

" But, while relying on the prophetic word, we rejoice in
 " the anticipation of a period, however remote, when this
 " glorious light shall shine in all the fullness of meridian
 " splendour, diffusing life and joy to the remotest corners
 " of the earth, we have the satisfactory assurance, that we
 " are discharging a Christian duty of paramount obligation,
 " comprehending in its object the glory of God and the sal-
 " vation of man. It is our endeavours to raise our fellow
 " creatures from this state of moral degradation and spiritu-
 " al darkness; resulting from ignorance of the word of God,
 " in which such numbers of them are still unhappily placed,
 " leading them to the pure inexhaustable fountain of hea-
 " venly wisdom, from which they may derive light and know-
 " ledge to guide them through the intricacies of their mor-
 " tal pilgrimage, and the hope of everlasting bliss in the
 " life to come; and imbibe that spirit of love which gives
 " animation and warmth to the charities which constitute
 " the ties and happiness of all human relations: and our
 " satisfaction is enhanced by the confidence, that it is an
 " undertaking in unison with the gracious purposes of a
 " merciful God, who wills ' that all men should come to the
 " knowledge of the truth,' and who, on opening the springs
 " of eternal felicity, proclaimed to the uttermost bounds of
 " the earth, ' Let him that is athirst come, and whosoever
 " will, let him take of the water of eternal life freely.'

" This gracious invitation has been proclaimed to the
 " world through the instrumentality of the Bible institutions;
 " and the eagerness delight and gratitude with which it has
 " been accepted by thousands, authorize the pleasing con-
 " viction, that the water of life has not been distributed in
 " vain. Indeed we have ample evidence to support this
 " conviction. We have the testimony of those who have
 " penetrated the abodes of sorrow, disease and crime, into
 " which the word of God had been introduced, perhaps for
 " the first time, by this, or a kindred Society, that they had
 " the happiness to find in them many witnesses to its cheer-
 " ing and consoling efficacy.

" We have satisfactory information of its influences in
 " promoting extensive moral reformation. We have Catho-
 " lic attestation, that in schools of that Communion ' a new
 " spiritual life, a sense of, and taste for religion, an aspira-
 " tion after higher heavenly objects, had been excited in
 " many youthful minds, by the perusal of the New Testa-
 " ment, and that impressions had been made on them, which