographic Notes/Notes techniques et bibliographiques

The Institute has attempted to obtain the best original copy available for filming. Features of this copy which may be bibliographically unique, which may alter any of the images in the reproduction, or which may significantly change the usual method of filming, are checked below.

L'Institut a microfilmé le meilleur exemplaire qu'il lui a été possible de se procurer. Les détails de cet exemplaire qui sont peut-être uniques du point de vue bibliographique, qui peuvent modifier une image reproduite, ou qui peuvent exiger une modification dans la méthode normale de filmage sont indiqués ci-dessous.

- Coloured covers/
Couverture de couleur
- Covers damaged/
Couverture endommagée
- Covers restored and/or laminated/
Couverture restaurée et/ou pelliculée
- Cover title missing/
Le titre de couverture manque
- Coloured maps/
Cartes géographiques en couleur
- Coloured ink (i.e. other than blue or black)/
Encre de couleur (i.e. autre que bleue ou noire)
- Coloured plates and/or illustrations/
Planches et/ou illustrations en couleur
- Bound with other material/
Relié avec d'autres documents
- Tight binding may cause shadows or distortion along interior margin/
La reliure serrée peut causer de l'ombre ou de la distorsion le long de la marge intérieure
- Blank leaves added during restoration may appear within the text. Whenever possible, these have been omitted from filming/
Il se peut que certaines pages blanches ajoutées lors d'une restauration apparaissent dans le texte, mais, lorsque cela était possible, ces pages n'ont pas été filmées.
- Additional comments:/
Commentaires supplémentaires:

- Coloured pages/
Pages de couleur
- Pages damaged/
Pages endommagées
- Pages restored and/or laminated/
Pages restaurées et/ou pelliculées
- Pages discoloured, stained or foxed/
Pages décolorées, tachetées ou piquées
- Pages detached/
Pages détachées
- Showthrough/
Transparence
- Quality of print varies/
Qualité inégale de l'impression
- Includes supplementary material/
Comprend du matériel supplémentaire
- Only edition available/
Seule édition disponible
- Pages wholly or partially obscured by errata slips, tissues, etc., have been refilmed to ensure the best possible image/
Les pages totalement ou partiellement obscurcies par un feuillet d'errata, une pelure, etc., ont été filmées à nouveau de façon à obtenir la meilleure image possible.

This item is filmed at the reduction ratio checked below/
Ce document est filmé au taux de réduction indiqué ci-dessous.

10X	14X	18X	22X	26X	30X
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12X	16X	20X	24X	28X	32X

The copy filmed here has been reproduced thanks to the generosity of:

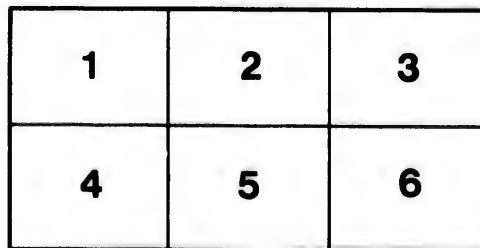
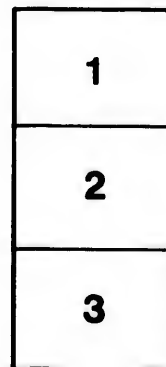
Library of the Public
Archives of Canada

The images appearing here are the best quality possible considering the condition and legibility of the original copy and in keeping with the filming contract specifications.

Original copies in printed paper covers are filmed beginning with the front cover and ending on the last page with a printed or illustrated impression, or the back cover when appropriate. All other original copies are filmed beginning on the first page with a printed or illustrated impression, and ending on the last page with a printed or illustrated impression.

The last recorded frame on each microfiche shall contain the symbol \rightarrow (meaning "CONTINUED"), or the symbol ∇ (meaning "END"), whichever applies.

Maps, plates, charts, etc., may be filmed at different reduction ratios. Those too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom, as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method:



L'exemplaire filmé fut reproduit grâce à la générosité de:

La bibliothèque des Archives
publiques du Canada

Les images suivantes ont été reproduites avec le plus grand soin, compte tenu de la condition et de la netteté de l'exemplaire filmé, et en conformité avec les conditions du contrat de filmage.

Les exemplaires originaux dont la couverture en papier est imprimée sont filmés en commençant par le premier plat et en terminant soit par la dernière page qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration, soit par le second plat, selon le cas. Tous les autres exemplaires originaux sont filmés en commençant par la première page qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration et en terminant par la dernière page qui comporte une telle empreinte.

Un des symboles suivants apparaîtra sur la dernière image de chaque microfiche, selon le cas: le symbole \rightarrow signifie "A SUIVRE", le symbole ∇ signifie "FIN".

Les cartes, planches, tableaux, etc., peuvent être filmés à des taux de réduction différents. Lorsque le document est trop grand pour être reproduit en un seul cliché, il est filmé à partir de l'angle supérieur gauche, de gauche à droite, et de haut en bas, en prenant le nombre d'images nécessaire. Les diagrammes suivants illustrent la méthode.

rrata
o

pelure,
n à



32X



TH

P



INAUGURAL ADDRESS,

DELIVERED AT QUEBEC,

BEFORE

THE QUEBEC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,

ON FRIDAY, 26TH JANUARY, 1844.

By THE HON. A. W. COCHRAN, D. C. L.

*Member of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, and of the
Massachusetts Historical Society.*

QUEBEC :

PRINTED FOR THE QUEBEC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
BY GILBERT STANLEY, 15, BUADE STREET.

1844.

1844
(26)

66189

THE

PR

INAUGURAL ADDRESS,

DELIVERED AT QUEBEC,

BEFORE

THE QUEBEC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,

ON FRIDAY, 26TH JANUARY, 1844.

BY THE HON. A. W. COCHRAN, D. C. L.

*Member of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, and of the
Massachusetts Historical Society.*

QUEBEC :

PRINTED FOR THE QUEBEC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,

BY GILBERT STANLEY, 15, BUADE STREET.

1844.

Z
481
C6

RESOLUTION of the Board of Directors of the QUEBEC
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, adopted on Monday, 29th
January, 1844 :—

That the thanks of the Directors, on behalf of the Quebec Library Association, be tendered to the Honble. A. W. COCHRAN, D. C. L. for the elegant Address delivered by him to the Association, on the 26th instant; and that the Honble. W. Walker, President, J. C. Fisher, Esq., LL. D., Vice-President, the Chairman of the Board, the Secretary, the mover and seconder of this resolution, do form a Deputation to convey the same to him, with a request that he will allow the Association to have the said address published, under his superintendance.

THE

GENT

I

of som

to add

desire

undert

and fr

to its

the oc

which

it; an

and s

unwill

raised

task is

of dis

ficien

this m

kindly

One

invited

sess;

which

forty y

ner, a

INAUGURAL ADDRESS,

DELIVERED AT QUEBEC, BEFORE

THE QUEBEC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,

ON FRIDAY, 26TH JANUARY, 1844.

GENTLEMEN,

It may be in the recollection or within the knowledge of some who now hear me, that when I was first invited to address you on the present occasion, I hesitated, and desired time to consider the request; and even after having undertaken the task proposed to me, my hesitation returned, and fresh doubts arose each time that I addressed myself to its performance: I felt the novelty and the interest of the occasion, the extent and importance of the subject on which I was to be engaged, and my own insufficiency for it; and more than once I shrank from the undertaking, and should have relinquished it altogether, but for an unwillingness to disappoint expectations which I had raised. I now appear before you, too sensible that the task is beyond my ability,—that I am incurring the risk of disappointing your expectations still more by the insufficiency of my performance; and that I can only escape this mortification by the exercise of a large, liberal and kindly indulgence on your part.

One qualification only,—unknown perhaps to those who invited my services,—I may presume to think that I possess; and it is, that, in the course of a life the shadows of which are now lengthening before me, and of which nearly forty years have been spent, perhaps in too desultory a manner, among books, there has been produced, fostered and

QUEBEC
29th

Library
C. L. for
the 26th
Fisher,
secretary,
tation to
the Asso-
ndance.

strengthened in me an attachment to Literature which, while in itself an unfailing source of unmixed pleasure, has given me a deep interest in every undertaking which has the promotion of Literature for its design.

