

*Primary Address of the York Bible Society to their Christian Friends
of all Denominations.*

"DEAR FRIENDS,—It is with mingled feelings of regret and joy that we now address you. We regret that we have let so good a cause as the circulation of the Holy Scriptures lie so long dormant, but we rejoice that now a new stimulus is given to the work, and we hope the zeal and activity of the lovers of truth everywhere will increase, until every family and every individual of the human race shall be in possession of the word of God.

Brethren, our reason for addressing you is to inspire you, if possible, with such a zeal for the circulation of the Holy Scriptures, as nothing but death can extinguish. The cause is so good that no opprobrium can make us ashamed of it, and we hope that no difficulty or trial will ever divert us from supporting it. Its object is so extensive that we need to call on all the friends of truth to lend their helping hand. It has so many enemies that we need to arouse all the energies of the people of God to engage in the work, and to come 'to the help of the Lord against the mighty.' * * *

The Society is not disposed to cast the least reflection upon others. They know that all are accountable to God, and leave all in his hands. But, knowing in part their own responsibility, they wish to be no longer inactive in the good work, and they hereby call upon all who value the Bible to join them in promoting its circulation. They suppose that others, like themselves, have been inactive, either from want of knowing the need that exists for circulating the Scriptures, or from want of opportunity of contributing their mite in a way congenial to their feelings. The forming of the present Society removes every obstacle. Those who wish to circulate the Scriptures alone have not the opportunity, and those who wish also to circulate tracts and other good books, can do so by means of the valuable Societies that circulate such.

While this Society thinks the circulation of the Word of God, the first and great work of the people of God, they by no means despise the laudable, though inferior, exertions in which many of themselves and others are engaged. Neither do they think any apology necessary for thus addressing their Christian friends, as they think the importance of the subject far overbalances every objection that can be made.

This Society would recommend the formation of Bible Associations and Societies in town and country. Their Committee will be ready to give every information and assistance in their power for forming such, and request such as wish any advice to correspond with their Secretaries. In all such cases they recommend large Committees, every member of which should be a collector. The cause is of God, and the widow's mite may be as acceptable as the princely donation. If all heartily engage in this good work, it will soon be accomplished."

This Address (the report says) was moved by Dr. John Rolph, "who, with his usual eloquence, made a most appropriate and pathetic speech, which gratified and animated the meeting."

The Board met without delay, and a week afterwards (on the 10th Nov.) divided the town and neighbourhood into nine wards, and appointed two of its members "to call at every house in each ward, to request subscriptions, and to inquire into the wants of every person as to Bibles. They are to ascertain how much (and at what season) each can give for a Bible or Testament, the highest only cost price. They are to recommend necessitous cases to the Secretaries," etc.

On the 9th February, 1830—nearly forty-one years ago—the first Anniversary meeting of the Society was held at the *Steamboat Hotel*. At it the