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**MR. EAMES'S**  
**INTRODUCTORY LECTURE,**  
**BEFORE THE**  
**BROOKLYN LYCEUM,**  
**NOVEMBER 7, 1833.**

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AN

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE,

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

BROOKLYN LYCEUM,

NOVEMBER 7, 1833.

BY

THEODORE EAMES.

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BROOKLYN, L. I.

MDCCCXXXIII.

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At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Brooklyn Lyceum, at the Classical Hall, Washington-street, on Thursday Evening, 7th November, 1833—after the Introductory Lecture had been delivered by THEODORE EAMES,

On motion of GOLD S. SILLIMAN, Esq.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Board be presented to Mr. Eames for his Introductory Address, and that a copy thereof be requested to be placed among the archives of the Lyceum.

*Resolved*, Also, That five hundred copies of the Address be printed for distribution, in pamphlet form, under the direction of the Committee on Lectures and Essays.

WEST & TROW, PRINTERS, NEW-YORK.



## ADDRESS.

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THE object and purpose of this meeting are such as must fill every virtuous and patriotic bosom with high hopes, and solid and substantial joy ; and give occasion for warm and general congratulations. We are assembled, not to discuss and settle some question of local and temporary concern ; not to mingle in the strife and virulence of party politics, nor to debate about matters of doubtful expediency or petty interest ; but to commence the operations, and give the starting impulse to an Institution, that promises, and if rightly conducted, will certainly secure a greater amount of permanent good to this village, than any other, merely secular and civil enterprise, has ever pretended to offer : an Institution calculated to move and act directly upon the mind, the noblest part of man : to search out the secret springs of moral and intellectual energy, to bring them into full and vigorous operation, and to exert an elevating and refining influence upon the whole community. And it is a soul inspiring prospect, indeed, when we see so large a portion of our population, moving as one man, and coming up to the light of learning and of science, and generously and heartily co-operating with each other, in diffusing that light, and sending its blessings and its genial warmth into every dwelling in the place.

It is one of the enlightened and liberal designs of this Institution, that a pathway shall be opened, and brought home to every door in this village, leading directly to the temple of useful knowledge : leading to a consecrated spot, where fountains of practical information, of rational, wholesome amusement, and intellectual

gratification, will always be at the service and command of all who choose to partake of them. "The streams of knowledge are thus to be poured into those little channels, that lead to every man's house and fireside, and by insinuating a taste for the most innocent of our pleasures, they are to impart a new charm, and a new attraction, to that assemblage of secure and hallowed enjoyments, which we call home."

The bearing of this enterprise upon the best interests of the community in which we live, cannot be otherwise than favorable, in the highest degree. Occupying, as we do, one of the most enchanting spots on the face of the earth; removed just far enough from the great commercial emporium of the land, to be cheered and animated by its sound, without being annoyed and thrown from our centre by its giddy whirl; surrounded by the richest and most captivating scenery, and blest with a most healthful and invigorating atmosphere, we possess all the natural advantages which could well be conferred upon us; and we have actually swelled, almost to the size of a city, unaided by any other than physical causes.

But it is time to bring moral causes into operation: it is time to attend to the intellectual culture of our population, as well as to the improvements of the localities of the village. Great as are the native attractions of the place, they were not sufficient, for many years, to secure the fixed and permanent residence of a dense and desirable population. A large portion of its inhabitants heretofore, have entered it, without any settled intention of remaining in it. They have rather regarded it as a temporary resting place, conveniently situated to enable them to reconnoitre the great city in its neighborhood, and have usually continued here no longer, than till they had ascertained whether they could, or could not obtain a foothold there, and then, like other birds of passage, have disappeared. Attached neither to the soil nor to the people by any strong bond of union, their hold on Brooklyn was extremely slight, and such as would easily yield to the smallest impulse. Their connection with the place, as it was formed without any mutual sympathy or common interest in it, so it was sundered and dissolved, without sensible pain or regret to either

party. They flowed in, and flowed out, much like the influx and efflux of the tide upon our shores, without remaining long enough either to enrich the soil or increase its verdure, and leaving no other, nor any fairer marks and traces of themselves upon its surface, than do the tide waters upon the sands, over which they flow.

One leading cause of this constant fluctuation has doubtless been, the want of permanent local institutions, of a nature and character to arrest the attention of these transient visitors, and by their intrinsic value, to secure their established and permanent abode. The village, though dressed in all the loveliness of nature, had not moral and intellectual attractions in a sufficient degree to fix the choice of that kind of population, that constitutes the true wealth and respectability of a place. There was still wanting the master work of all ; a closer social connection ; a greater community of feelings, views and interests ; a stronger bond of union, and a cement, to hold the loose and crumbling particles of society together ; in fine, the village seemed for a length of time, to fail of securing for itself, what the magic influence of poetry had long before conferred on airy nothing, "a local habitation and a name."

In this state of things, every indication that a better tone of feeling is beginning to prevail among us, is cause of heartfelt rejoicing. Every movement, that tends to bring the minds of the citizens of Brooklyn in contact with each other, and which manifests a disposition, on their part, to unite in the promotion of valuable objects, is to be hailed and welcomed, as the harbinger of brighter days. And what object can be presented, that has a stronger claim to the cordial support and co-operation of the learned, and intelligent part of our population, than that of diffusing useful information among all classes of society ? If there is any one object, within the compass of human ability, that will unite, and ought to unite, the wishes, and to enlist the feelings of all the friends of the human family, it is that of giving them the light of knowledge and instruction ; of calling into action the latent energies of their minds, of causing them to feel that they are rational beings, not only capable of, but expressly formed for social intercourse, and for high moral and intellectual attainments. That a lamentable amount of ignorance and its attendant vices exist

among the aggregate of our population, needs not, and indeed cannot be denied ; but we are sure, that capacity for acquiring knowledge is not wanting among them ; and it is the duty, and I will add, the privilege of the better informed, to bring those capacities into action : to give them an opportunity to develop themselves, in a right direction, and to furnish the proper materials and inducements to keep them in continued operation. Upon this truly liberal and patriotic enterprise, a highly respectable portion of the talent and influence of the village has now fairly entered, and from the interest and zeal which have been, and still continue to be manifested in the cause, the happiest results may confidently be expected.

With a view to effect a more perfect concentration of effort, in the undertaking, an Institution has been established in the village, which breathes the true spirit of melioration and improvement ; whose vital principle is constant activity and persevering effort ; whose watchword is " forward, and still forward," and which will therefore need the active co-operation and support of every individual who engages in it. This Institution is the Brooklyn Lyceum, whose first public meeting, since its organization, we are now holding ; and which the friends of improvement generally have been invited to attend, in the hope, and with the expectation, that they will be induced to enlist in the same cause with us, and to lend their active and efficient aid, in promoting its designs. In its nature and objects, the Institution is similar to the associations which bear that name in the New-England States.

It has been thought advisable, by some of the friends of this enterprise, that a condensed general account of the origin, formation and objects of Lyceums, as they exist in our country, should be presented, on this introductory occasion, especially as they are in some degree new in this vicinity. In compliance with this suggestion, I have had recourse to such printed documents as were within my reach, and will now briefly state the result of my inquiries.