It was therefore with no common gratification that I affixed my name to the requisition calling the meeting in which the Library Association had its origin ;—and I can only hope now that the heartiness of my zeal and the earnestness of my purpose may be accepted by you instead of that full sufficiency for the task which I feel that I want, and may lead you to receive with candid allowance the reflections which I am about to offer to you on the present occasion ; and that allowance is the more necessary, as they have been thrown together in a hasty manner, amidst many interruptions of private and public avocations, and upon a subject out of the line of my ordinary studies and pursuits.

I have spoken of the interest and importance of the subject: That a lively interest in it has been awakened in this community, is attested by the success which has attended the measures taken for forming the Association and by the numerous assemblage which I now see before me ; And that the design is one of importance, will hardly be denied by any one who believes that we are born for something more than to consume the fruits of the earth,—that there are other and higher and worthier objects of desire than the acquisition of wealth, the pursuits of ambition, the enjoyments of sense, or the dissipations of amusement ; that there is an immortal part of man, endowed with intellectual faculties, which are given to him to be exercised and disciplined, elevated and enlarged, cultivated and improved.

To all who hold these animating and uncontroled truths, it must be a matter of just congratulation that an association has been formed, having for its object to promote a taste for reading, to furnish it with healthful food, and to encourage the acquisition of sound and improving knowledge ; And to all who have looked with thoughtful attention on the peculiar circumstances and condition of

this
regre
intell
amus
to Li
Sh
by ou
from
while
gent
life,
stagn
deart
effect
tainm
and
and
societ
us, w
suits,
woul
gladl
amus
the sa

But
may
impr
have
histo
becar
ing a
ment
me t
durin
secun
unde
divid
zines

this community, it must have been matter of surprize and regret, that so little regard has hitherto been paid in it to intellectual pursuits, if even viewed merely as a source of amusement,—and so little encouragement hitherto afforded to Literature and the institutions subservient to it.

Shut out in a great measure, during one half of the year, by our geographical position and the rigours of our climate, from frequent and ready intercourse with other countries,—while the other half of it is necessarily engrossed by diligent and unceasing occupation in the toils and business of life, it should seem natural that, in this dreary season of stagnation and repose which now surrounds us, the mere dearth of employment and recreation should have had the effect of leading us to a resource affording both entertainment and instruction,—of power to “redress the climate and all its rage disarm,” and calculated at once to relax and occupy the mind; And, by a numerous class of our society,—by the hundreds of young men growing up amongst us, who are destined for professions and commercial pursuits, it might have been supposed that such a resource would have been deemed invaluable,—and would have been gladly seized to fill up even those vacant hours, when other amusements cannot be found, or have lost their power over the sated and wearied sense.

But the records of the few Literary institutions of Quebec may show how little the advantages which it affords for improving the mind, by the books of its public collections, have been as yet sought after, or turned to account. The history of the progress of Literature in Canada, since it became a British possession, would be a subject of interesting and curious research, but by no means of encouragement or of sanguine hope for the future; and it appears to me that I cannot better or more fitly occupy your attention during the short space of time for which I may hope to secure it, than by taking a brief review of that progress, under the various heads into which the subject naturally divides itself—of Periodical Literature, including Magazines and Newspapers; original Works published; and

Literary Institutions formed. Let not any one who hears me be alarmed at the prospect of a long dissertation ;— wide as the subject seems to be and long the space of time which it covers, the particulars may, unfortunately, be brought within a small compass.

And first, the succession of our newspapers claims a passing notice ;—nor let any one receive “ with a disdainful smile” the introduction of this seemingly trivial subject on the present occasion. The newspaper is speedily found wherever the Anglo-Saxon establishes himself, and where he cannot have the reality he will make to himself a sportive imitation of it. The intrepid explorers of the icy north, under Parry, had their North Georgia Gazette and Weekly Chronicle, and we already hear of a Hong Kong Gazette. As soon as the Colonist is in a condition to look beyond the wants of the present hour, he seeks a newspaper as a relaxation from his labours ; it is the pioneer of Colonial Literature ; the resource not only of the merely idle, but of the toil-worn and the weary,—the only book of too many,—

Something to all men, and to some men all.*

The first newspaper established in Canada was the Quebec Gazette, still subsisting. The founder of it, Mr. Brown, brought his press from Philadelphia, in 1763. By his heirs it was sold to Mr. Samuel Neilson, who left the establishment, by his will, to his brother the present experienced and able Editor of the paper. There were in 1763 not more than twenty newspapers published in the breadth and length of the then American Colonies, and the Quebec Gazette is the oldest in the British N. A. Provinces. For nearly 30 years it remained without a competitor ; but about 1788 it was followed by a rival Quebec Gazette, printed by one Sketchley ; and subsequently by the Quebec Herald ;—both of which papers had but a brief existence. About 1778 the old Montreal Gazette was established by one Mesplet, and was published in French ; but it was soon discontinued,—was resumed about 1794, by Louis

* Crabbe's Newspaper.

Roy.
New
time
who
pape
subs
was
title
circu
of it
Liter
com
in 18
Gov
pers
Gaze
the C
and
1800
news
circu
In M
pape
Can
upw
town
and
in th
Ger
fin
sele
liter
far a
publ
may
Gaz
Upp
Eng

Roy, from the Quebec Gazette office ; and after his death two Newspapers under that name were published at the same time, by one Edwards and by the still surviving Mr. Brown, who came also from the Quebec Gazette office ; and the paper conducted by him being transferred to others, still subsists under the same title. About 1794 a newspaper was published at Quebec, in French and English, under the title of the Times or La Tems ; but enjoyed only a limited circulation and short existence ; and probably no numbers of it are now extant except a few in the Library of the Literary and Historical Society. The Quebec Mercury commenced its career in 1804 ; and the Canadien followed in 1806 ; but was stopped by the seizure of the press by Government, in 1810. Thirty years ago the only newspapers in existence in the two Canadas were the Quebec Gazette and Mercury,—the Montreal Gazette and Herald, the Canadian Courant, at Montreal (established about 1808,) and the Upper Canada Gazette, commenced at York about 1800. At the present moment four English and five French newspapers (some of the latter of recent origin and small circulation) are published and chiefly supported in Quebec. In Montreal there are five English and three French newspapers ; and one English at Sherbrooke ; while, in Upper Canada, Toronto sends forth seven, Kingston five, and upwards of thirty others are published in different thriving towns and settlements, from Cornwall on the St. Lawrence, and Bytown on the Ottawa, to Sandwich : Of these all are in the English language except one in Gaelic and one in German. Nor are these papers, in either Province, confined to political topics ; most of them contain useful selections and general information in various branches of literature and science ; and it is pleasing to observe, that as far as is known, all of them sustain a tone favourable to public morality ; and that some of them, among which I may be permitted to mention particularly our own Quebec Gazette, the senior of all, and *The Church*, published in Upper Canada, and devoted to the interests of the Church of England, exhibit an ability in the Editorial department

and a judicious care in the selection of intelligence suited to their respective objects, which place them far above most of the journals published in America and on a level with the best of the Provincial newspapers of the Mother Country.

In this department, therefore, of local literature, there are evidences of rapid progress, of extensive improvement and of considerable present activity. There cannot be a doubt that these vehicles of popular information have a large influence, for good or for evil, upon the public mind; and their number and their circulation must be taken as indications of a taste for reading of a particular description; but it may be apprehended that the appetite thus excited and thus fed has been confined to this the lightest and most desultory form of Literature, and has not been strong enough to encounter even such solidity and substance as are to be found in the more formal and matured compositions or selections of the Magazine. Periodical works of this class have in Canada had but a fleeting existence; after dragging "their slow length along," through a few years of ill sustained and sickly life, they have perished from lack of support both of money and contributions.

