

In such circumstances, the Bible is to them a light and a sure guide.—Should not this stimulate us to facilitate its spread, and rejoice in every assistance afforded us in the benevolent work.

On the whole, Sir, what happy effects may we not reasonably anticipate from the universal distribution of the Scriptures. May we not confidently affirm, with holy rapture in our hearts, that we see the dawning of those days when we shall not have to say to our neighbour, know ye the Lord? but when all shall know him, from the least unto the greatest, when the glory of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the great deep? With these views and these feelings, I beg leave to submit as one of the Resolutions of this Meeting

That this Society congratulates the Province on the increasing number of Associates for the distribution of the Scriptures.

A Sketch of the Church of England continued.

DR. BRAY'S ASSOCIATES.

The libraries formed by Dr. Bray, were for the most part parochial; those which the Associates have established are of two kinds, partly parochial and partly lending libraries; and slender as their resources have been, up to the present time, their Register contains ninety of the former description, and fifty-four of the latter. So that two hundred libraries distributed throughout all the Dioceses in the kingdom, are the present result of their own and their founder's labours. The present Associates do not much exceed eighty. Half of the English Bench, and of the inferior Clergy, thirty-five being included in that number; but an object so obviously calculated to encourage clerical industry, and to raise the

standard of Christian knowledge in general, by the improvement which will grow out of it in the instruction of the Clergy; in an age and country like ours, can only want to be known, in order to be more liberally supported.

The Reformation, amongst its other blessings, restored the Clergy of the Church of England "to the charities of domestic life," but it did not restore to them "that portion of their revenues, which in the darkness of a more corrupt age, had been alienated to Monastic & Conventual uses," whilst these were rendered more than ever necessary, in consequence of the families springing up around them, and looking up to them for support.

This insufficiency was, even at that time, felt and lamented; and the provision in Edward's 5th's Charter, for the founding of Christ's Hospital, which made the children of the Clergy equally eligible into that institution, with those of the freemen of London, manifests a strong disposition to mitigate an evil, which the speculating spirit of those times would not allow the government effectually to redress.

Feast of the Sons of the Clergy.

Other remedies in time succeeded, and the first that claims our attention is, the Association known by the name of THE STEWARDS OF THE FEAST OF THE SONS OF THE CLERGY, now nearly two centuries old. The object of which continues to this day the same that it was at its original formation, viz. to raise a sum of money by annual collection, to meet the painful exigence to which the poorer Clergymen are reduced, when the education of their children is completed, and fee is required, in order to their being apprenticed to some trade or handicraft, in which they may earn an honest livelihood, and become useful members of society.

Such has been the general appropriation of this fund ever since its creation; but being the product of