

APPENDIX,

NO. I.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CHESTER BRANCH SOCIETY,
AT THEIR GENERAL ANNUAL MEETING, HELD ON
MONDAY, OCT. 6TH, 1817.

1. *Substance of the President's Speech.*

GENTLEMEN,

I CONGRATULATE you on the return of this Anniversary. The peace which now generally prevails, and the growing prosperity of Bible Societies throughout a large portion of the world, fill the mind with noble ideas, and cherish the hope, that the time is fast approaching when the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters do the great deep.

The liberal support which you have hitherto given to the Bible cause, forbids a doubt of the continuance of your aid : though the pressure of the times, through the failure of the crops of some former years, and the scarcity of circulating medium, may, in the mean time, cramp your exertions, and considerably lessen, for the present year, the number of subscribers. The deficiency of our contributions does not, I am persuaded, arise from any indifference to the cause in which we are engaged. Why should we be indifferent in a cause so glorious ? Every shilling cast into our funds helps to swell the streams of that fountain, which is sending forth into every land the waters of life and salvation. How much should this consideration animate us to be steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in this work of the Lord !

I cannot conclude without congratulating you, that