

## ANNUAL ADDRESS.

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GENTLEMEN :

I congratulate you on the return of another anniversary of our Society, and, still more, on the gratifying fact, that the close of the first decade of its existence finds it still fresh and vigorous. Ten years, indeed, are not to be considered a very lengthened period in the history of a Literary Institution ; yet still it has been sufficient, in our case, to solve, in the most satisfactory manner, the question, whether or not the establishment and continuance of such a Society in this City, was possible. This is now settled beyond all dispute. The Athenæum has passed through that period which was most likely to try its strength : it has come out of it unscathed, shewing that its constitution is sound, and giving reason to cherish the hope that a long career of activity and usefulness is before it.

We have not been without those changes to which all human things are liable. Several of our members, whom we have often met at this table, have withdrawn, without any ostensible reason ; some have been called away to other lands ; and some, alas ! have been removed by death. I am thankful, that during the year that has passed, we have not been called upon to mourn the departure of any who have taken a part with us in the business of the Society, arising from any other cause than such a change in the place of their abode, as rendered their attendance upon our meetings impossible. In other respects, I am exceedingly glad to find the circle unbroken ; and that the same friendly faces that greeted me when, twelve months ago, I took my place in this chair, are still before me, now when I am about to withdraw from it.

My predecessors in office have been gentlemen of such high attainments, and their closing Addresses have been received with such well merited applause, that, I assure you, I use the language of no affected humility when I express my fears, that you will miss, in this Address of mine, many of those attractions of style and manner, which, on former occasions, have