The name is of Grecian origin. It is derived from the Greek word " λύκος" which signifies " a wolf." This animal, among others, was offered in sacrifice to Apollo, the patron of learning,

and from this circumstance the epithet "Lycæus" was applied to him. And it is highly probable, that in honor of Apollo, the name Lycæum was given to a pleasant and salubrious spot at Athens, near the banks of the river Ilyssus, where Aristotle, and other philosophers after him, were accustomed to discourse with their pupils, on subjects of science and useful knowledge. Subsequent remarks will show, that the term, as thus explained, has been tastefully selected, and that it is happily adapted to indicate the general character of the associations to which it has been applied.

With respect to the introduction of Lyceums into this country, the most authentic information that I have been able to obtain, is, that in February, 1829, a public meeting was held in Boston, consisting of members of the Legislature and other gentlemen, at which a committee was appointed to collect information concerning Lyceums, in that State, and to report at a similar meeting, to be held during the ensuing session of the Legislature. At this second meeting, held February 19, 1830, his Excellency Governor Lincoln presiding, committees were appointed for the several counties, to collect and diffuse information on the subject of Lyceums, and to report at another meeting, during the next winter session of the General Court. At a general meeting of these county committees, a central committee of Massachusetts was chosen, of which the Hon. A. H. Everett was chairman, for the purpose of corresponding with the committees in the several counties. The first circular of this central committee was issued, and contained, among other things, the following authentic summary information concerning Lyceums.

"A Lyceum is a voluntary association of persons for mutual improvement. The subjects of their inquiries may be, the sciences, the useful arts, political economy, domestic economy, or such other matters as are best adapted to the wants or inclination, or employments of the members, and may vary, according to times and circumstances. The more frequent topics, thus far, have been the exact sciences, in their application to the arts and purposes of life; with others of a practical nature, and such as are profitable to persons of different classes and ages. The regulations of these associations are few and simple, and resemble those which are

adopted in small benevolent societies. The officers are, usually, a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and a number of Managers, or Executive Committee, who together, constitute a Board of Directors. The exercises of the Lyceum, are familiar Lectures from men of education in the town, or from other members, who investigate particular subjects for the occasion ; also, discussions and debates. In some small Lyceums, or in the classes into which the larger are divided, for occasional purposes, the exercises are free conversation, written themes, recitations, or mutual study. The lectures are sometimes procured at the expense of the Lyceums : more frequently they are given by the members, and in this case are always gratuitous. The persons who associate are of any age, and from any class in society, sustaining a good character ; all who are in pursuit of knowledge, more particularly the young and middle aged. The system is especially adapted to teachers of every grade ; the more advanced pupils in the various schools, and enterprising young men, already engaged in business, who have done with schools, but who thirst for more knowledge. Ladies are invited to be present at the lectures and discussions, not as active members, but to participate in the benefits.

“ The meetings are held in the evenings, usually at intervals of one or two weeks : but are, for the most part, suspended during the busiest portion of the summer season. It is highly important to the efficiency of a village Lyceum, that its inquiries be aided by apparatus. Early foundations have also been laid, for interesting collections of minerals, and other cabinets of science. Many Lyceums have valuable libraries for the use of their members. In some instances, they have been formed anew, and in others, a union has been effected with social libraries, already existing ; an arrangement, which, it is believed, will be found profitable to both parties.

“ Associations were first formed, under the name of Lyceums, in the south part of the county of Worcester, in Massachusetts, in the autumn of 1826 ; though some existed before, on a similar principle, but under different names. They have been gradually increasing in that state, till the present time ; and there are now,

probably over one hundred town Lyceums within its limits. In the mean time, they have been spreading extensively over the country at large, and are found, to a greater or less extent, in all the grand divisions of the union. Turning our eye toward the Great Lakes and the Rocky Mountains, and surveying the almost boundless extent of the "far off west," we behold these little watch fires of knowledge and improvement, enlivening and cheering the prospect, and lighting up the western horizon, like so many stars. They form already an extended chain of lights, stretching from Detroit to Cincinnati and Nashville and Natchez, and even to New-Orleans. In all these places, and in numerous others, both along the Atlantic coast, and in the interior, Lyceums have been established, and there is the highest degree of probability that their beneficial influence will eventually introduce them into every village and settlement in the country. A national Lyceum has also been established nearly three years, in the city of New-York, to which our own is auxiliary, and the object of which is to promote a general co-operation among the friends of knowledge in the union, for the benefit of the country at large. A Lyceum is easily formed in almost any country village or neighborhood. It requires two or three active, enterprising, matter-of-fact men, to collect their friends together, take hold of any topic of common interest, adopt a few regulations, and go to work. There is nothing mysterious, nothing difficult, in the process, if the members have only a desire for knowledge and improvement, and each resolves to do his own part in suggesting topics, promoting investigations, and solving inquiries. The social principle is brought into action, and where energy and promptness are the order of the day, a Lyceum becomes a most profitable school of mutual instruction. The advantages of this kind of association, where the experiment has been faithfully tried, are great and obvious. Their beneficial influence is soon manifest, in the improved character of schools and teachers, in the mental habits of all classes engaged in them, and in the elevation of the moral and social character.

"Every one who looks over the surface of our towns, must be convinced that there are many minds among us, endowed by nature with brilliant faculties, and framed by their Creator for great

usefulness and honor, which pass through their earthly existence, enveloped in the darkness of ignorance, and untouched by any springs of improvement; without shedding light upon truth, without giving an impulse to knowledge, and without offering a motive to virtue. It is the opinion of the committee, that this lamentable waste of intellectual resources, of the treasures of the mind, may, to a great extent, be prevented. They think that much might be done towards this end, by the establishment of Lyceums in the several towns. Such institutions, organized with a just and careful reference to the condition and circumstances of the places in which they propose to conduct their operations, cannot fail, if supported with zeal, and guided by discretion, to work out invaluable results. They will call forth latent talent, encourage a spirit of study and inquiry, and give a predominant relish for a purer and nobler kind of entertainment and recreation, than our people are at present accustomed to seek. It could not be long, before it would be discovered, that there is no amusement so worthy of our patronage, or in itself so conducive to our happiness, as that in which the curiosity of the intellect is awakened and gratified, and the mind exercised in the rational, invigorating and delightful employment of drinking in new and refreshing draughts of knowledge.

“In our most populous towns, there are many gentlemen, whose professional pursuits and extensive attainments, would enable them to diffuse among their fellow citizens, in the form of popular Lectures, information of the most valuable kind. The exercises at Lyceums would afford opportunity to industrious, ingenious and intelligent individuals, to spread far and wide throughout the community, knowledge, which by being buried in public libraries and in ponderous volumes, is at present accessible to a few only. There is no class in society that would not be benefited by the operation of these Institutions. The importance of scientific knowledge to persons engaged in the several mechanical and manufacturing trades, must be apparent to all. In the operations of their business, in the use of their materials, in the construction and action of their machinery, the principles of natural philosophy are, to a greater or less extent, continually unfolded and applied.



