

indeed, than the gold of his deposits. To be able to widen the sphere of social enjoyment by stimulating to the storing and culture of the mind, is better than to regulate the rate of exchanges, and live in a princely dwelling. While it may be true also that literature is the "true ornament of leisure," it is none the less the lightener of toil. We are certain that he who, on returning to his own dwelling, from the cares, the excitements, the solitudes and the drudgery of business, withdraws into a world of thought, of tastes, of imagination and art, there renews his life, drinks inspiring draughts which the fountains of the business world do not afford, feels the true dignity of his own individual humanity, is rescued from sordid aims, is solaced into forgetfulness of the disagreeable jostlings on change, and feels within him the true glory of being a man born to know, to think, and whose truest riches is in the wealth of exalted and ennobling ideas.

These considerations, doubtless old to you, members of the Association, are worthy of renewed regard. We have taken up a line of beneficent action, not individual in its results upon ourselves, but widely related to hundreds yet to come. We most earnestly wish we could arouse anew the sensibilities of the merchants of St. Louis to their responsibility in reference to the clerks in their employ. Not one in St. Louis, of respectable position, is so without influence over his young men, that he cannot induce every one to subscribe to this association, and use its offered advantages. Then their self-interest demands it; for in no surer way will they hedge about the paths of their young men, and guard them against the immoralities and the seductive temptations which lay wait for and ensnare the vacant mind, in hours unemployed. Those temptations yielded to, lay the basis of future expensive demands, which the stipulated salary cannot meet. Something must meet them; and what so convenient, so near at hand, and so sufficient, as the intrusted funds of their employer? A generation of clerks, living without mother, sister, wife, or friend, and without that substitute for all domestic influence—good books—and caught as a moth