

them. Now here, in the business hours of the day, here are men, business men, who have left their engagements, professional men and Christian women, engaged in every good work. Now, what has caused these good citizens to meet together? What cause is worthy of such high endorsement? For what is this building erected? It is a cause that lies near to our hearts, the hearts of all, for as the Bible stands sublimely, in measureless superiority, the book of books, the Kohinoor among diamonds, man's undying treasure, God's eternal truth, and is dear to us all,—so this house, which is to be a centre for its publication and diffusion, must have a claim upon the support and sympathy of all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and truth. This is a building of which this city, nay, the whole country, should be proud. We rejoice in the growth of our city, and since Jesse Ketchum first came here,—Jesse Ketchum, whose name will be forever linked and associated with this spot, since he came to muddy little York, it has grown into a very great city, a large and stately city, stretching far on every side. But what are the buildings of which we should be justly proud? Not merely the public buildings, the warehouses, the railway depots, the banks, counting-houses, markets, exchanges,—but rather our churches and schools, our institutions of benevolence and philanthropy, which are provided to cover almost every human need.

As a general rule you will find man working in his own interests,—we are all after money. “If the King of Mexico has gold, tell him that I and my companions are afflicted with a disease of the heart that is cured by gold,” said the Spaniards. Oh, this disease of the heart, how it is cured by gold. But what is the true use of gold, what is the true use of money? Not to minister to self-indulgence; but rather to multiply the bonds of union between ourselves and our fellow men; to give adequate support to all institutions that minister to the intellectual, social and spiritual life of the people. Now, this work has been done, and well done; the gentlemen who have had it in hand are not those who are in the habit of putting their hand to a work and leaving it half finished or partly accomplished. The work has been well done and well finished, in all its appointments. What a contrast between this and the old building! Toward the expense we have had many contributions. We have had generous offerings from the wealthy, and smaller, though not less generous, gifts from those not so wealthy, and I trust that every dollar of the indebtedness will speedily be cleared off. Sometimes we build for the future, and leave the future to pay. We ask, what is the use of being so anxious for posterity, for what has posterity done for us? Well, it seems to me that this building should not only be formally, but really the property of these two Societies.

Then again I take it that this building is a bond of sympathy between the churches, all the churches of our Lord Jesus Christ. As the venerable Archdeacon has said,—upon the platform of these two societies Christians of every name stand side by side, forgetting their little points of difference, and uniting, hand in hand, heart to heart, as brothers in Christ, in carrying on the good work. We all have a common interest in the work. The foundation of our common faith is the Bible, and we must therefore use our best efforts to put the Bible, and kindred books, into our homes and schools, our courts and counting houses, into our hearts and into our lives, and from this centre let these precious books go out; and if we could to-day look into the future and see all these Bibles and good books that shall go out into our churches and schools, into our costly mansions and our humble cottages, on our railway trains and steamboats, into prisons and asylums and jails; could we see how these books shall be read by parents in their homes, and children in their schools; could we see how many hearts shall be cheered, and