

same time, as far as possible, to abstain from trespassing on the special topics which have been assigned to others who are expected to address you.

It is somewhat difficult to bring clearly before our view the condition of life in England at the close of the last and in the opening years of the present century. It was a time when men's minds were stirred by great questions. The old order of things was passing away, a new order was introduced. The principles of religious liberty were coming to be more legitimately applied. The great revival under Wesley was still felt. The great leader in that wonderful movement left the stage only just before the close of the last century. Men were beginning to inquire concerning their obligations to carry the Gospel to the destitute in various parts of the earth. In 1787 William Carey, who was afterwards acknowledged to be one of the foremost linguists of his day, was a pastor at Moulton, with a salary of \$80 a year. In 1792 the Baptist Missionary Society of England was formed at Kettering, and soon after this Carey and his companions were sent to India. Andrew Fuller, who was acknowledged by all who knew him, to be one of the ablest theologians of that period, did not die until 1815. John Ryland, Robert Hall and John Foster lived till a still later date. These were household names among the Baptists in England in the first quarter of this century. To know such men, to hear them, to live in a society quickened by their thoughts, stimulated by their purposes and moulded by their culture, was of itself a valuable education. John Howard died in 1790, Burke in 1797. In the same year appeared Wilberforce's *Practical View of Christianity*, which passed through fifty editions in about fifty years. The society for the suppression of the slave trade was organized in London in 1787. After repeated attempts and failures on the part of the friends of the measure, the bill for the suppression of the slave trade, having passed both houses of Parliament, received the royal assent on the 25th of March, 1807. It was not till August 28, 1833, that slavery in the British colonies was abolished by Act of Parliament; and in the same year Wilberforce, the great advocate of this reform, died. Pitt and Fox closed their labors in the first years of the century, but Canning and Brougham were positive forces in the direction of public affairs till a much later date. The period before us was marked by genuine power and honorable achievement in literature. It displays a large