“There is no class of men, who stand in greater need of instruction in science, or who could make a more effectual use of it, than the cultivators of the soil. In the fields which they are called to till, they would find occasion for all the information that can be obtained from agricultural chemistry: in their gardens and orchards, they could make a most pleasing and profitable application of the knowledge of botany. An acquaintance with the principles of mechanics would facilitate the use, and quicken invention in the improvement, of their implements of labor. Indeed from all the departments of natural science they could derive agreeable and useful information. It is impossible to conceive, much more to describe, the benefits that would result to the whole country, by the advancement that would be made in practical husbandry, in consequence of the wide and general diffusion, among our agricultural population, of the principles of useful science.

“The attention of our intelligent, enterprising, and patriotic citizens is at present prevailing directed to the development of the internal resources of the nation, by means of surveys, canals, rail-roads, and other improvements; and the indications are numerous and strong, that something more than a merely theoretical acquaintance with these subjects, will soon be called for, by the public enterprise. The riches and strength of a free and civilized community consist, chiefly, in the well informed and well cultivated minds of its members. The treasures that lie beneath the soil cannot be drawn forth and used to the best effect, neither can they be discovered, unless its surface is occupied by an enlightened and ingenious population. The internal improvements, which philanthropists and patriots should strive most earnestly to promote, must have their commencement in the universal diffusion of the blessings of knowledge and science.

“The Lyceum system of instruction seems to be regarded by many as a novelty; but the novelty consists in the name, and the extension of the system, not in the system itself. Were it however a new institution, the experiment might be ventured upon, as perfectly safe and harmless, if not certainly advantageous. Intelligent beings, surely, can lose nothing, by assembling together for the improvement of their minds; and something, it should

seem, must be gained, from the exercise of social feelings, and the expression of thoughts and sentiments on subjects of common interest. Much may be gained. In order to this, let all those who associate to form a Lyceum, feel the importance of the object which has drawn them together. Let every member be disposed to contribute his share of effort for the common good, and exert a vigilant attention for his own benefit. Let the subjects discussed, and the thoughts and sentiments communicated there, dwell in his mind after he retires to his home : and let him in conversation impart them to others, and by further reflection and inquiry, make them more familiar to himself. Let all do this, and much will be done for their own improvement, and for spreading the spirit of improvement in the community around them. An earnest desire for knowledge and moral worth, and a determination to obtain them, will accomplish every thing. Attention, industry, perseverance, and self-command, are in the power of all ; so, consequently, are knowledge, virtue, wisdom and happiness."

Such are the general features and outlines of Lyceums, as they exist in our country, and such, substantially, will be the character and objects of the Brooklyn Lyceum. Like the rest, it is a voluntary association of individuals of both sexes, for the purpose of mutual instruction and improvement. The subjects of our investigations, also, will vary, according to the circumstances, employments, tastes and inclinations of those concerned in them. They will probably, sometimes range into the spacious fields of science, and dip into the abstractions of philosophical discussion, and sometimes, and doubtless much more frequently, they will come home to men's business and bosoms, and treat of subjects more familiar and obvious. The lofty themes of astronomy will not be above their reach, nor the depths of geology too profound for them to penetrate. But though they will be, in the language of the poet, so,

" Various, that the desultory mind of man,  
 Studious of change, and fond of novelty,  
 May find delight,"

yet, in all cases, the design and aim will be, to communicate useful information, on all the subjects discussed, and to leave an impress upon the mind, favorable to virtue, integrity, social order, and

friendly intercourse. In the last mentioned particular they will prove especially important and valuable. One of the greatest hindrances to the moral and intellectual prosperity of a place, is the want of opportunity to engage in pursuits of a common interest : pursuits in which all have a common stake, and from which all may derive, and expect to derive, a common advantage.

In this view, no set or combination of subjects, merely secular in their nature, can be proposed, not only so free from all doubt and objection, as to their utility and propriety, but none that present such unquestionable positive benefits to recommend them, as literary and scientific pursuits : for if it has been justly said, that "he who makes two spires of grass grow, where only one grew before, is a benefactor to mankind," with much more propriety may that man be deemed a public benefactor, who teaches a single immortal mind to realize its own powers, and to bring them into action. For he not only produces thousands of refined and rational thoughts, where none of the same description existed before, but he gives an impulse, by which those thoughts become the prolific parents of myriads of others, and these, again, will still continue to multiply and spread, till the whole divinity of the man is stirred within him, and he becomes, in an intellectual sense, a new creation. Is not this an object of common interest, and common benefit to all ? and is it not worthy of our highest efforts, as well as of our warmest approbation ? Why, we may ask, should the mass of uninstructed mind that is collected together in this village, be suffered to shape itself in iniquity, and spend its never dying energies on gross and sensual objects, through our neglect ! Perhaps some gem of purest ray, some diamond of the clearest water, lies hid among us, imbedded in the rust of ignorance and neglect, that needs only the forming and polishing hand of a skillful artist, to give it a lustre, that would fit it to adorn the temple of justice, or to shine in the halls of legislation. A village Hampden, or Burke, or Chatham, or Shakspeare, or Milton, may not be merely a poetical fancy. If we look into a Biographical Dictionary, we shall be surprised and filled with admiration, to observe how large a portion of the eminent men in the world, have risen from obscure and humble stations in life. They were either self-educated men, who perseveringly toiled through hardships and

discouragements, that would have checked any but an absolutely irrepressible ardor, or they were thrown, by chance or accident, in the way of some Mæcenas of their neighborhood, whose discernment discovered the rich gem of intellect, beneath all its incrustations and roughnesses, and whose liberality of sentiment prompted him to extend the aid that was necessary to bring it to the light.

By ways and means resembling these, the constellation of worthies, in the several departments of literature and science, has been increasing, from age to age, until it has swollen into a perfect galaxy. The names of Gifford, the elegant and spirited translator of Juvenal, of Heyne, the most learned classical scholar of Germany, during the last century; of Ferguson, the distinguished Scottish astronomer and lecturer, stand conspicuous upon the catalogue; and even Johnson, the "Ursa Major" of the English literary hemisphere, struggled with a degree of poverty that deprived him of the honors of a University, and for many years weighed down his mighty genius. But persevering efforts enabled him, at length, to triumph over all impediments. He rose among the luminaries of his time, and assumed a station nearest to the pole, which he maintained, by his gigantic powers, and stood, the acknowledged "lord of the ascendant." He rose, indeed, but like his great prototype in the skies, he is destined never to set.

The celebrated Locke, and Sir Isaac Newton himself, may be added to the list; for though they were educated within the walls of a university, they were both much more indebted to themselves than to their instructors, for the knowledge they acquired, and which has rendered them so conspicuous in the annals of learning. In a letter to a friend, Mr. Locke says expressly, "Mr. Newton learned mathematics only of himself"—and in another letter remarks, "When a man has got an entrance into any of the sciences, it will be time, then, to depend on himself, and rely upon his own understanding, and exercise his own faculties, which is the only way to improvement and mastery."