The earliest Magazine established in Canada was the first also undertaken on the continent of America, except one, and that one the Nova Scotia Magazine, established in 1789, and conducted for some years, single handed, by one* who claims to be mentioned, with *filial* reverence and affection, by the person who now addresses you.—The first in Canada was the Quebec Magazine, commenced in 1792, and continued monthly; It was printed at the Quebec Gazette office, and was conducted by the Rev. Mr. Spark, well remembered by some who hear me, as an amiable, excellent and well informed Clergyman of the Church of Scotland at Quebec, himself not meanly skilled in letters, and devoting his leisure to literary and scientific pursuits. Under his management the Quebec Magazine maintained a respec-

* The late Revd. William Cochran, D. D. Vice President of King's College, Windsor, Nova Scotia.

table
cember
was a
weekl
British
numbe
ing no
paper
until
Canad
Canad
mence
was p
been a
its ex
under
Montr
at tha
before
Review
only
discor
in thi
the p
due;
local
Colo
that
has b
except
by M
readi
is sai
So
pular
in it,
work
impo

table existence, though with a limited circulation, until December 1793, when, from the causes already adverted to, it was abandoned. In 1803 a periodical paper was published weekly at Quebec by Mr. Neilson, under the title of the British American Register, but it only reached the 26th number, and, except in being in the octavo form and containing no advertisements, it might be classed rather as a newspaper than as a magazine. From the extinction of that journal until 1823, I am not aware that any attempt was made in Canada to publish a magazine; but in the latter year, the Canadian Magazine and Literary Miscellany was commenced at Montreal, and continued until June, 1825; It was published by Mr. H. H. Cunningham, but I have not been able to ascertain by whom it was conducted; During its existence, (in June, 1824) another periodical Journal, under the title of the Canadian Review, was undertaken at Montreal by the late Mr. Chisholm, subsequently, if not at that time, Editor of the Montreal Gazette, and who had before been Editor of a newspaper in Scotland; This Review issued at irregular periods, and reached, I believe, only the fifth number in September, 1826, when it was discontinued. The greater part of the original articles in this Journal were contributed by the Editor, to whom the praise, at least, of great diligence and industry is due; and there are several papers of considerable local interest which entitle it to a respectable place in Colonial Literature. From the period of the cessation of that Review to the present time, I cannot discover that it has been succeeded by any other requiring special notice, except the *Bibliothèque Canadienne*, published at Montreal by Mr. Bibaud, and a Journal of the lightest kind of reading, now subsisting, called the Literary Garland, which is said to be conducted by a Lady.

So small being the encouragement given to this more popular form of Literature, and so unsuccessful the efforts made in it, it will not be wondered at if the account of original works published among us should present a list even less imposing. I do not believe that any such work issued from

the Canadian press before 1809 or 1810, when Mr. Ross Cuthbert, a member of the Quebec Bar, well known to some who hear me, as a gentleman of considerable talents and of good education, (which he had finished in England,) published a *New Theory of the Tides*, in which he attempted to prove* that the phenomena of the Tides, which, wherever they have been observed, have maintained for centuries a lunar period, following without deviation the mean motion of the moon, are to be deduced from the supposed expansion of the sea, occasioned by the daily variations of the heat of the *Sun*; The *Quarterly Review* for October, 1811, in noticing this pamphlet, introduces and disposes of it, in the following pithy and significant terms:—“We are not induced to turn our attention to the subject of the Tides either by the intrinsic importance of this Essay, or by the scientific reputation of the quarter of the world where it originated;” and the Reviewer dismisses the theory itself with the peremptory condemnation, that “the mere statement of it makes it unnecessary to add another syllable in illustration or confutation of so extravagant an opinion.”

The *History of Canada* by Mr. Smith, printed in 1811, (although not published until 1815,) at the printing office of the *Quebec Gazette*,—is still the only extant English History of these Provinces for the period which it comprises; and, as filling up the chasm between the conclusion of Charlevoix’s work in 1731, and the epoch of the conquest in 1759, and from thence to the establishment of the Constitution of 1791, it is a valuable work of reference, founded upon materials collected, I believe, by the father of the author, Chief Justice Smith, the eminent Historian of New York.

I do not purpose to notice the books compiled for Schools or those of a religious character, nor yet the pamphlets on local, political, or transitory subjects, of which there have been many published in this Province at different times; but the next production of the Provincial Press deserving to be

* *Quarterly Review* 1811.

ment
Mr. C
ment
at Qu
and to
a plac
to los
Th
it fall
a Tre
real,
Queb
scarc
pilatio
so mu
torica
to be
Tu
Canad
those
would
assum
only f
with
This
Amer
found
in 17
after
Queb
of ge
eral
perso
dona
the f
Gene
made
shew

mentioned as having the character of an original work, is Mr. Christie's Memoir of the Administration of Government from 1807 to 1823—(portions of which were printed at Quebec)—a publication which, for its accuracy, and clear and terse style, deserves the highest praise, and has gained a place as a Standard work of History, which it is not likely to lose.

The only other works published in this Province which it falls within the scope of these observations to notice, are, a Treatise on Agriculture, by Mr. Evans, printed at Montreal, and possessing much merit; and the Picture of Quebec, published here by Mr. Hawkins, which, though scarcely claiming rank as an original composition, is a compilation so carefully made, so well arranged, and containing so much not only of interesting local description, but of historical research, anecdote and information, that it ought not to be passed over in silence.

Turning now from the actual productions of Literature in Canada, to the Institutions connected with it (not including those of Education, the review of which however interesting, would occupy a range beyond the limits I can venture to assume,) the Quebec Library first demands our notice, not only from its early date but because of its direct connection with the object of the new Association now organized. This Institution is the oldest of the kind existing in North America excepting two, the Public Library of Philadelphia, founded by Franklin in 1731, and that of New York, founded in 1754, by several private gentlemen, of whom Mr. Smith, afterwards Chief Justice of this Province, was one. The Quebec Library dates its origin from 1779, when a number of gentlemen, among whom were the then Governor General Haldimand, and most of the public functionaries and persons of note in the community, contributed, by liberal donations which were to constitute them proprietors, towards the formation of a collection of books for a Public Library. General Haldimand, himself (a native of Switzerland,) made a considerable donation of books, the list of which shews that though a soldier, he had not in the camp forgotten

literature ; and the earlier purchases for the Library were made under the advice of such eminent names as Priestley, Franklin, (who was then in Europe,) Mr. afterwards Sir W. Grant, Master of the Rolls, Baron Maseres, of the Exchequer, who had formerly been in Canada as Attorney General, and Rd. Cumberland, then Agent of the Province, and a literary man of note in that day. The Institution thus formed was afterwards opened for more general utility by admitting annual subscribers to enjoy its advantages with the original founders and proprietors ; and upon this footing it has continued to the present time ; But it is much to be regretted that the zeal and liberality which marked its commencement have not since equally sustained it ; It has repeatedly been on the verge of dissolution for want of support,---was once on the point of being seized by legal process for a debt claimed by the Librarian ; and in 1823 it was only rescued from these difficulties by several gentlemen coming forward with considerable contributions, upon which they were admitted as additional shareholders,---with no other privilege or advantage however over other subscribers than that of paying, annually, 20s. instead of 30s., or a reduced sum, if they make no use of the books.

The funds of the Library are now so limited as to be almost absorbed by house rent and the Librarian's salary and other ordinary charges, leaving no surplus for the purchase of books.

The history of the Montreal Library is even more disastrous and discouraging : Founded in 1796, like that of Quebec, upon the principle of a joint-stock association, in 120 shares of 50 dollars each, a very valuable collection of books was gradually formed amounting at last to about 8000 volumes ; but after several years of declension and of "slow gradations of decay," it sank at last by mere inanition ; and a part of the collection is understood to have passed into the hands of the newly formed Mercantile Association of Montreal.

Of Literary and Scientific Societies, properly so called,

none,
the pr
the di
ernme
pardon
unnec
brief v
the S
officer
allowe
long a
but, a
person

Lon
much
had no
all his
the ob
fellow
friend
report
school
as esp
army,
devolv
steadin
at too
quisiti
honou
survey
with a
the c
portal
Engli
frequ
Office
noted

none, I believe, existed in this Province before 1824, when the present Literary and Historical Society was founded by the distinguished person who then held the reins of Government in this Province: And here I hope I may be pardoned, and not considered as occupying your attention unnecessarily with an extraneous subject, if I give a few brief words of notice to the recollection of one to whom the Society in question, of which I am a member and officer, owes so much;--and with whom, if I may be allowed to advert to personal considerations, I was myself long and closely connected, not only in an official capacity, but, as I have pride and pleasure in remembering, in personal friendship, to the close of his life.

