

SKETCH OF THE ADDRESSES.

Rev. John A. Clark in the Chair, said:—I yield to no man in a sincere desire to advance the interests of this Society. I will not, however, attempt to relate its history, or give an account of its agencies and their success. Those who come after will do that. Its object—the salvation of souls—is dear to every lover of the Lord Jesus, and should enlist the good will, the prayers, and the contributions of all Christians in its behalf, without distinction of age or sex. The press is one of the greatest powers of modern times. The words of the prophet “In the making of many books there is no end,” have become verified in these latter days. Doubtless, he with true prophetic spirit, saw what a mighty influence the invention of printing would eventually have upon mankind. He saw how the advancement of philosophy, science and art, and above all how the spread of the blessed Gospel of Christ would create and stimulate an appetite for books; he saw how books would be multiplied upon earth. Seeing then, that books are now so widespread, and that they exert such an unbounded influence upon the minds of men, how necessary it is that they should be of a proper character; how necessary it is that the mental aliment with which our people are supplied, should be pure and strengthening. The press ought to be made to serve the interest of true religion, and the efforts of those who are endeavoring to extend its influence in this direction, should have our hearty co-operation and support. I believe the first book printed was the Bible, and I know that the Wesleyan branch of the Church has always made use of the press for the purpose of advancing the cause of Christ. During the period in which John Wesley was preaching his four thousand sermons and travelling 270,000 miles, he constantly made use of the press. But then there is the *mis-use* of the press—by which vicious and contaminating books and periodicals are spread abroad to vitiate and corrupt. This should be carefully guarded against and suppressed as far as is possible. As man must have something upon which to employ his mind, whether it be good or evil, it should be the aim and object of all good men to supply such literature as would promote pure and religious thoughts. As this is the aim and object of this Society, it should have the countenance and support of all good men.

The Rev. Geo. W. Hill said:—In looking back upon the past year, and in endeavoring to weigh the labors of the men who have done and

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Tract Society.

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E. Goucher, Pastor
Press, as a means of
ntary Tract Distribu-

Doxology was sung
v. J. C. Cochran, of
urned.