

# Inaugural Address.

BY THE PRESIDENT.

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## To the Young Men's Christian Association Of the City of Saint John.

HAVING been chosen by you to fill a situation so pleasing to a Parent, that of President of the "YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION," and having also been requested to present the Inaugural Address, your choice and your request have afforded me the highest gratification, although in the preparation of the Address it has not been without some drawback, from the absence of those numerous precedents which are to be found on other occasions of the like nature.

I have not been successful in discovering the origin of the Societies known under the designation just referred to; but I have reason to believe they had their rise in that immense city, which may most suitably take the name of the Metropolis of the World, and where the vastness of the population would make such institutions peculiarly appropriate. In London, therefore, I find their commencement at least as early as 1844, at which time, by a report drawn up in 1850, it appears that the Young Men's Christian Association of that great city was instituted.

These Societies have been found so acceptable and so abundantly useful, that in England they now number 35; in Scotland, 5; in Ireland, 5; and in Australia, 3. France has about 40; Holland, 12; Belgium, 6; the German States, 108; Switzerland, 50; Italy, Sweden, Algiers, Malta, and Syria, 6; to which, adding 47 in the United States and Canada, and one recently established and highly prospering in Halifax, Nova Scotia, we have the grand total of 318.

It is well known that the objects for which they were established, were *The spiritual and mental improvement of Young Men.*