Lord Dalhousie, though not a literary man himself, was much more than a mere soldier or man of the world: He had not, indeed, mastered any particular science, but he had all his life, cultivated a taste for reading. Educated at the old High School of Edinburgh, he was the school-fellow and class-fellow, and, at all periods, the personal friend of Sir Walter Scott, whom, singular to say, he is reported to have excelled in classical scholarship when at school,--and who has spoken of him, in his *Life of Napoleon*, as especially qualified, among all the officers of the British army, for a duty of peculiar delicacy and difficulty which devolved upon him, "by his excellent sense, unshaken steadiness and equality of temper." He entered the army at too early a period of life to have then made any large acquisitions of knowledge, but in the course of 45 years of honourable service, in the four quarters of the globe, he surveyed the varied scenes through which he past, with an eye of attentive and reflecting observation. In the campaigns of the Peninsula he carried with him a portable Library of small editions of Standard works of English and French Literature, which bore evidence of frequent use; From the period of his service as a Staff Officer in Egypt in 1800, he kept a diary, in which he noted events or objects worthy of attention; and in the

various countries where his public duties led him, he made collections of specimens illustrative of Natural History, many of which may have been seen by some who now hear me, enriching the admirably arranged Museum in Edinburgh ; While he held the Government of Nova Scotia, he founded a Collegiate Institution, which now bears his time-honoured name, and for which he obtained a large endowment in money from the Crown. And after the establishment of the Literary and Historical Society here, besides giving it personally much of his attention, he contributed, while he held the Government, the munificent sum of £100 a year to its funds. By this munificence, and by the aid of grants from the Legislature, the Society has been enabled to collect not only an extensive Museum, but a considerable Library of works in Science, in History, and General Literature, many of which are both valuable and rare. They are now in correspondence and interchange of publications with several of the most eminent Societies of the same description in Great Britain and Ireland, in different countries of Europe, and in America, and their published Transactions, which have been favourably noticed in other lands, bear witness to the zeal, if not to the success, with which the Society have applied themselves to the purposes of their institution ; But it is here due to justice to admit, that the most frequent and most valuable contributions to our Transactions have come from Officers in the Military and Naval Services, stationed in Canada, who have devoted their leisure hours to the pursuits of Science, and to observations upon the phenomena of nature and inquiries into the Natural History, the Geology, the Mineralogy, and the Statistics of the country.

Yet, with so many advantages, the Society, it must be admitted and deplored, has fallen from its once palmy state ; and can only be said to maintain a gallant struggle for such existence as will enable it to keep its position, and pursue its purposes,---and preserve such reputation as it has acquired. When its noble founder held this Government and

attenc
who m
60 m
incom

Sh
torica
degre
the S
ences
of Lo

to giv
At
exists
object
invest
collec
for its
and s

It
Socie
dienn
the y
the p
alread
which
of kn
effect

Bu
progr
not fa
antie
passc
lonia

It
not l
hurr
of p

attended its meetings, the Society was in fashion with those who moved in his circle; It now numbers little more than 60 members, and cannot reckon on a larger amount of income than *he* alone then contributed.

Shortly after the establishment of the Literary and Historical Society another Association, with designs in some degree similar, was formed here, under the denomination of the Society for the Encouragement of the Arts and Sciences; but as it merged, by union, soon after the departure of Lord Dalhousie, into the older Society, it is not necessary to give it here more than this passing notice.

At Montreal, a Society was formed, in 1827, which now exists, under the title of the Natural History Society, the objects of which were, as its name designates, to promote investigations into that particular branch of science, by collecting works relating to it, and a Museum of Specimens for its illustration; and these purposes it continues steadily and successfully to follow out.

It only remains to notice a recently organized Literary Society at Quebec, under the name of La Société Canadienne d'Etudes Littéraires et Scientifiques, which, though the youngest born, promises, by its early exertions, to emulate the progress of those which have gone before it; It has already established Lectures in various branches of science, which must excite and encourage a zeal in the acquirement of knowledge that cannot fail to have an ultimate good effect.

But although, upon the whole, the auguries for the future progress of literature derived from a review of the past, are not favourable, there are not wanting grounds of satisfactory anticipation: Many of the discouragements which we have passed in review are natural results of the condition of Colonial Society.

It may with some degree of truth be said that we have not leisure for Literature,—that all classes are and must be hurrying onward in the busy walks of life,—that the duties of public station, the engrossing pursuits of our professions,

and the farm and the merchandize, and the labours of the desk, and mechanical toil, call for so much of our time and exertion, and exhaust so much of our energies, that we have little left to give to Literary pursuits; this, I repeat, is in some degree, true; but not so altogether; none of us perhaps is master of so much unincumbered leisure, so free from other serious duties or occupations, and in his circumstances so independent of them, that he can retire to his study and place as a motto over his door the sweet and soothing lines of one of our old English Poets.*

How calm and quiet a delight
It is, alone,
To read and meditate or write,
By none offended and offending none;
To study, muse, sit, walk at one's own ease,
And pleasing one's ownself none other to displease.

But though this happy philosophic leisure is the lot of but few if any in Colonial Society, though our's is indeed a working-day world, there are few among us who have not some intervals of repose from its labours and its cares,—few who could not devote some hours every week, or every month, or much more, during this season when the icy reign of winter is upon us and around us, to the improvement of their minds by reading; But, let us confess it, and amend for the future,—it is the *will* rather than the *way* that has been wanting among us; To use the words which Shakspeare puts into the mouth of Biron in *Love's Labour lost*,

“ Our *universal plodding* prisons up
The nimble spirits in the arteries,
As motion and long during action tires
The sinewy vigour of the traveller.”

We *can* do more than we have done for intellectual improvement in ourselves and others; We need not and we cannot all be writers;—there are already far too many on the earth; We need not and we cannot all be speakers;—of these also many might be spared from among us; But we

* C. Cotton—The Retirement.

all ma
beyon
our po
great
onally
but w
many
of the
But
There
to obs
prom
the co
intere
intere
intelle
old to
good
and to
a care
way t
the le
down

To
the p
cedin
toget
of th
of be
prom
An
ment
what
to ha
nect

all may,—we ought to be thinkers,—thinkers of something beyond that which perishes in the using ;—and, to direct our powers of thought to right and worthy objects is the great use of books ; We are born to raise our eyes occasionally at least to the contemplation of things above us ; but we fix them upon the earth, and keep them there,—too many of us,—until we return to her bosom and become clods of the valley.

But we are about to amend these things among us ;—There is a disposition to be up and doing ; and it is pleasing to observe that the movement has been most vigorously promoted, if it did not originate, with the younger part of the community, who assuredly have the greatest immediate interest (though all of us ought to feel that we have some interest) in establishing or enlarging the means of furthering intellectual acquirement : We, the seniors, are perhaps too old to mend ; but we shall lend our aid to help forward the good that our juniors are endeavouring to do for themselves ; and to encourage them in their fresh and vigorous pursuit of a career which we ourselves are closing ; We must give way to them with a cheerful grace, content to let them take the lead in a new and hopeful course, whilst we pursue our's down the hill we are descending,—

“ Where resignation gently slopes the way.”

To me it appears, reflecting upon the circumstances of the past, which have been slightly touched upon in the preceding observations, and upon those which have brought us together on the present occasion, that I see in the formation of the Association which I am now addressing, the opening of better and more cheering prospects,—the dawning and promise of a brighter day ;

And here, although the Association, after the first movement, assumed a general character, I may fitly advert to what I deem a subject of just congratulation, that it appears to have had its origin in the desire of young persons connected with mercantile pursuits, to obtain larger resources

for intellectual improvement and recreation. To them indeed, and to those with whom they are connected in business, this Association is of an importance beyond all appreciation;—The professions of the Lawyer, the Physician, and the Divine, (I follow the order in which those professions are commonly named,) imply and require intellectual preparation, and their duties demand intellectual exercise and study; The mind is trained,—sometimes perhaps wearied,—but upon the whole invigorated and enlarged, by serious thought, and application of the reasoning powers; Not so, or in a far less degree, the mind of him whose hours are spent in the Counting-house;—Every profession and calling has its peculiar dangers, as every individual has his peculiar failing or besetting sin; But by the very nature of the duties of the young man engaged in mercantile pursuits, his mind is fastened upon a subject the most trying to its healthy moral tone,—the acquisition of gain. Far be it from me to say or to think, that the acquisition of wealth is such an object as may not fitly, under proper guards and watchful care, occupy the most elevated, the most enlightened, and the purest mind; “There are few ways,” said Dr. Johnson, “in which a man may be more innocently employed than in getting money,” but he also admitted the tendency of the pursuit, in some cases, to contract or give a wrong bias to the mind; and it is of the last importance that all appliances and means should be put in the way of young men so engaged, which may correct that tendency, and keep the moral bias right; By the use of such means, every calling may be sanctified, and turned to a lasting good account; By duly cultivating the intellectual powers, the moral sense will be purified and elevated, and guarded against the dangers of position,—and the young man will learn “that religious dexterity by which (says the author of the Turkish Spy) a man may, in the midst of worldly business, make for himself paths of innocence, and walk free from the general contagion.”