Our own Franklin affords an illustrious example of self-education, and he is a model for our imitation, also, in the diffusive benevolence with which he spread his scientific treasures abroad, for the common good. It was constitutionally his delight to im-

part to others the benefits of his own investigations, and so great was the mass of information which he had accumulated, that he literally beamed with intelligence, and shed light on every subject of which he treated. His very touch was like one of his own electric shocks, that surprised and astonished the beholder, while it invariably cleared the subject, on which it operated, from all darkness, doubt, and difficulty. The characteristic of his mind was a singular activity. He was ever busied in devising schemes of benevolence, or plans of public improvement. The splendid library, that bears his name, in the city of Philadelphia, stands a noble monument of his foresight, and of his patriotic regard for the intellectual welfare of future generations. In almost every thing he was far in advance of the times in which he lived. His celebrated Club or Junto, was substantially a Lyceum. Its objects and its exercises bore so strong a resemblance to the Lyceums of the present day, that we may, in effect, regard him as cotemporary with ourselves, and award to him the honor of leading in the cause of Lyceums, and thus the glory of a new star will be added to his crown.

But we have among ourselves, a living instance of self-instruction, worthy of our highest respect and honor; I allude to the modest and learned Bowditch. By force of his own unaided and untiring industry, he has risen from the humble situation of a ship clerk, to be not only the first mathematician of his own country, but confessedly inferior to none now living in the world. It is surely distinction enough for any one man, to be able to comprehend, correct, and present to the world, in a new language, the sublime and complicated system of La Place: to have opened and unfolded to the admiring gaze of his countrymen, what to nearly all the world beside, was a sealed book. This Herculean task he has accomplished—by his own unassisted energies, it must have been—for there was probably not an individual in the land, who could have rendered him any essential aid. By this splendid achievement, he has conferred unfading honor upon his country, as well as upon himself. His fame and reputation, like those of Washington and Franklin, have now become national property, and we have a right to cherish them, as a part of our national glory.

These bright examples show how much may be done by way of self-instruction, even without extraneous aid. Is it too much, then, to expect results, in some degree similar, when such facilities as are within the scope and contemplation of Lyceums, are spread over the land? Is it too much to hope, that it may be our favored lot, to awaken some sleeping Sampson among us: to give the first impulse to some master spirit, who shall kindle the fire of his genius at our altars, and eventually shed a light that shall illuminate the world? How grateful to the soul must be the consciousness of having contributed to arouse and bring into vigorous action, the energies of such a mind. Who would grudge or withhold, any effort or sacrifice, that might be necessary for the accomplishment of an object so noble and philanthropic.

“You will confer the greatest benefit upon your city,” says Epictetus, “not by raising its roofs, but by exalting the souls of your fellow citizens; for it is better that great souls should live in small habitations, than that abject slaves should burrow in great houses.” We wish to see great souls in all our habitations. Our object is to provide a fund of intellectual and moral wealth, from which the poorest man in the village, in a pecuniary point of view, may freely draw—and may draw, until he has made himself as rich, in moral and intellectual worth, as the wealthiest capitalist in the land. We wish to see a portion of that spirit reviving, which prevailed in ancient Greece and Rome, which made the individual comparatively nothing, and the public every thing. We wish to see a generous emulation to promote the public welfare, spreading among us, and to witness a union of hearts and hands, of tongues and pens, in the noble enterprise of meliorating our moral and intellectual condition.

Do you ask for motives to engage in this enterprise? I answer, it is the dictate of nature: it is the great law of Christian love and kindness. The proper end and business of our lives, in reference to our fellow men, is to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to minister to the comfort of the sick, and the relief of the distressed; and though last, by no means least, to instruct the ignorant, to contribute all in our power to enlighten the understandings of men, and to teach them their rights and duties, as social beings, as constituent parts of the great whole of the human family.

It has been said, that every man is bound to leave society better than he found it—to contribute something to its melioration and improvement. There are various ways in which this great duty may be performed. It may be done, by new discoveries in the arts: by lessening the amount of suffering in the world, by institutions of philanthropy: by explaining and defending moral truth; by new applications of philosophical principles to the business and employments of life: by devising new modes of developing and cultivating the intellectual powers, and giving them a right direction; and by affording living examples of social virtue. In one or more of these ways, every individual, of common understanding, has it in his power to make the succeeding generation his debtor, by furnishing them with the means of becoming wiser and better.

It is obvious, however, that if individual influence, acting separately and alone, can do much, the combination of many such influences, co-operating, and brought into concentrated and simultaneous action, must effect much more. The principle is as true with respect to moral, as it is with respect to physical subjects. The power of the pulley is in direct proportion to the number of ropes employed. But in the diffusion of knowledge, the effect of concentration is in a much greater ratio. It more nearly resembles the phenomenon of the diffusion of light. Let us suppose that one individual only, of all this audience, had brought a lamp or candle into this room, this evening, and that we had been dependent upon that single source, for all the light we enjoyed. It might have been a very clear, and very bright lamp, and might have enlightened sufficiently, perhaps, a few individuals, immediately around it; but as a whole audience, we should certainly have been almost in total darkness; but if each and every individual had brought such a light, a brilliant illumination would have been the consequence. So it is, in respect to the enterprise in which we are now embarked. We need associated efforts. We want rays of light, from every department of life, to be directed to this Institution, and to meet in it, as a focus, from which they will be reflected upon the community, in every direction. We wish every individual in the village, who possesses the lamp of knowledge, to arise and trim it; to replenish it with oil, and bring

it forth, and place it here upon the public stand, that those who, enter in may see the light. The time has now arrived when it is called for, by the public voice, and we protest against its being any longer kept hid under a bushel, or veiled in the shades of obscurity and retirement. Let us not be miserly of our knowledge, as we are all prone to be of our money. Let us resolve, from henceforth to do good with it, and be ready to communicate, as we have opportunity.

It is an old saying, but a true one, that "money, like manure, does no good until it is spread." The same maxim may be applied, with equal justice, to knowledge. It is diffusive in its very nature. Whatever may be the accumulation of it, while it remains locked up in a single mind, or but few minds, it fails of its beneficial effect. It is then like a jewel, shut up in a casket; like treasures, secured by the fastenings of a strong box; like a talent, laid up in a napkin, and buried in the earth. Can he be a faithful steward, who thus hides his Lord's money?

"Sure He that made us with such large discourse,  
Looking before, and after, gave us not  
That capability and godlike reason,  
To fust in us, unused."

Of worldly wealth, it has been said, by Him who is emphatically the wisdom of God, "it is more blessed to give, than to receive." But wealth may be distributed so profusely, as to impoverish him who distributes it. Not so of knowledge. With respect to that, "he that scattereth, increaseth." The very act of communicating useful knowledge has a tendency to increase the stock of him who imparts it. He is made more perfect master of what he knew before, and his faculties are strengthened and invigorated by the process, so as to become more capable of new acquisitions. In this view, it has the quality so beautifully and tenderly applied to mercy, "it blesseth him who gives, and him who takes."

