ADDRESS
OF THE
COMMITTEE APPOINTED
BY THE
BIBLE SOCIETY OF KENT COUNTY.

Fellow Citizens of Kent
County and its Vicinity.

THAT nothing is more important to mankind than the culture of religious principles, is one of these truths which all acknowledge and few feel. The observation is so familiar and common that it passes through the mind without making any impression. It is however manifestly erroneous, to neglect any truth because it may want the charm of novelty. Though the importance of religion, and the advantages of cultivating this holy principle in the understanding in order that it may have a suitable influence on the heart and conduct, have been admitted by men of intelligence and reflection, and have been inculcated upon the human family from time immemorial; though the familiarity of the sentiment may in some cases have retarded or weakened its influence; still the sentiment is correct and weighty; religion is a subject of infinite moment; it demands the closets attention of the mind, the warmest affections of the heart.

In order that the affect produced by the culture of religious principle be in any great degree salutary, it is necessary that the principles inculcated be true. The Author of our existance being the only object of religious service, the motives from which that service, must flow and the manner in which it must be directed so as to be acceptable, must be the subject of *revelation*.—That such a revelation has been communicated and accompanied by a degree of evidence abundantly sufficient to produce conviction, is a point about which there can be among christians but one sentiment. This communication is contained in the Bible. In this book our attention is called to the declaration of Gods will—the method by which everlasting felicity may be secured—exhortations the most impressive to adopt this method both in principle and in practice, accompanied by sanctions the most glorious and at the same time the most awful. In this book the nature of the Supreme Being—his dispensations to the human family—the immortality of the soul—a future state of rewards and punishments—the resurrection of the body, together with other points of doctrine, having a close affinity with our best interests, are developed with equal perspicuity and fulness. In this book we are taught to recognize, the eternal, almighty, omniscient Jehovah as our "Father," to whom, we who by nature are at a distance, have been brought near by the death of his son, whose sacrifice has fully satisfied divine justice. In this book we are taught to seek and expect the influence of the Holy Spirit, by which the mind naturally "cleaving unto the dust," and insensible to objects most interesting and elevated, "quickened to a new and holy life, becomes possessed of a renovating principle, whereby "things not seen and eternal" predominate in efficacy over "things seen and temporal." The instructions which the Bible contains are adapted to every situation and character. It contains all that is necessary in order to convert the deplorably wretched state of mankind by nature, into the ineffably blissful situation of the children of God. Here, whatever is necessary to enlighten the understanding upon those topics with regard to which light and felicity are inseparable—whatever is necessary to reform the will and incline it to make choice of the best objects—whatever is necessary to regulate the affections, is offered to our use.——Here, under the pressure of various burdens, the truest source of consolation is extended—The breast of woe has never uttered tones too deeply wretched for the views which the Bible contains to turn into songs of thanksgiving, or a steady, calm sentiment of resignation. If it be asked, "where is the foundation of the Christians hope—where is the depositary of his treasure, the rich and inexhaustable fountain of his satisfactions and sublimest emotions to be found? we answer, in the pages of his Bible."* For there he forms an acquaintance with himself, being taught that "by nature he is a child of wrath;"—there he is introduced to his Saviour, by whose atonement and intercession he is brought into a state of grace;—there he reads with feelings of the purest joy, that "it is a faithful saying," perfectly *credible* and rational, though it be in the highest degree amazing, "that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners."