Nor is it only in this, though the higher point of view, that

the valu
young
chosen
useful,
business
of com
mitting
principl
the shif
change,
those co
and whe
danger o
in Engl
knowled
skates t

Shoul
who nov
is exact
myself w
learned
when ap
York, w
for its m
lead to
of ment
sonné, w
would a
days,”—
under th
cient I
Travels
Science
Moral S
on,---an
had onl
marked

the value of such pursuits should be considered; The young man engaged in commerce will find, in a well chosen Library, much information that will be practically useful, and indeed necessary to him in his peculiar business. He will there learn the true and sound theory of commerce, without which he will be perpetually committing ruinous errors in practice; He will learn the true principles which regulate, and the causes which influence, the shifting balance of trade and the fluctuations of exchange, of demand and supply; He will learn the wants of those countries to which the avenues of commerce are open, and where a market may be found, and he will escape the danger of sending—(as has happened occasionally, I believe, in England, through ignorance or disregard of this necessary knowledge,) bales of blankets to Africa, or packages of skates to Buenos Ayres.

Should any of those, connected with mercantile pursuits, who now hear me, think that in these suggestions too much is exacted in the way of application to books, I would fortify myself with the support of such an authority as the eminent and learned Mr. Kent, heretofore Chancellor of New York, who, when applied to by the Mercantile Library Association of New York, which possesses a library of 23000 volumes, to mark out for its members, a "judicious course of study," which might lead to "the formation of a correct taste and the avoidance of mental dissipation," prepared for them a *catalogue raisonné*, which I have now before me, of an extent which would alarm many professed readers "of these degenerate days,"—comprising more than 460 separate works, arranged under the following general heads, (with subdivisions:)—Ancient Literature,---Modern Literature,---Ancient History,---Travels,---Voyages,---Biography,---Poetry,---Prose Fiction,---Science,---Constitutional and Commercial Law,---Elements of Moral Science,---Evidences of Natural and Revealed Religion,---and Miscellaneous. To this catalogue the Association had only to add one Book, the omission of which by Mr. Kent, marked the modesty and humility, which are the general at-

tendants, as they are the truest and most pleasing ornaments, of great genius and profound learning ;---That work was Chancellor Kent's own able " Commentaries on American Law."**

But as your Association, in its recent proceedings, has assumed a general character, and embraces purposes in which all may participate, I now propose to offer to you some observations on that particular undertaking which is indicated in the name adopted by the association, *the formation of a Library* ; and here the question may be asked, what was the necessity for including this among the objects of the Association when there was already a Library of 6000 volumes open to their use on the ordinary terms of subscription. Any answer to this inquiry is rendered unnecessary by the measures which the Association have themselves adopted, and which, as their President has informed you in opening the proceedings of this evening, have issued in the admission of the members of the Association to the full use and benefit of the Quebec Library from the 1st of next month to the 1st of May 1845 ; And, should the experiment succeed, the present Trustees of the Library trust that at the expiration of the period limited, their successors in office, actuated by the same desire to further the excellent design of the Association, which has led to the adoption of the present arrangement, will extend it for a further term ; and should the Association assume a permanent and corporate character, they may hereafter become the proprietors of the Collection, by purchasing the shares of the present holders.

They will then have an excellent foundation for a Library as extensive as they could desire ;—but it is no more than a foundation ;—The crippled resources of the Institution, to which I have already adverted, have not allowed the Trustees to extend the Library by the addition of many valuable

* The application of the Association to Mr. Kent, and his answer, and their Resolution thereupon, are inserted in the Appendix A. This profound lawyer and most distinguished man was, by a provision of the Constitution of his State, compelled to descend from the Bench, which he had so long adorned, because, with his faculties ripened, his knowledge matured and digested, and his experience enlarged, the Constitution pronounced him superannuated and unfit for judicial service, at three score !

produ
proved
The L
judgm
thority
tific d
seded
and by
of scie
knowl
would
Libran
that o
ought
of ref
every
neral
least
Books
and y
and g
partm
withi
not on
tation
rably
of 40
of the
course
" Hal
ocean
electr
wond
tered
in the
and
afford

productions of modern Literature, and by obtaining improved and convenient editions of older standard works;—The Library was originally formed and selected with care and judgment; But works that were of standard value and authority in 1779, or even forty years ago, have, in the scientific department at least, become obsolete, or been superseded by the publication of later systems and compilations, and by the effect of subsequent discoveries and the progress of science; With the wonderful advances in every branch of knowledge which a retrospect of the last forty years alone would present to our view, it has been impossible for the Library to keep pace; and there is now much on its shelves that ought to be swept away,—and much not there that ought to be added, to make it what it ought to be, a Library of reference, at least, for standard and elementary works in every Science; In Practical and Doctrinal Theology and General Jurisprudence,---departments of knowledge which at least deserve a considerable place in a public collection of Books,---scarcely any thing has been added for many years; and yet, what admirable general treatises, and summaries, and guides for study and expositions of truth, in these departments, have issued from the Press in Europe and America, within twenty years. In the science of Medicine there is not one work of a general character and of established reputation; In Classical Literature, the list of books is deplorably meagre; The Chemistry of 1843 is not the Chemistry of 40 years ago; “Half a century ago,” (I quote the words of the eminent and all-accomplished Judge Story in his discourse before the Mechanics’ Institute of Boston, in 1829,) “Half a century ago, the composition of the atmosphere and ocean was unknown to philosophy,—the identity of the electric fluid and lightning was scarcely established; the wonders disclosed by the Galvanic Battery had not even entered into the imagination of man.” In the Exact Sciences,---in those connected with Natural History,---in Botany, Geology and Mineralogy,---the information which the Library would afford to the general reader is far behind the march of

actual research and discovery ; In the science of Botany, affording as it does a delightful object of study, and a source of interesting contemplation within the compass of every mind, the Library scarcely supplies the means of attaining the most elementary knowledge, except from the *Encyclopædia* ; and its catalogue does not even contain Pursh's *Flora of North America* ;---nor, in Geology, is there, as far as I can discover, a single separate treatise ;---And even in miscellaneous and general Literature, it has not been found practicable to add to the Library a multitude of valuable and interesting publications which have issued from the press during a few years past ; Under the head of Biography alone, one of the most popular, pleasing and instructive departments of reading, the Library has no later general collection in English than Dr. Kippis's folio *Biographical Dictionary*,---a work certainly, of much research and ability,---but of inconvenient arrangement, of doubtful impartiality, on a limited and imperfect plan, and now of an antiquated date, having been published in 1747.---In the same department there is no work whatever of this description in the French language, (unless we except the *Dictionnaire Historique of L'Avocat*, published in 1777 :)---and, indeed, it may be here generally observed, that the collection of French works in every branch of Literature, is exceedingly defective.

In History, I do not find, in the catalogue, Hume's, Smollet's, or Rapin's *History of England* ;---in Poetry,---no general collection of the *British Poets* later than that of Johnson, (for Campbell's is a mere selection,)---no complete edition of the *Poems of Cowper, Campbell, Rogers, or Montgomery*. I mention these but as specimens of the deficiencies of the Library, in its present state ; There can be no doubt that they would never have been allowed to exist, if the funds of the Institution had enabled its Managers to increase the collection on a systematic plan ; and it only remains to entertain the hope, that, under a new order of things, its resources may be so improved, that it may not be, in future, so far behind the science and literature of the day. I trust,

how
out,
impr
form
of th
a pu
find
stud
gene
such
or hi
A
casi
into
unio
Inst
alluc
the
the
fiqu
unde
acce
ferin
the
junc
or r
des
pos
por
for
I
Lib
Re
sen
acc
of

however, that in the hints which I have ventured to throw out, I shall not be considered as recommending a scheme so impracticable in the circumstances of this community, as the formation of a complete collection of works, in all the circle of the Sciences, and in all branches of knowledge ; But, in a public Library, it is not too much to expect that we should find those works of reference, summaries and guides to the student in each branch, which shall put him in possession of general principles, and direct him in the prosecution of such further researches, as his course of study may require, or his tastes and pursuits suggest.