That there exists in this village, a sufficient amount of science, of literature and talent, to support an Institution like the present, with credit to those who may take part in its public exercises, and with signal advantage to those, who may be merely the reci-



ipients of knowledge, there is no doubt, provided a united and simultaneous effort can be secured. Of this there is the happiest prospect and pledge, in the lively interest, which is every where manifested, for its success. Scarcely an individual can be found, who is not deeply impressed with the conviction, that the respectability and permanent prosperity of the place, imperiously demand a greater amount of moral inducement to make it a place of residence, than at present exists. All seem to be convinced, that its population has so far changed from its former nomadic character, as to justify the belief, that something in the nature of a combined effort is practicable.

It has been happily said by another, that "the best age is that which makes the largest provision for the welfare of its successors, and the best man of the age is he who contributes the greatest portion of it." This is a sound and sensible remark. Let us apply it to ourselves, individually and collectively. We are as a city set on a hill, and cannot be hid. It behooves us, therefore, so to let our light shine before men, that they may see our good works, and be induced, by our example, to go and do likewise. The present condition and future prospects of this favored spot unite to assure us, that it is destined to hold a conspicuous place among the settlements of the country; and we, who constitute its present population, owe it to coming generations, to lay a foundation, at least, on which they may erect a superstructure, that shall grace and dignify its name; that shall make it a noble depository of intellectual wealth and power. Why may not Brooklyn become, hereafter, the Greenwich of America and while its lofty observatory shall "greet the sun in his coming," its scientific rays shall dart, eastward and westward, till they encompass the globe, surrounding it with a ring of light, that shall guide the mariner's pathway over every sea that rolls.

Let not this thought be regarded as altogether visionary or fanciful. Though still in our infancy, as a nation, with regard to scientific attainments, there is reason to hope, that we shall not always shine with borrowed light; that we shall not always stand debtors to foreigners, in the account books of knowledge. The erection of a national Observatory has already been laid before Congress, in the form of a recommendation, by a for-

mer President, and though no answering chord was struck by Congress at that time, still the suggestion was a truly liberal and enlightened one, and the subject itself may well be regarded as properly belonging to a system of wise national policy. Should the project ever be resumed, and carried into effect, either by national or individual influence, few places in the country would bear comparison with the highlands of Brooklyn, for such a purpose, as well on account of their elevated and commanding situation, as their proximity to the great commercial capital of the country.

But we need not the influence of such views and anticipations, either of interest or distinction, to induce us to unite in the establishment of a Lyceum. We shall find, without doubt, a full and satisfactory reward of all our labors, in the individual and social benefits, both immediate and prospective, resulting from it. By its operations, we shall be brought into closer contact with each other; we shall be made more acquainted with each other's opinions, views and feelings, than we have heretofore been, or otherwise could be: we shall feel the salutary influence of an additional bond of union between us: there will be one grand point of common interest, around which we shall all rally; there will be a favored and cherished object, which we shall all unite to foster and promote; and from the combined influence of all these causes, we shall doubtless, in a little time, be so amalgamated together, that instead of the loose and indigested mass we have heretofore been, we shall become, in fact, "one body, fitly joined together, and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, so as to make increase of the body, unto the edifying of itself in love."

New sources will also be opened to us, of pleasing reflection when we are alone; and an enlarged and varied field of remark and profitable conversation, when we are by our fire-sides, or in the social circle. Even the ordinary intercourse and visits of friends and acquaintances with each other, may be rendered more easy, interesting, and agreeable. The Lyceum will do much toward removing the cause, that so often exhibits, in familiar parties, the unsocial spectacle of all the individuals of one sex grouped together, engaged in discussions of business or of politics while those of the other, who have an acknowledged claim upon their respectful attention, are unceremoniously left to amuse them-

selves, as best they may ; thus profanely separating what the Creator intended should be joined together. The subjects of the lectures and discussions here, will furnish, it is believed, such abundant means of varied discourse, and rational entertainment, on such occasions, at least in connection with other topics, as to prevent the odiousness of a studied separation of the sexes. The free and rational interchange of thought, between man and his helpmeet, has ever been regarded, in every enlightened age and country, as one of the highest and richest sources of social and domestic happiness ; and justly so. There is something in the form and structure of woman's mind, when duly cultivated, that gives her a softening and purifying influence over the sterner make of man, and which renders her, at once, his most pleasing, and most profitable companion.

The plan of the Brooklyn Lyceum is happily and wisely so constructed as to admit, not only the presence of females, at their public meetings, but also to enable them to contribute their full proportion towards the entertainment and instruction of the audience. It would not, indeed, be consistent with the retiring delicacy of the female character, to take an active part in the public exercises, in person, yet there will be evenings, and parts of evenings, devoted to the reading of such essays and compositions as shall be furnished, for that purpose, and which a competent tribunal shall judge suitable to be thus communicated. This appears, in prospect at least, a very attractive feature in the plan. Many individuals, of both sexes, may doubtless be found, abundantly capable of imparting valuable instruction, or elegant amusement, who would nevertheless shrink from the publicity, to which they must necessarily expose themselves, by delivering their own compositions, in the presence of a numerous and mixed company ; but who would not withhold their contributions, could they be screened from the public gaze, while the fruits of their literary labors were spread before the audience. It is in reference to the case of individuals of this description, that the committee who have this subject in charge, have adopted the regulation here suggested ; and they now respectfully invite the literary contributions, not only of the class of writers above mentioned, but of those also, who may choose to read their own compositions,

after they shall have passed under the eye of the Committee; a privilege which will always be most gladly accorded to all who may desire it. Through this channel of communication, also, the Committee anticipate and solicit the contributions of our gifted and public spirited female friends. From this general source, if the Committee do not greatly miscalculate, some of our most agreeable entertainments will be found to arise.

The beneficial influence of these literary labors and exhibitions upon social intercourse, and friendly feeling, throughout the community, will be by no means inconsiderable; and whatever has a tendency to promote this intercourse, is certainly entitled to our kindest care. It is the oil and the balm, the cordial and the consolation of life. It soothes and heals the spirit, when chafed and fretted by the rude shocks and roughnesses of the busy world. "It makes man mild and sociable to man," and smooths away a very large proportion of the asperities of life. Their influence will also be direct and strong, in improving the style and character of conversation, in society, and rendering it more interesting and profitable. Conversation has been aptly styled "the wine of life;" it cheers the heart of man, and causes his face to shine with the light of intelligence and good will; and the capacity for maintaining it, with sprightliness and vigor, is a talent of high value, and of rare attainment.

But it would be a vain attempt, to enumerate all the benefits that may reasonably be expected to flow, even to individuals, from the general influence of the Lyceum, and its appendages and exercises. Suffice it to say, that minds enlarged, cultivated and enriched as ours may be, by the use of all these ample means, will be fitted for higher enjoyments, and for nobler pursuits, than men of less enlightened understandings are even capable of comprehending. Such minds can never be solitary: can never feel depression from the mere circumstance of being alone. Place them where you will, they carry with them their own, inherent, indestructible sources of enjoyment; never failing fountains of solid, satisfying pleasure; they will find "men in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in every thing."

