

We have but one other definite engagement, that with Rev. Francis Vinton, D.D. He will lecture on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings of this week.

We have several promises of lectures from gentlemen of our city, whenever they may be called upon; but the success of our lectures so far has been so indifferent, that we do not feel justified in bringing them before the public the present season.

Since the season commenced, we have been in correspondence with Sir Wm. Boyd, for a course on Ancient and Modern History; Dr. Bettelheim, for a course of six lectures, on Japan; and several others, but could not consistently undertake any engagement.

In conclusion, we would remark, that it appears to be almost useless to attempt to get successful courses of lectures before our Association, and there is but one plan that we think could be adopted with success. It is to raise a lecture fund by procuring subscribers to a list, for a series of twenty or twenty-five lectures, to be delivered during a season. Three hundred and fifty or four hundred subscribers would, at twenty-five cents each lecture, create a fund sufficient to insure the Association from any loss, and the Lecture Committee would then have some data to be governed by, so as to make engagements with able and distinguished lecturers, whose terms have hitherto precluded the idea of their visiting us. We believe with such a list of subscribers, there would be more interest taken in lectures, and that there are also many persons who would be willing to contribute five or six dollars for the purpose of assisting in that manner the promotion of useful knowledge and literary taste at a small expense. We doubt if in any other manner the present rate of admission, twenty-five cents, can be maintained and lectures ever pay expenses.

For the receipts and expenditures of the Association during the past year, we beg to refer you to the report of your Treasurer, E. P. Curtis, Esq., herewith submitted:

During the past year, you have had donated to you 157 shares of stock in the Mercantile Library Hall Company, and you are indebted to the following persons therefor: