

In presenting the Report, Dr Strachan had to regret its extreme barrenness, but hoped that by next year the distribution of the books would furnish materials for one most truly interesting. In the mean time, before reading the Report, he requested their indulgence in making a few remarks upon the exertions now making to extend the benefits of Christ's kingdom; for he knew of no better way of exciting a kindred spirit in those present, than by mentioning what other Christians were doing to give to nations still in darkness the blessings which they enjoyed. Of the greatness of these blessings, no person could for a moment doubt, who contrasted the condition of mankind previous to the promulgation of the Gospel, with what it is now among those who have embraced it.

In reading ancient history, we are apt to be carried away by the false glory of a few distinguished men, and filled with admiration at their exploits, we forget the general state of society: but, when we descend to particulars, we discover that nine-tenths of the people were doomed to the most abject slavery; that, if Athens numbered 20,000 citizens, possessed of some liberty, she likewise contained more than four hundred thousand slaves, who had no civil rights, no will of their own, and whose lives were entirely at the disposal of their cruel masters. In Rome, matters were still worse; one person was frequently the possessor of twenty thousand of his fellow creatures, whom he put to death at pleasure, and at all times treated in the most harsh and capricious manner. It is unnecessary to advert to the gloomy superstitions of those times; the human sacrifices that were offered on their impious altars, and the patterns of licentiousness,