Such, doubtless, will be the general and ultimate effects of this

Institution, upon every individual who shall engage in its exercises, with right views and a right spirit. This audience need not be informed, however, that there is no magic influence in the name and exercises of a Lyceum. It is neither the spear of Ithuriel, nor the far famed philosopher's stone, that is to transform with a touch, and turn every thing into gold, in the twinkling of an eye. It more nearly resembles the "Philosopher's Scales," in which principles, opinions and doctrines are weighed; and in which each particular that is brought to the test, will find its true value exactly ascertained, by the unerring weight of public opinion. The work of improving the minds of those who have spirit and enterprise enough to enlist in the service of the Lyceum, will unquestionably be progressive. The fruit cannot reasonably be expected, before the tree has had time to arrive at maturity. It will not be a few irregular, interrupted attempts at composition and lecturing, that will give the ease and facility which are the desired result, but continued practice: a systematic, persevering series of efforts, preceded and accompanied by the necessary and corresponding degree of reading, study and reflection.

Although these lectures and dissertations, as has already been suggested, will be as various, in their subjects, as the tastes and feelings of those who prepare them, yet it is highly probable, they will be derived, partly from reviews and notices of books; partly from biographical sketches and characteristic anecdotes of eminent persons; partly from descriptions of natural scenery, and the phenomena of nature: partly from education, in all its branches, including the state and condition of common schools, and literary institutions: partly from the several divisions of geography, astronomy, and natural history: partly from painting, music, sculpture, oratory, phrenology, the construction of rail-roads, canals, and internal improvements; geology, agriculture, commerce and commercial law, chemistry, manufactures and the mechanic arts, and various topics from poetry, general history, and the learned professions. And possibly, some anti-Trollope man, or anti-Trollope woman, may favor us with an anti-Trollope dissertation, on the "Domestic manners of the Americans." From all these sources, and from many more, inexhaustible mines of instruction may be opened, and their intellectual wealth brought

to light and spread before us, as a rich reward for all our toils, and held up to view, as powerful incentives to renewed efforts for further acquisitions.

But these are limited views of the amount of good to be expected from the Institution. Its blessings will, we doubt not, be much more widely diffused, and much more extensively felt. By the aid and co-operation of its committees, the interests of popular education will, it is hoped and expected, be materially advanced. The condition of our common schools will be diligently inquired into, and in co-operation with the constituted authorities of the village, every plan that an enlightened and active zeal in their behalf can devise, will be adopted for their melioration. It is almost impossible to be visionary, in our estimate of the value and importance of this most interesting subject. When we reflect that a right education, which includes, of course, a Christian education, constitutes the whole sum and substance of the difference, warp and woof, between the savage, and the civilized and enlightened state of society, we shall be satisfied that its value cannot be overrated. The purity of our civil and religious institutions depends upon it. Our political rights and privileges rest upon it, as their main pillar; and it is the keystone in the arch of our liberty and independence, as a nation. Our common schools form the very root and nourishment of the tree of Liberty, and whatever affects them, either favorably or injuriously, will soon be felt in the topmost branches. They cannot be neglected with impunity; neither can the axe of ignorance and barbarism be laid upon them, without destroying the verdure, and blasting the fruitfulness of the boughs. Let the light of knowledge be once extinguished, or essentially obscured: let a single generation grow up in ignorance, and its consequent degradation, and the noble fabric of our national glory will begin to totter; its foundations will be sapped; the rain will descend: the floods will come: the winds will blow, and beat upon the house: it will fall, and great will be the ruin of it. I fear not, that I shall be charged with extravagance and enthusiasm, on this subject: for all intelligent men agree, that knowledge and virtue are the very life-blood of a republican government, and that every friend of liberty and order should make it his "earliest and his latest care," to cherish and

promote them. Convinced as every attentive observer must be, that this fundamental interest needs a friendly hand, to foster and support it, and that notwithstanding all that has been said and done in its behalf, it is still in serious danger of essentially suffering by neglect and want of attention, the establishment of such an Institution as the Lyceum, must be regarded by all, with approbation, as eminently calculated to exert a most benign and healthful influence upon this vitally important subject.

Another valuable general interest which we hope to see materially benefited, by the operations of the Lyceum, is that of the mechanics. Many of the scientific principles, applicable to their respective occupations, will be brought to view, by the various lectures and essays on kindred subjects, that will be delivered here. These may be expected to suggest useful and valuable hints to this numerous and highly respectable class of our citizens. A great point is gained, when we can induce mechanics to think of their occupations, in reference to the principles on which they operate: to trace out and examine the connections and dependencies that subsist, between the several parts of their respective processes. The window is then opened, through which light may enter the mind, and by its aid, they will be enabled to ascertain in what way those principles are applied, and how the direction in which they act may be varied, with advantage, so as to effect improvements. And, truly, when we reflect upon the unlimited extent, to which these principles of mechanics are applied, in almost every department of life, and how absolutely necessary they have become, for the welfare of society, the acquisition of property, and the enjoyment of many of our most refined and elegant pleasures, we can no longer deny their great and commanding importance, and must assign them a high place on the scale of utility.

The elegance and beauty, as well as convenience and usefulness, of a great variety of the works of art, render them well worthy of being cherished and cultivated, and as far as possible, improved. They contribute largely to vary and heighten the gratification we derive from the powers and faculties which God has given us. The ear, for example, is charmed with the concord of sweet sounds, and dwells, with ever new delight, upon the

full and rich harmonies of song. But of how large a portion of this captivating enjoyment should we be deprived, were the mechanic arts struck out of existence. The sound of the organ and the flute, of the harp and the viol, would be heard no more. The cheerful notes of the piano forte, the deep and mellow tones of the horn, the sprightly bugle, the electrifying trumpet, the bold and aspiring clarionet, and the sweet warblings of the octave flute, together with all the beautiful and enchanting combinations of other kinds of instrumental music, would be hushed into everlasting silence: and even the high praises of Jehovah in his sanctuary would be deprived of a most efficient and delightful aid. Who would not mourn the loss of sources of enjoyment so pure and peaceful, so elevated and captivating as these?

The eye, also, is so curiously and mysteriously formed, as to become the inlet of unspeakable gratification. Its movements, rapid as "the swift winged arrows of light," baffle the skill of the ablest mathematicians to calculate, and fill the considerate possessor of it, with wonder and admiration. It spans the heavens with a glance, and travels to the most distant of the visible stars, with the speed of thought. Yet the hand of the cunning workman has contrived a machine, by which even this, most perfect of our organs, has been carried into regions of space, which it never could have reached, without this aid, and has been enabled to bring from thence intelligence of worlds, and systems of worlds, before unknown, whose very distances fill us with a deep and reverential awe of the Almighty Maker of these wondrous works. Who can behold the sky, in its clearness; who can gaze upon the crowd of splendors that enrich the firmament over our heads, and yet fail to acknowledge and adore the goodness and the power, that hung those ever burning lamps in heaven for our use? And can we set a low estimate upon those arts and occupations, that are thus instrumental in unfolding to our view such glorious displays of the wisdom and the works of God? Can we lightly esteem those employments, that contribute so largely to the improvement and happiness of man? that minister to his wants and promote his pleasure, in ten thousand ways? that range through the material universe, in search of ingredients, to be shaped, and moulded, and mingled together, in infinite varieties of form and proportion,



for man's delight and gratification? and that act in such sweet accordance with the Divine benevolence, by uniting to make all art, as well as nature, "beauty to his eye, and music to his ear?" No. We love our own ease, and comfort, and accommodation too well, to be indifferent to the welfare and prosperity of those pursuits on which they so essentially depend. But it is believed, that the good sense and virtue of this community will aid in promoting the improvement of those arts, on more enlarged and liberal principles.