Fellow citizens who possess and who appreciate the volume of inspiration, suffice us to suggest the remark, that i is a gift to the importance and value of which, our most lively feelings of gratitude, even when they are expressed in unbounded admiration and love of its author and in habitual attention to its injunctions, can bear no proportion. It is the word of God; we ought to raise it high in our estimation: it is Jehovah that speaks; reverence and attention become every hearer. But is this all that is due? We think not. On the contrary we are persuaded, that if it be the duty of those among whom Divine Providence has distributed the good things of this life to impart a portion to their indigent brethren, it is no less obligatory upon those into whose bosoms have been poured the treasures of Heaven to deal out to the hungry that bread which giveth life unto the world, to invigorate the fainting soul with that "living water" of which "whosoever drinketh shall never thirst," to afford to the naked the means of clothing themselves with that wedding garment which is the badge & characteristic of all all those who shall be admitted to the entainment of the "King" of Heaven. The Christian world seems at the present day to be peculiarly alive to this most benevolent and most interesting duty. A vast variety of associations has been formed, the professed object of which is to advance the Redeemers Kingdom.——Among these associations, Bible Societies hold an elevated, perhaps we might say the most elevated standing. Through their agency, innumerable multitudes of mankind oppressed by a "a darkness that might be felt" have opened their eyes to the light of life. They have received the Bible and by it have become "wise unto salvation." Like the Berrans they have "searched the scriptures," & found that they are profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."——The beneficial tendency of these institutions and the actual good that has resulted from these operations, the limits of the present address will not permit us to point out. The experience of their very great utility has multiplied their numbers and excited the zeal of their members, in a degree which the most sanguine expectation could not reasonably have anticipated. In Europe, within the last twelve years, hundreds of Bible Societies have been formed, the beneficial effects of which have been conspicuous in their own neighborhood, and extensive in that part of the world which is yet unchristianized. The bright example has been imitated by our own nation. In the United States, there are at least one hundred and ten associations of this description †——Much indeed has been "done as our Lord hath "commanded," and yet there is room" for further exertion. There is room for exertion in *our* neighborhood. Fellow Christians, let us then exert ourselves. Whilst our brethren of every name and every country are earnest labouring to advance this object so beneficial, so praise-worthy, so glorious, shall we "sit all the day idle?" Can we bear to see the Christian world all alive and active in the promotion of the Gospel, and not participate in their "labours of love?" Can we hear the trumpet of Salvation sounding through the earth, and not wish to give augmented force to its blast? In our own names and in your names, fellow-citizens we answer, no. In an object *so* highly honourable to the human character we will participate; we will no longer be excluded from so delightful an employment. In an object of such extensive utility, an object requiring unbounded exertion, we will co-operate, braving in mind the Apostolick exhortation and promise, "let us not be weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap if we faint not."

In order that our co-operation with our Christian brethern in spreading a knowledge of religion may be then more advisable to establish a Bible Society. On the 5th Inst. such a society was formed, the annexed constitution adopted and a committee appointed to address the Citizens of the County and vicinity, inviting their attention and assistance. We have therefore fellow-citizens earnestly to impress the propriety and the duty of attaching yourselves to this institution.——We say duty, because however the indifference of mankind or their want of ardor in doing good may seem to contradict the sentiment, yet it is a truth to which we must all assent, that to promote a benevolent and useful object is not a matter of inclination only but of positive injuction. Not to do injury is a partial observance of our duty; to do good when our situation and circumstances make it practicable is equally imperative an obligation. All denominations of Christians acknowledges the Bible as the true genuine source of vital religion; we therefore solicit the union of all in extending the knowledge of its doctrines. The object of the Society is twofold: first to supply with copies of the holy Scriptures our own poor who may be destitute; and then to assist in spreading a knowledge of the Gospel by means of the Bible among idolatrous or superstitious Pagans. It may be thought perhaps by some, that to establish a society and adopt any plans for the promotion of the former part at least of this object, is quite superfluous; that our poor who can read are supplied with Bibles. The best information collected on this subject satisfies us of the incorrectness of this opinion. We do not entertain a doubt, that there are many poor around us who are destitute of the word of God; nor do we entertain a doubt, that it is *our duty* to furnish them with copies, least they "perish for lack of knowledge." But were we to admit that our own poor are sufficiently supplied, an admission however not warranted by fact how forcibly fellow-citizens would it appeal to our gratitude, our sensibility, how powerfully would it urge upon us "who have bread enough and to spare" the duty of distributing to our brethren of mankind who suffer "with hunger?" If our vicinity is so well supplied with the source of divine truth as to ny endeavours to encrease its suppecessary, then is our obligation dto send the same source of truth t who are unable though anxiousirous to procure it.

