

of Common Prayer, a great reduction of its price was obtained, with a view to the benefit and increase of that denomination of Christians throughout the United States, whose wants, interests, and religious feelings could not be separated from those of the same persuasion in this State. In relinquishing all profit arising from the sale of the Prayer Book; in surrendering this source of revenue, and thus diminishing the number and extent of their own immediate distributions, the Managers it is believed have greatly extended the circulation of the Book of Common Prayer. The pleasure and credit of being themselves the public instruments of spreading it, co-extensively with the funds that might be derived from the loan of their stereotype plates in this city, was superseded by the paramount duty of rendering the Book of Common Prayer accessible to every Episcopalian throughout the Union, either by gratuity, or by cheapness of price, as might best comport with the feelings or ability of individuals. The operation of this plan, in relation to the price of the book, has realized the expectations of the Managers. Instead of a diminution of the sales of booksellers, they have witnessed an unexampled demand for the Book of Common Prayer:—in addition to the number circulated in the name of the Society, it is believed that twenty thousand copies have been sold in this city, and that the amount of sales of the Prayer Book during the last year is wholly unprecedented. The interests of individuals have been made subservient to the worship of the Church, and the homage of private sacrifice is paid to the public dissemination of the truths of Christianity.

The Managers would call the attention of the members to the animating reflection that is derived from a retrospect of the few years that have elapsed since the organization of the Society, in 1816. The copies of the Book of Common Prayer, circulated during the first year of its

operations, were printed with the ordinary type, and cost the Society forty-seven cents a copy. In 1817, they procured the first set of stereotype plates* of the Prayer Book in this city, and, perhaps, the only set at that time in this country: by means of it, there was an immediate reduction of ten cents a copy in the price of the book; and in 1818, a further reduction of seven and a half cents was obtained. Societies and individuals, who wish supplies of Prayer Books for gratuitous distribution, are furnished at the rate of thirty cents per copy, the exact cost of the book to this Society. A neat, well bound copy of the Book of Common Prayer, may now be purchased at retail for thirty-seven and a half cents, which, at the formation of the Auxiliary New-York Bible and Common Prayer Book Society, could not be had, of equal good type, paper, and binding, for less than seventy-five cents. In the short space of two years, five or six sets of stereotype plates have been made of the Book of Common Prayer; three of them may be said to be in constant use in this city;—one set has been purchased and taken to Baltimore, from which the Bible and Prayer Book Society of that place is supplied; and one or two sets of plates may be purchased in this city, at from twenty to thirty per cent. less than the price of the first set that was executed in this country.

The Managers cherish the hope, that Societies, similar to this, will be organized in the southern and west

* This set was cast for the Publishers of this Journal, who, in order to favour the views of the Society, transferred them at prime cost. During the year 1818, the Publishers caused two other sets of the Prayer Book to be cast for their own use; and there have also been cast, under their inspection, two sets of plates of the Prayer Book, in octavo, one for the New-York Bible and Common Prayer Book Society, and the other for the Common Prayer Book Society of Philadelphia.