The incalculable importance of the mechanic arts, to the happiness of man, cannot be denied. Without them the world itself would become a wilderness; the busy hum of industry would be changed to a deathlike silence; enterprise and activity would cease; commerce could no longer be prosecuted; manufactures would wither and die; the streams of knowledge, that now flow, in such copious abundance, from the press, would all be dried up, and the pen itself would cease to move; majestic edifices would rise no more, to greet and gratify the eye; and but for these, the splendid monument to the martyrs of liberty, now rising on Bunker's memorable hill, would have had only an ideal existence. Let the mechanic abandon the implements of his occupation, and wealth is annihilated, or becomes useless; a spirit of enterprise is utterly unavailing, for want of objects on which to exert itself, and the whole business of life is brought to a stand; and man, no longer the tenant of the commodious and elegant structures which art might erect, would be driven to the holes of the rock, and the dens of the mountain, and compelled to dispute the title, even to these miserable abodes, with their original occupants, the wild beasts and the reptiles; in truth, all that is beautiful in design, all that is harmonious in proportion, and all that is grand and magnificent in execution, essentially depends on skill and excellence in the mechanic arts. Then let them be cherished: let them be encouraged. Let us open a way, by means of the Lyceum, in which specimens of uncommon skill, and all improvements in these arts, may be exhibited and made known to the public, and their patronage and support solicited. Let us hold up all the inducements in our power to those who practice these arts, to cultivate and enlarge their minds; to acquire that knowledge which is suited to

their respective trades, and those principles of action, which are adapted to the general melioration of life.

Much may certainly be expected from the well known inventive genius of our countrymen ; for there seems to be, absolutely, no limit to it. Not content with discovering what is new, and never heard of before, which is now a very common occurrence, they go backward in the stream of time, and actually invent old things. According to an authentic account, which I lately saw in a newspaper, which we all know is the very best authority in such cases, there exists, at the present time, on the frontiers of this state, a novelty in nature. I mean a manufactory of antiquities ; where they make old stone axes, hatchets, broken pots, arrow heads, and so forth, and all, identically the same which the aborigines of this country used, hundreds of years ago. The business seems to be conducted too, with the usual success of American enterprise ; for the articles manufactured are said to be in great demand, and to be fully equal, if not superior, to any that are dug out the ground, in any part of the country ; and show the habits, manners, and customs, of the ancestors of Split Log and Red Jacket, just as well as those made by Father Time himself. Thus these ingenious mechanics have, by their skill and enterprise, opened a profitable business to themselves, and have shown to the world, that with the help of a good grindstone, they can do as much, in a few hours, towards antiquifying a stone pot, or axe, as would take old Father Time several centuries to perform ; thus making an immense saving in the important particulars of labor and expedition. This ingenious and economical establishment will doubtless receive the particular attention of our Committee on the fine arts.

One of the most pleasing anticipations of the friends of the Lyceum, is the salutary influence which it is expected to exert upon the younger part of our community, of both sexes. Every one sees, at a glance, that the sources of amusement and recreation for the young, should, if possible, be so contrived and directed, that the useful may be mingled with the agreeable. We know that the sports and plays of childhood and youth have no inconsiderable share in forming the general character for life. They are, in some degree, the bending of the twig, and from their cha-

racter and tendency, the future inclination of the tree may be calculated, with almost mathematical certainty. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it," is a precept as just and as applicable now, as it was in the days of Solomon. Pastimes, and relaxations from study, are not found to be less attractive and interesting to young persons, by being connected with literary and scientific objects. On the contrary, an additional relish is almost always given them, by this very connection; especially when the result is something of a tangible, permanent nature. The construction of a piece of machinery, the collection, classifying and labelling of a cabinet of minerals, or botanical specimens, afford, at once, occupation and wholesome exercise for body and mind. A taste for such occupations and pursuits will be favored and promoted, by the exercises of the Lyceum, and a safe and profitable entertainment will thus be furnished for the youth of the village, and an antidote provided against indulgence in many frivolous, and many pernicious practices.

Our exercises are intended, likewise, to have a beneficial influence on society at large, by introducing among us a taste for reading, for literary employments and researches, and by a general diffusion of knowledge. Their object will be, to create a literary atmosphere in the place, which shall be as pure, as wholesome, and as invigorating to the mind, as the fresh and enlivening natural breezes, for which our village is so much distinguished, are to the body. As one of the means of accomplishing this desirable object, the Board of Directors have it in contemplation to establish a library, which they hope will one day be worthy of being denominated an Atheneum, and that it will bear a creditable comparison with the splendid establishments, of that name, in Philadelphia, Boston, and in other places. A large and well arranged collection of books, judiciously selected, to which access could easily be had for the purposes of perusal or reference, would be a most valuable acquisition to the village; and by furnishing aids and facilities for literary and scientific investigations, would do much, very much, towards introducing, and keeping up a fondness and taste for learning and learned discussions. It would be a common fountain, a sort of Pierian spring, opened in the midst of

us, from which all the Lecturers and Essayists, who shall instruct and entertain us, at our future meetings, might derive an inexhaustible supply of rich and varied matter. The Committee, who have in charge this important subject, will leave no judicious measure untried, for the attainment of an object so desirable.

Its influence and operation will be in direct accordance with the spirit and genius of our government. Our constitution is founded upon the political maxim, that "all men are born free and equal." Now as "knowledge is power," it follows, as a necessary consequence, that whatever diffuses knowledge among the people, diffuses power, and so has a direct tendency to secure that "equality," which is the ground work of our political compact. A Library has this tendency: the Lyceum, in all its details, has this tendency. They will both be opened to all, upon such liberal and easy terms, that if any fail of enjoying the advantages they offer, it must be from want of inclination. This is entirely equal; perfectly republican. No doubt exists—none can exist—that such institutions as Public Libraries and Lyceums, must and will, exert a powerful influence upon the character of the place, and contribute largely to the general diffusion of knowledge, of virtue, sobriety and happiness. This, after all, is the *summum bonum* at which we aim. For if after all our exertions, we fail to promote the cause of sound learning and sound morality, we shall have spent our strength for naught, and our labor for that which satisfieth not. But to enlighten the minds of men, to enlarge their understandings, and to elevate and refine their tastes, without, at the same time, raising and improving their moral sense, appears an absolute anomaly. The two things are incompatible with each other; and therefore, if we can succeed in securing the right intellectual refinement of the community, their moral improvement may be expected to follow, as naturally, and as certainly, as the effect follows the cause. The attempt to secure this double improvement is surely worth the making, and the accomplishment of the object, should it be accomplished, will be a rich and glorious reward. "'Tis not in mortals to command success;" but we can do more—"deserve it." Without the attempt, it is certain the end can never be attained. This is true of every enterprise, that depends on labor and exertion of any kind. The cause

must operate, before the effect, that is to follow it, can be produced.

