

MINUTES

OF THE

GENERAL MEETING

HELD IN THE

HALL OF THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE, ON FRIDAY EVENING,
JANUARY 8, 1864.

His Honor Judge PARKER, President of the Society, in the Chair.

The proceedings commenced by singing the following hymn:—

Bless, O Lord, the opening year,
To each soul assembled here!
Clothe the word with power divine,
Make us willing to be thine!

Where thou hast thy work begun,
Give new strength the race to run!
Scatter darkness, doubts and fears,
Wipe away the mourner's tears!

Let the minds of all our youth
Feel the force of sacred truth!
While the gospel call we hear,
May they love to learn and fear!

Bless us all, both old and young!
Call forth praise from every tongue!
Let the whole assembly prove
All thy power and all thy love!

The Rev. Mr. Daniels read the first chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews, and opened his mouth in prayer.

The Judge then rose up, and in a few opening remarks, impressed upon the meeting the consideration of three things, as follows:—

1st. That all present, probably without an exception, had possessed the Bible from their earliest youth, and were unrestricted in the perusal of it; many, he trusted, were in the habit of daily perusing it, and not a few, he hoped, had profited by the saving truths it had imparted. They would then judge what their feelings would be if they were left, for however short a time, without the Bible.

2d. Many people are still destitute of this inestimable blessing. Millions are yet to be supplied in foreign lands; the translations into all the known languages are not yet completed. Even in our own country, for the use of the poor and the young, there was a continual call for renewed supplies.

3d. It was now in the power of almost every one to do something, more or