

But while soliciting assistance from without, it is incumbent upon the Society to show that it has not been idle within. It has appropriated a large proportion of its surplus funds and revenue to this object—it is already, by purchase, in possession of most interesting geological collections, and it has received, from its own members, assurances of contributions of every class, suitable to the Rooms of a Museum. Having thus exhausted its own resources, the Society appeals to the Public for those further additions to its collection which it is in the power of almost every one to

It has long been a subject of just regret, that, while other places of inferior importance, both in point of situation and of wealth, are possessed of large and increasing collections of objects of local and general interest, the Town of Leicester has remained up to this time without its Museum.

The obvious benefits which an institution of this sort would confer will readily occur to every mind: it would serve as a public place of deposit for those various and interesting memorials of former times which, in a County like Leicester, are continually being brought to light; and which, from the want of some common place of reception, either go to enrich the Museums of distant Counties, or, falling into private hands, run the risk of being consigned afresh to the oblivion from which they have been for a season rescued. It would serve also, it may be hoped, to foster a higher tone of taste in those to whose minds a well arranged Museum would open, not only a rational and healthy amusement, but an instructive lesson in every investigation of nature, and in every refinement of art.

The establishment of an Institution of this kind was one of the original objects which the Literary and Philosophical Society of Leicester proposed to itself. That it has hitherto been a nominal one only must be ascribed, not to any deficiency of zeal or desire on the part of individual members to carry out the original plan of the Society, but to an apprehension that, in its very infancy, it would be impossible for the Society to make its effort on a scale at all commensurate with the capabilities of the County and Town of Leicester for supplying, at once a large and valuable collection.

The time has now arrived when this difficulty has ceased to exist; and consequently, in throwing itself upon the liberality of the public for support in its undertaking, the Society feels itself in a position to promise a faithful Stewardship of every object committed to its charge, and an early exhibition of the contributions which it hopes to receive, on such terms as may promise best to advance the great design which it has in view—the extension of mental Improvement in as wide a sphere as may consist with the powers of the Society successfully to enter upon.

*Leicester reflecting
the Museum*

Nov. 1840

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MUSEUM COMMITTEE

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Without, however, entering into a further detail of its hopes and plans, the Society comes confidently before the public to solicit that active co-operation which the public character of its present undertaking seems to confer a claim to. It is hoped that those whom locality or other circumstances have prevented from participating in those objects which the Society has hitherto exclusively pursued, will be found ready to aid in this most important work; and that it will be felt by every one who regards favourably the interests of Science, that the value of every object of curiosity will be greatly enhanced, when, instead of being scattered abroad over the face of the County, they shall be collected and collated together in one central spot.

Communications for the Museum Committee may be addressed to Mr. Palmer, Friar Lane, Leicester, the Honorary Secretary of the Society, who will also take charge of any objects which contributors may feel disposed to entrust to his care, until the arrangements shall be finally completed.

Sir,

I beg to call your attention to the annexed address, and to solicit your aid in support of the object which the Literary and Philosophical Society has in view.

(Signed,) J. Ryley,

President of the Society,

and Chairman of the

MUSEUM COMMITTEE.

Leicester,
24th of November, 1840.

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