We may be asked for proofs of the beneficial effects of Lyceums, in places where they have been established, and for a series of strongly marked cases of direct and special benefit, resulting to individuals from them. I answer, that Lyceums have not been in general operation, in the country, long enough for that purpose, beyond what has already been stated. They are of very recent origin, in the form and character now presented, and to demand such proofs of their utility and value, in this stage of their progress, is to demand the fruits of harvest, as an inducement to sow the seeds, from which that very harvest is to grow. But upon general principles, we certainly know, that with respect to knowledge and literature, it is equally true, as it is with respect to religion and husbandry, that "what a man soweth, that shall he also reap." If we wish for grapes, we know that we must plant the vine, and not thorns. If we would have figs, we must plant the fig-tree, and not thistles. So if we would have learning and science flourish among us, we must establish nurseries of knowledge, and furnish the means of feeding the intellectual curiosity. Schools are of this description; but they are not adequate to answer all purposes. Lyceums are only a new application of the same principle: a mere extension of the school system to individuals, whom the stream of time has borne away from the desk, and the reciting bench; they are only a new adaptation of the very same means, which have long been in use, for the advancement of learning and the spread of knowledge. We have, then, in our past and present experience of the beneficial influence of schools, and school instruction, a foretaste of the fruits which Lyceums are expected to bear, and all the encouragement which the nature of the case admits, and all that can be necessary, in order to induce a vigorous prosecution of the plan. We have only to advance to the work, with courage and confidence, each one bearing in mind, at the same time, that in this undertaking, as in other liberal and benevolent enterprises, "he that soweth sparingly, shall reap also sparingly; and he that soweth bountifully, shall reap also bountifully."

And now, Mr. President, and members of the Lyceum, generally, I have detained you long—I fear too long—while I have

endeavored to present to your view, some of the leading characteristics and objects of the Institution we have founded. This is all which time and the occasion will allow. A full delineation of all the ways in which a Lyceum may be made useful and subservient to the cause of virtue and moral improvement, is a theme so copious and prolific, that it would require, not merely an hour of your time, but the entire space "from morn till eve, from eve till dewy morn," before it could be exhausted. My aim has been simply, to accompany you to some of its most prominent points, from which, as from an eminence, you might have a prospect of the field of our future labors, and with your mental eye, pass through it, in the length and breadth thereof. It is indeed, sir, a wide and extensive field. The eye can scarcely reach its limits; but is it not an inviting prospect? Is it not a goodly land, and are not its fields white already to harvest? Much labor, doubtless, is to be performed, and let us cheerfully perform it. The reward is glorious, and let us secure it; and while we address ourselves, promptly and unitedly, to the work, let us devoutly invoke that, without which all labor is vain, the blessing of Almighty God, upon our well intended efforts for the good of our fellow men, and assume, and act upon the motto, "onward, and upward."

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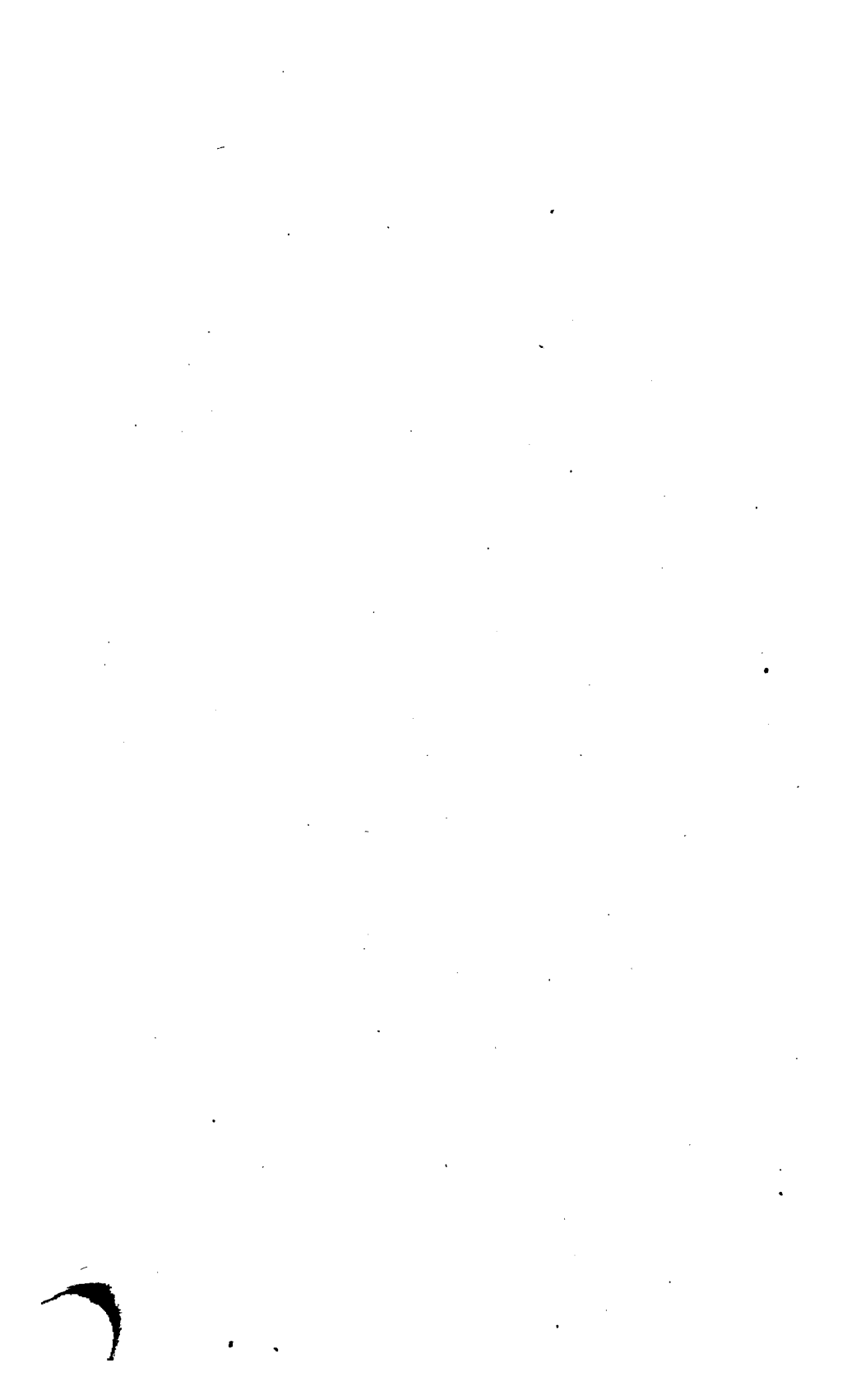
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