And here it may not be inappropriate to the present occasion, to advert to a plan now in agitation, which, if carried into effect, as I sincerely trust it may be, promises to give union and mutual support and permanency to the Literary Institutions of Quebec;---I shall be readily understood as alluding to a scheme for a coalition of those Institutions,---the Quebec Library, the Literary and Historical Society, the Societé Canadienne d'Etudes Litteraires et Scientifiques, and the Mechanics' Institute, under one roof, and under regulations which shall give the members of each, access to the Libraries and Collections of all, without interfering with the separate organization, objects, or funds of the respective Societies ; I am persuaded that by such a junction, alone, without attempting any general amalgamation or reduction under one general management, which might destroy the individual character and mar the separate purposes of each, increased energy and a cordial mutual support and extension of power and usefulness will be gained for *all*.

If I have not, as yet, noticed two other objects which the Library Association have in view,---the establishment of a Reading Room and of Lectures,---it is not because I am insensible to their interest and value.

A Reading Room, open at all hours until night, where access may be had to the newspapers and leading periodicals of other countries, is, as yet, a *desideratum* in this commu-

nity; and if it can be established, it will afford a pleasing and innocen. recreation, in the evening hours especially, to a large class of persons, who might be led to other and more objectionable means of passing their time; This lighter *pabulum* for the mind, is not to be forbidden or disregarded; It will be sought for, and must be had; Being myself of a very catholic taste in reading, I would not proscribe any particular kind, not absolutely immoral or pernicious: "Il en est des lettres humaines, (says Petrarch, in one of his letters to Boccaccio,) comme de certains alimens solides; qui nourrissent bien un homme qui a l'estomac bon, et fatiguent un estomac foible: Telle lecture, utile et salutaire pour un esprit sain, est un poison pour un esprit foible."

The periodical works in the English and French languages, (and in a cheap form,) are now so numerous and contain such a variety of matter, not only entertaining for hours of leisure, but well digested and highly instructive, (and to justify this praise, I need only refer to the leading English, French, and American Reviews,) that these productions alone, placed in a public reading room, and duly used, *must* contribute to intellectual improvement; And the establishment of courses of Lectures by able and experienced men, will be found, if they are conducted with a view to practical utility, to be not only a popular, but an effective mode of awakening and directing the mind in the pursuit of knowledge; The attempts that have hitherto been made in this way either in Quebec or Montreal, have not been attended with any signal success,---so far, however, as they have failed, it has perhaps been owing partly to an unfortunate choice of time, or place, or subject; but more, it is to be feared, to a general deadness and indifference to all such things:---The occasion on which we are now met, encourages us to say, "*Novus sæclorum nascitur ordo,*" that a new order of things is about to arise.—

There is one extensive range of scientific knowledge in which public Lectures may be of especial advantage; I allude to that which applies to the several branches of Me-

chan
by th
or tw
leisu
or in
throu
votec
of th
give
attain

AN
me ta
ciatic
not s
in its
not b
did
mark
But
ther
the M
expo
resu
good
the
pecu
cent
in th
of t
tion
that
nor
an
only
Kir
any
res

chanical art. The hard-handed artisan, who, is condemned by the necessity of supporting his family, to toil during ten or twelve hours of the day, at his craft,—has neither leisure nor energy to enlarge his knowledge of its principles, or improve the application of them, by exploring his way through books of science ; But a few hours occasionally devoted to hearing a clear, practical, exposition and illustration of those principles, with their results and application, will give him a direction, which, unassisted, he could never have attained ;

And here, in connection with this part of my subject, let me take the opportunity of noticing another excellent Association, the Mechanics' Institute of Quebec, which if I have not spoken of before, it was not because I feel no interest in its objects, or do not appreciate its value, but because, not being in strictness of language a Literary Institution, it did not come within the line of observation which I had marked out for myself in the former part of this address. But should the proposed plan for bringing more closely together the Institutions before referred to, be carried into effect, the Mechanics' Institute will share in the advantages to be expected from the Library Association ; and the beneficial results cannot be doubted ; unless it be maintained that the good effects that have been experienced elsewhere from the encouragement of science among Mechanics, cannot, from peculiar causes, be hoped for in Quebec ;—Until the nineteenth century a system of scientific instruction for those bred in the mechanical arts, was scarcely thought of : Institutions of this kind were first begun in Glasgow, through the exertions of Professor Anderson ; It was not until about 1819 that one existed in Edinburgh ; and only in 1822 or 1823, nor then without much opposition and reluctance, was such an Institution formed in London. Now, they are found, not only in the great commercial cities and towns in the United Kingdom, but in all the chief Colonial towns connected by any extent of commerce with the mother country ; In this respect there are evidences of a great revolution in public

feeling with respect to the consideration due to those who practice the mechanical arts; The day is past, when the skill and ingenuity of the artisan, who ministers so largely to our wants, our comforts, or our luxuries, can be undervalued or regarded with affected contempt; "The manufacturer, the machinist, the chemist, the engineer, who is eminent in his art," (I quote again the words of Judge Story, of whose thoughts and expressions I have occasionally in the last preceding passage, been availing myself,)—"may now place himself by the side of the scholar and the mathematician and the philosopher, and find no churlish claim for precedence put in by them. His rank in society so far as regards either the value of the products of his skill, or the depth of his genius sinks him not behind the foremost of those who strive for the first Literary distinctions."

The Mechanics' Institute of Quebec was established in 1831, and numbers now about 170 members, with an income from subscriptions of about £80 a-year. It possesses a collection of books and a reading-room furnished with a considerable number of newspapers (from various parts of these Provinces and even the United States,) the most of which---be it said to the praise of the newspaper Press,---are sent gratuitously; Lectures have also frequently been delivered at the Institute, and there is a course now in progress before the association.

That union is strength, is so tritely true as to have become proverbial;—The arts of life are now so interwoven with the higher pursuits of science, and, still more tangibly, with our wants and comforts, that we may no longer shun the consideration of the best means of keeping them not only in active but healthful condition and operation;—and let us endeavour to win them to a union with us (so far as such a union can exist with mutual benefit and separate efficiency,) in our other Institutions, for the promotion of other branches of science and of general literature; The advantage will be mutual; and, like the quality of mercy as described by Shakespeare,—“Blessing him that gives and him that takes;”

But
main c
be car
lend t
doubt
if they
design
To
vation
The
growing
of this
which
To us
for th
evenin
ing ov
some
golden
remain

Happ
the “
its on
resou
fering
cloqu
comp
rewar
ture
age,
shak
• r

But whether such a general union take effect or not, the main object of the Association now formed may assuredly be carried into operation, if all classes of the community lend their aid to its support with faithful zeal, nothing doubting of the result;—that they will do so, I firmly trust, if they but view in its just light the important bearing of the designs of the Institution on general and individual well being.

To this point I purpose to apply myself, in a few observations, as a fitting conclusion to this address.

Those of us who are advancing in years and see families growing up around us, ought not to look upon the objects of this Association and the habits of intellectual employment which it is designed to foster, with indifference or disregard. To us they are important, not only for our own sakes, but for those who look up to us for direction and example: The evening of life is closing around us, and its shadows thickening over our heads;—The time may not be far distant,--for some of us,--when “the silver cord being loosed, and the golden bowl broken,” we shall have no pleasure in what remains of life, but what the *mind* affords us;

For as our age increases, so vexations,—
Griefs of the mind, pains of the feeble body;—
Crippled and racked, we're but our living collins;
Besides,—the *fair soul's* old too.*

Happy will it be for us, if, against that hour, we have trained the “fair soul” to pursuits and contemplations which form its only worthy occupation, and will then afford us relief and resource under the weariness of pain and the inevitable sufferings of age. “The age of a cultivated mind,” says an eloquent, wise, and thoughtful author,† “is often more complacent, and even more luxurious than the *youth*; It is the reward of the due use of the endowments bestowed by nature; while they who, in youth, have made no provision for age, are left like an unsheltered tree stripped of its branches, shaking and withering before the cold blasts of winter.”

* Fletcher's “Wife for a month.” A few words are changed in the quotation.

† Sir Egerton Brydges.

But still more does it behove us to encourage such habits and pursuits among those who are or ought to be under our advice and controul ;---The best religious training has often been found to be unavailing against temptation and the contagion of example, unless religious principle has been fenced round, if I may so speak, with habits and tastes for intellectual improvement ; Such tastes are not long reconcilable with indulgence in vice ; and a young man is never to be despaired of, whatever may have been his errors, if he has still preserved a disposition for reading or study ; and, on the other hand, for want of such dispositions being instilled or cherished, how often have we seen young persons, otherwise of much early promise, brought to ruin by idleness of mind and by the bad associations and evil habits to which it has led them ;---their health destroyed,---their souls debased,---their prospects and character wrecked,---themselves become vagabonds and outcasts from decent society,---and their parents' gray hairs brought down with sorrow,---and shame worse than all sorrow,---to the grave ;---Yet of such an one, perhaps, the ruin has been begun and the headlong, irresistible, downward impetus first given, in some idle hour, when weary of vacancy, and having no healthful recreation proposed to his mind, or no taste for it as yet imparted, he has sought for amusement among companions as idle but more vicious than himself ; and the first step taken has been fatal to his soul and body ; for,

Never let man be bold enough to say,
Thus and no farther shall my passion stray,
The first crime passed, compels us on to more,
And guilt proves *fate* which was but *choice* before.*

To the young man destined for a profession, it is, above all, important that he should cultivate a taste for reading beyond that of his profession, and store his mind with general knowledge. Is he to devote himself to the ministry of the Gospel ?---(I speak with submission, in the presence of some devoted to that Ministry)---he has made but

* Old Tragedy.

an imperfect preparation, if he has not gone beyond the range of mere Theological studies;---Religion disdains not science for her handmaid; and the presence of some of her Ministers, on this occasion, attests their sense of the importance of encouraging the pursuit of general knowledge; To do his work effectually, the Clergyman must be prepared with intellectual acquisitions beyond those properly belonging to his peculiar calling; He must, (like him whose words it will often be his duty to expound,) be able, in mingling with and instructing his flock, to be all things to all men;---“ Il y a plusieurs routes, (says Pètrarch again, in another of his letters to Boccacio,) pour arriver au ciel; *l'ignorance* est la route que prennent les paresseux.” Ignorance, in all its forms, it is the business of the Minister of the Gospel to endeavour, at least, to remove; Man, actual man, is the subject upon which he is to act, and he should be versant in every kind of knowledge that shall enable him to deal with actual man, in his moral and intellectual condition, both natural and improved. He should be what an excellent book under this very title will help in making him, a “ Scholar, armed” at all points, to meet the doubts and difficulties of the educated, or the errors of the uninformed. And even for the discipline and education of his own mind, it may be said that the acquisition of general knowledge, is of important use, since by such acquisitions in any branch of knowledge, the faculties of the mind derive a general accession of healthful vigour; And so also in the other learned professions, but particularly in that to which I have the honour to belong; It has, indeed, been supposed that the profession of the law is not only in a great degree unfavourable to, but inconsistent with, the pursuits of Literature and Science; And true it is, that within the range of studies of that profession, there is enough to employ and task to the uttermost, and to exhaust the most extensive and strongest intellectual powers; But the preparation for that profession, also, is incomplete, unless the mind of the young student has been stored with general Literature; and in the

practice of the profession, likewise, he will often find the necessity for some acquaintance with the principles of other branches of science ; The most accomplished orator of ancient Rome,---(and the Roman orator was something more than a declaimer and rounder of periods,---he was also a lawyer and a pleader, with Provinces and Nations for his clients,)---that most finished Orator, Lawyer, Statesman, Scholar and Philosopher has said, in his elegant treatise on the Education of an Orator, that “ he ought to be instructed in all branches of science and art ;”* and, without recommending to the young Student at Law to seek to emulate the various knowledge and versatility of an eminent and eccentric lawyer, now alive, I would recommend to him to read the life, and I would point him to the example, of the eminent and accomplished Sir William Jones ; and if his ambition be not roused, and his purposes of self-improvement in every line of knowledge animated and strengthened,---he may be assured that he has not the spirit in him which is necessary, to take a high or even a respectable rank in his profession. But should a student in the same profession aspire to distinction in public life, to which that profession is now a ready and recognized avenue, let him take this with him, that all the knowledge, human or divine, he can acquire, will not be more than will be demanded for the due discharge of the solemn and exalted duties (rightly considered) which belong to the Legislator and the Statesman ; Then, indeed, the large requirements of Cicero for the education of his orator will be called into exercise ; and (says Bishop Berkeley in his singular *Siris*, †) “ Whatever the world thinks, he who hath not much meditated upon God, the human mind, and the *summum bonum*, (or virtue,) may possibly make a thriving earthworm, but will most inevitably make a sorry patriot and a sorry Statesman.”

But, not to the members of the learned professions only, is the habit of seeking fresh acquisitions of knowledge, important ;

* *Omnibus disciplinis et artibus debet esse instructus Orator.* Cicero de Oratore.

† Or Treatise on Tar water.

It is equally to be urged upon the Mechanic, the Handicraftsman and the Artisan ; They, indeed, have not the leisure to lay up stores of general knowledge, though even this may be recommended to them as a means of employing those hours of idleness which the most toilworn do sometimes enjoy, and which too often are spent in the bar-room, the tap-room, or the tavern. But (to use again the words of Judge Story,) "The most formidable enemy to genius is not *labor* but *indolence*,--want of interest and excitement,—ignorance of means leading to indifference to ends."

"Many illustrious instances," he adds, "of genius successfully applied to the improvement of the arts might be selected from the workshops and common trades of life. But in most of these instances it will be found that the discovery was not the mere result of accident, but arose from the patient study of principles or from hints gathered from a scientific observation of nice and curious facts ;—and it may be added, that in all these instances, in proportion as the inventors acquired a knowledge of the principles of the arts, their genius assumed a wider play, and accomplished its designs with more familiar power and certainty."

It is to the acquisition, therefore, of this knowledge of principles, and of the deductions founded upon them, and of the improvements in the arts to which they have given rise elsewhere, or of the further improvements which may yet be devised, that the Mechanic should be recommended to apply such hours of leisure for reading as his calling may permit him to enjoy ; For this purpose, it is important that a Public Library should not be deficient in works calculated to give him this knowledge ; and let him not think his time thrown away, if the pursuit of it should not issue in any discovery leading to tangible profit ; It is not thrown away, if it makes him, as it probably will, more skilful and ready and effective in the application of principles already familiar to him ; It is not thrown away, if it only keeps him from company and haunts dangerous to his morals, and from pursuits debasing to his

soul ; and let him be encouraged to patient perseverance by the examples of Arkwright, and Watt, in England, and of Perkins, and Whitney, in America ; and many others, in all countries, whose pursuit and acquisition of knowledge, under difficulties, forms a most interesting subject of contemplation, and a powerful incentive to similar exertion.*

Nor let ambition mock their useful toil,
Their homely joys and destiny obscure.

Nor let those whose lot is cast in other and more easy lines of life regard with indifference the means proposed to be used for promoting knowledge among our mechanics and artisans :—" For in proportion to the degree of knowledge belonging to them as a class, and in proportion as their industry shall be combined with science, will be their influence on the well-being and safety of Society."

Having in these observations touched upon the various lines of masculine exertion, it cannot be supposed that I shall altogether omit adverting to the importance of institutions for promoting intellectual improvement as regards the Female sex :— Sharing in all our lot,---our companions in weal and woe, and in the hourly intercourse of social and domestic life,---exercising an influence of inappreciable importance, not only on our own personal comfort, but upon the training of our children in those hours when formal instruction is suspended,---and destined to supply our places when we are no longer upon this scene,---who can be insensible to the importance of providing, for them also, the means of cultivating their minds up to the level of their duties ? Who that remembers the early counsels and conversation of a mother or other female relative, having authority or gentler influence over him, but must deeply acknowledge the value and the interest to be attached to the improvement of the female intellect, not only for the discharge of the sacred duties of home, but for the comfort and em-

* The volumes of the Library of Entertaining Knowledge, published by the Society for the diffusion of Useful Knowledge, under the title of the " Pursuit of Knowledge under difficulties," contain many delightful biographical memoirs of this kind.

bellishment of domestic and private intercourse :—

Guides of our life, instructors of our youth,
Who first unveiled the hallowed form of truth,—
Whose every word enlightened and endeared,
In age beloved, in poverty revered,
In friendship's silent Register ye live,
Nor ask the vain memorials art can give.*

To all classes, therefore, and to both sexes,—to the old and to the young,—to the Divine and the Physician,—the Lawyer and the Statesman,—the Merchant and the Mechanic and the Artisan,—and the man of leisure,---if such there may be among us,---the urgent appeal and recommendation may be addressed, to foster institutions having for their object to promote a taste for reading and the acquisition of sound knowledge ; and to each individual of all those classes may such pursuits be recommended as an inexhaustible source of pure and lasting pleasure.

