

Room of the Society, the mental wealth and attractions of which will be constantly receiving fresh accessions of select standard and periodical works, religious and literary ;—to its meetings for prayer which will be open to all young men disposed to attend them ;—to its Bible Classes, which, surrounding from week to week the fount of Inspiration will from thence ‘in their golden urns draw light ;’—to its courses of Lectures on Religious subjects, as well as on subjects having reference to religion, and, in a word, the employment of every other available means whereby the increase of vital religion may be promoted.* From a machinery so admirably constructed ; and plied by the zeal and energy of Christian young men ; whose years and associations give them access to a numerous and interesting class, almost precluded by their position from pastoral influence, the most blessed results may with moral certainty be anticipated.

I freely confess that I regard the rise and rapid expansion of these Societies as among the most animating signs of the eventful times that are passing over us. My spirit rejoices when I see them already numbered by hundreds ; diffusing the leaven of truth and vital piety not only in the larger cities of England and America but in France, Germany, Italy, Australia, and other portions of the world. And yet this evangelical confederacy is only in its infancy. On what a bright career of spiritual conquest may it not be privileged exultingly to look back fifty years hence !

There was a moment of surpassing interest in the history of England’s matchless hero on whom the sepulchre has just closed :—a moment, when not the dynasties and destinies of Europe merely, but the fate of the civilized

* See the 11 Article in the Constitution