

The *means* for the accomplishment of these objects have usually been—

DEVOTIONAL MEETINGS ;

CLASSES FOR BIBLICAL INSTRUCTION AND LITERARY IMPROVEMENT ;

THE DELIVERY OF LECTURES ;

THE DIFFUSION OF CHRISTIAN LITERATURE ; and

A LIBRARY FOR REFERENCE AND CIRCULATION.

The *Meetings* of the Associations are held in their rooms for the purposes of *prayer, reading the Scriptures, mutual edification and encouragement*, and for *receiving information* on all matters tending to promote the welfare of the institutions.

Any member has the privilege of introducing his friends: indeed this is one of the chief objects of these Societies. In large towns numbers of young men are to be found engaged in a variety of occupations, who by their means are quickly sought out, and there gladly find a kind and frank reception. Too often has the youthful stranger been left to make his way as best he could among the more religious portion of the community, or find a refuge in the oftentimes more congenial haunts of frivolity and dissipation.

A number of the most distinguished religious and literary men of London, and in other places, have already added to the extension of our literature, as their instructive and deeply interesting "Lectures to Young Men," have from time to time been published, after having been delivered at the meetings of these Societies. The same course of instruction is contemplated in this place, and a number of Gentlemen friendly to our object will deliver fortnight lectures, to succeed this opening Address.

So much with regard to statistics. We shall now proceed to make a few remarks on the general character and objects of these institutions, which have been greatly blessed of God in rescuing thousands and tens of thousands of young men from the paths of vice and unhappiness.

Of all the influences which exert their power over the human mind, none is so forcible as example. Men dislike precept: it implies the assumption of power, which is only submitted to when it cannot be avoided; and as this assumption (except in one memorable and marvellous instance)