

gust of winds and may have affected the level just I noted
the transit, & repaired before I could read it.

Wednesday 9 Busy computing. Immediately after tea I quickly
decide my time to solve with his school work. I find that
his perception which has hitherto been rather dull, has ma-
terially improved. There is no greater pleasure to me than
to talk with and instruct my three good boys.

— Taking a walk before tea I called in at our new
'Mechanics' Institute which is about drawing to comple-
tion. When finished it will be the ornament of Pitston,
both from an ornamental point of view and the not less
its intrinsic value as shown by the valuable library.
Now that the long desired building for a Mechanics' Institute
is an accomplished fact, the question is naturally asked
"To whom is the erection due?" The answer to this can not be
given in two words. This similar to a product of nature has
been brought about by a species of development, and in the
following manner. Amongst the directors of the Mechanics' In-
stitute there has been a desire to have rooms of their own
(instead of using the fireman's hall which also served as a council
chamber and was rather disreputable at least for a library).
This desire took definite form when I proposed and organized
the Mech. Inst. Building Club in 1883. The object of the
club was to agitate and keep alive the building scheme & at
the same time to begin a nucleus fund. Through the efforts
of the club the council was induced to submit a by-law
to the ratepayers for the erection of a public building
(town hall, Mech. inst. & fireman's hall). From certain quarters
there was opposition, one wanted a market, another set opposed
it because father was in favor of it, Sedgwick then gave from
it his quasi support, altho' at heart against it, as the in-
tention was to put the building on either of the two corpora-
tion lots & he had hopes that at a later date he could
manage to get it nearer to his store. I may say the
opposition and indifference was general, with the ex-
ception of a handful of us. But this very indifference

was our very salvation, for when the day of voting came
 comparatively few voted, but we hadly convinced
 such as would likely be influenced by us, & the result
 was that the by-law ^(§ 4000-) was carried by some 40 majority.
 This was in the spring of 1885. But the council took no
 action in that year. In the following year a new reeve
 replaced the fossil Schuetter who had worn out the civic
 chair by long occupation. - Gallaire the reeve elect
 owed his election mainly to the negative qualities of his
 predecessor coupled with his long occupancy of the chair.
 Clare was a schemer of the most pronounced type, and hence
 was unscrupulous. Municipal honors were his ambition, the
 wardenship of the County for a future hour (if it be one) prob-
 ably dawning before his eyes. How can I gain my end?
 was naturally uppermost with him. During 1886 we had
 firm that matter remained in statu quo especially as
 there was no one in the council to press the matter.
 But a brighter day awaited us. In 1887 M. A. Abbey
 was elected to the council, and with the avowed object of
 erecting the building for which the by-law had been
 carried. The other councillors were P. Thanz, Dr. Smalley
 & Peter Berubant, the latter being opposed to the scheme. -
 Mattinson (the hermit, reaper) father & I addressed
 the council on evening on the subject. Shortly afterwards
 the council accepted father's gratuitous offer for preparing
 plans & specifications (some details being arranged by an
 architect) and finally ground was broken for the ob-
 ject at hand. M. A. Abbey having heretofore labored in-
 adequately by word, always coming to father and me when
 at home for counsel or consultation, now worked by
 hand also, having been appointed by the council to
 superintend the work. - Two needs will always
 be inseparably connected with the building and they
 are Otto Klotz and M. A. Abbey, and with the
 library & institute itself probably must accord to
 Otto Klotz an immortal name.