The eloquent Roman whom I have already more than once quoted, in one of the noblest passages that antiquity has transmitted to us, records his sense of the pleasures of literature :—“ Other pursuits (he says,—and in attempting a translation or rather paraphrase of the beautiful original, I feel the impossibility of imitating its eloquence, its conciseness or its force,)—other pursuits are not for all times, for all ages, or for all places,---but these studies nourish our youth,—delight our old age,—adorn our prosperity,—afford a refuge and consolation in our adversity,—yield us pleasure at home,—hinder us not abroad,---are our companions by night, and in our journies, and in our rural seclusion.†

And is this all ?—Is this eloquent testimony of the Heathen Philosopher to the delights of Literary pursuits, the sum and conclusion of the whole matter ?—There is one word more,---of solemn and serious reflection ;---That

* Rogers' Pleasures of Memory. Part 1.

† Nam cætera neque temporum sunt neque ætatum omnium, neque locorum : Hæc studia adolescentiam alunt, senectutem oblectant, secundas res ornant, adversis perfugium ac solatium præbent, delectant domi, non impediunt foris, pernoctant nobiscum, peregrinantur, rusticantur :

Cicero, pro Archia.

word,---perhaps it may appear to some,---had better be spoken by one of another and a sacred profession, in another and a sacred place ;---I am not of that mind ;---It is a word that it befits any thoughtful man to use, in treating this subject,---in any place,---at any time,---in any association,---before any company ;---It touches the eternal destiny of man, to which all his acts and his studies should be referred ;---It is a word, however, that will be addressed in vain to him who believes in no such eternal destiny,---who thinks that man is born to die like the beasts that perish, and that then, all his thoughts, too, perish with him. It is doubted by some whether there ever was such a being in the world as a downright Atheist ;---We know by the word of inspiration *who* it is that says in his heart, there is no God ; and it has been shrewdly said that there never was a man who professed such a degrading creed who did not tremble and disown it in the dark.---I can scarcely suppose that such a person will be found within these walls on the present occasion ; This is no place for *him*,---for here we are met for a purpose raised far above his views or opinions, his hopes or aspirations :---The quaint but pungent and admirable description by Jeremy Collier* of the actual and downright Atheist will equally apply to him who doubts the immortality of the soul and its capacity for improvement :---“ An Atheist, (he says) if you will take his word for it, is a very despicable mortal ;---Let us describe him by his own tenets, and copy him a little from his own original :---He is, then, no better than a mass of organized dust, a stalking machine ; a head without a soul in it ;---His thoughts are bound up by the laws of motion, his actions are all prescribed ;---He has no more liberty than the current of a stream or the blast of a tempest ; and where there is no choice there can be no merit.---The Creed of an Atheist is a degrading system, a most mortifying persuasion ;---no advantages can make him shine ; he strikes himself out of all claim to regard ; He is the offspring of chance, the slave of necessity,---

* Essays, Vol. 1, p. 183.

danced by foreign impulses no less than a puppet,---ignoble in his descent, little in life, and nothing at the end on't;---Atheism is the result of ignorance and pride,---of strong senses and feeble reason, of good eating and ill living."

But, *Non omnis moriar* ; We shall not altogether die ;---this frail tenement of clay, which

" battered and decayed,
Lies in the light thro' chinks that time has made,"

shall indeed pass away, and its place shall know it no more ; but the soul, with all its faculties, improved or unimproved, shall still survive,

Unhurt amid the war of elements,
The wreck of matter and the crush of worlds ;—

It shall still survive for another state of existence, and not for a state of existence only, but, for a final account ; where and when we shall all meet once more,---and all here present shall know one another again,—and shall remember our past occupations and pursuits, and the occasion and purpose on which we are now met ; and *this* too will be brought into the account,---with all other means and opportunities which we have used or neglected for improving our own faculties, and for promoting the improvement of others ; And, at that last reckoning, may we not believe and hope that the pursuit of virtuous, purifying, and improving knowledge in this life, for ourselves or others, will not be counted a loss of time ; but that the one talent of the humblest and the five talents of the greatest, if duly turned to advantage, will then, through Him that purchased us, be accepted and approved ; and that the faculties so improved, and the knowledge so acquired will accompany us still ;—In the eloquent and touching words of the unknown author of one of the most singular books in the English language,* but full of thoughtful

* "The Doctor;" attributed, not without strong internal evidence, to Southey.

and pure Christian philosophy:----“ Our thoughts, our reminiscences, our intellectual acquirements die with us to this world,—but to this world only ; If they are what they ought to be, they are treasures which we lay up for Heaven ; That which is of the earth, earthly, perishes with wealth, rank, honors, authority, and other earthly and perishable things ;---But nothing that is worth retaining can be lost,---affections well placed and dutifully cherished ;—friendships happily formed and faithfully maintained,—knowledge acquired with worthy intent,—and intellectual powers that have been diligently improved, as the talents which our Lord and Master has committed to our keeping ;—these will accompany us into another state of existence, as surely as the soul, in that state, retains its identity and its consciousness.”

To th

DE
their
of stu
In the
dissip
before
rience
Sir, to
to you
literat
will pa

DE
in whi
me at
may d
ciation
afford
It l
you a
and ac
memb
brief
planat
the C

APPENDIX A.

(Referred to at page 20.)

*Mercantile Library Association,
New-York, Feb. 10th, 1840.*

To the Hon. JAMES KENT, New-York.

DEAR SIR,—A majority of the members of this Association enter their profession in early life, without that guidance to a judicious course of study which is enjoyed by those who have had collegiate instruction. In the formation of a correct taste, and the avoidance of much mental dissipation, it is important that a selection of authors should be placed before them, by an authority which from its dignity, wisdom and experience, shall insure their respect and confidence. Allow me, therefore, Sir, to ask in the name of the Association, whether it will be agreeable to you at some leisure hour to prepare a list of such works in English literature, as you may deem best suited for their use? Trusting that you will pardon the freedom of the request,

I am, dear Sir, with great respect,
Your obedient servant,

AUG. E. SILLIMAN,
President.

New-York, March 10th, 1840.

DEAR SIR,—I acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th ult. in which, as President of the Mercantile Library Association, you request me at my leisure to prepare a list of books in English literature, which I may deem calculated for the use of those young gentlemen of the Association, who entered their profession in early life, without the guidance afforded by Collegiate instruction.

It has given me pleasure to comply with the request, and I now send you a catalogue of select books all appearing in the English language, and adapted, in my judgment, to the diversified tastes and wishes of the members of your Association. I have taken the liberty to add some brief notice of the merits of those works, of which I thought some explanation might be useful or agreeable. Most of the works appear in the Catalogue you sent me, and which, amounting to twenty-three thou-

sand volumes, does honor to your institution, and is a noble monument of its judgment, taste and liberality.

I beg leave to say that I have not placed any works on the Catalogue that I am not in some degree acquainted with, and know their relative value. Indeed, I may say that eighteen-twentieths of them are in my own library, the gradual accumulation of the last fifty years.

I am, dear, Sir,

With much respect,

Your obt. Svt.

AUGUSTUS E. SILLIMAN,

President of the Mercantile Library Association.

JAMES KENT.

At a meeting of the Board of Direction of the Mercantile Library Association, on Saturday evening, March 14th, 1840, it was

Resolved, That for the invaluable guide to a judicious "Course of Reading," which Chancellor KENT has furnished for the members of the Mercantile Library Association, our thanks are eminently due, and warmly tendered; and that we regard it as a high privilege that it should have been marked out by one who has explored so extensively, and contributed so largely to the records of human learning.

Resolved, That the President be requested to make inquiry respecting its publication, with power to effect an arrangement for that object.

By order of the Board,

HORATIO N. OTIS, *Secretary*

monument

Catalogue
ir relative
are in my

KENT.

le Library
as

Course of
abers of the
due, and
at it should
y, and con-

y respecting
object.

Secretary

