

is scarcely an invention in art or science of modern times, which was not known in theory to some of the philosophic ancients; but with the man perished the invention. The manuscript which contained the treasure was neither understood nor valued, and thus the acquisition to human knowledge was lost. Now, the diffusion of every scientific and literary achievement through the aid of printing renders such an event almost impossible, and thus the perpetuity of our discoveries is guaranteed. Hence it is that we should hail with joy the advent of every means by which learning is distributed abroad, and the masses enlightened. Hence it is that we should rejoice in the attainment of every new motive to literary and scientific distinction. Therefore it is that the true philanthropist hears with satisfaction of every new school of science, of every additional University, of every well established Mechanics' Institute. He knows full well, that knowledge imparted does not diminish the store of the teacher, and he sees in every new improvement in the education of a people, the surest means of retaining to the human family the blessings of past experience. He feels that though revolution may upturn the foundations of society, though pestilence may thin its members, though war may make havoc of the feelings and lives of a nation, yet that the possessors of knowledge are now too numerous to be wholly cut off. That should one library be consumed, another exists.—Should one or even a thousand professors of literature perish, yet that owing to the wide spread diffusion of information, there will ever be a remnant to re-construct the frame work, and elaborate to completion the Temple of Science, the products of the mind becoming like the mind itself—imperishable, immortal.

I have spoken of one of the securities possessed by the present age against the sudden decay of our knowledge, and which forbids a belief in any great liability of our inventions to the danger of passing away and being forgotten. Let me now allude to another, to one which can save our literature from corruption and consequent decay, which can foster and promote science, while it preserves it from perversion, which can direct our knowledge to good, and divert it from evil—a bulwark against the abuse of learning and the aversion to it which is sure to follow, I mean *the Christian Religion*. As a defender of that fortress by conviction and profession, let me invite the attention of the candidate for knowledge to the beneficent influence exercised by Christianity