We are the menest to solicit and the more confideexpect the patronage of this insti by our fellow-citizens, on accouhe influence which we may reasonalpe will result from it on our own cher and circumstances. What can a greater tendency to keep alive ur harts the holy principle of our ion, nan to unite in an institution whobjec is to disseminate that Book vh cotains its developement?—Wl we pread the sacred fire, is it no easnable presumption that in our n harts its ardour may be enkindle while we assent in extending "the cef the Son of God" so that "the verdd may hear and live," is it not hl probable, that by it we ourselves ne in a greater degree excited to n that "one thing" which the judgeur lives has long ago decided to n all cases "needful."

Among other vantages which may be rationally antiated from this institution, we regaith much satisfaction its probable hay influence on those political animosit vhich have so greatly relaxed the bls of private and social intercourse. he prosecution of any temporal purse by means destructive of that brothly love which should unite Christie is so adverse to the genuine spirit the Gospel, that the cultivation of trchristian charity must moderate if remove the harshness and violence of pejudice which we too often find to orignte solely in a difference of political tents. Persons who are unknown to en other except by party designations d party prejudices will here be broug into union, and led to see that whanay correctly be deemed errors on olitical subjects does not necessariluin every good and generous princip nor eat out like a gangrene the feeling of humanity. By co-operating with ch other in this benevolent employent, mutual asperities will be worn off, the politician eagerly & unrelentingoy pursulng the interests of his party, will yield to the christian anxiously promoting the spiritual and eternal interest of all his brethern, by means best adapted to advance their temporal felicity.

We have thought it unnecessary to adduce many arguments in order to ensure the co-operation of our fellow-citizens. While all Christendom is exerting its mighty influence in the advancement of the faith of the Son of God; we do not believe that they would *choose* to be excluded from the honour of increasing in some degree the measure of that influence. When the nations, and the districts, and the cities, and the individuals who have promoted among mankind a knowledge of the Gospel shall be reckoned over inbright and honourable succession, [illegible] cannot bear the thought and we will not harbour the suspicion, that in no part—not even the least honourable—will our name be found; that we shall have to blush for neglect of an object so honourable to its promoters, and so acceptable to God.

CONSTITUTION.

We whose names are hereto subscribed agree to form ourselves in a society to be governed by he following Constitution viz:

Article 1st—This society shall be named "The Bible Society of Kent County, Maryland."

Article 2nd—All prsons who shall pay the sm of two dolars, agreeig to pay the same sum annually, shall become memers of the society; or all prsons who shall pay the sm of thirty dollars, shall become members during lie.

Article 3d—The fficers shall consist of on president, two vice-presients, a treasurer, one corrsponding secretary, one ecording secretary & twelv managers. These officrs shall be chosen at the aniversary meeting by a marity of votes and continuein office until another elecon. The number of mangers may be increased oliminished as the society nay think proper.

Article 4th—The general purposes of the sciety shall be executed bthe president, vice-presents and managers, who hall also have power to mae by-laws subject to alterion by the society.

Article 5th—The resident shall preside at al meetings, preserve orderegulate debates, and shall have no vote, except in cses of equal division. In cae of the absence of the resident, his duties shall devolve upon the senior ice president, in case of hisabsence, upon the junior ice president.

Article 6th—The unniversary meeting of thesociety shall be holden at Chester Town on the first Monday in August, at 10 oClock, A. M.—The president may call special meetngs of the society, whenever in his judgment they may conduce to the interests of the society.

Article 7th—The treasurer shall exhibit annually a statement of all monies received and paid by him, and shall give bond to the president under a penalty of one thousand dollars, with such security as he may require.

Article 8th—Twenty five members shall constitute a quorum, who shall be competent to the transaction of business, a smaller number may adjourn.

Article 9th—Any member may be permitted to resign after he shall have paid all arrears.

Article 10th—This constitution shall not be altered except by the votes of two thirds of the members present. In all other cases a majority shall decide.

From the Georgia Journal, August 14.

NEWS!

It will be seen by the following letter from colonel Clinch to the executive of this state, that the Fort on Apalachicola Bay in East Florida, where the ruffian Nicholls commanded a motly force of British, Indians and Negroes, during the last war, and which has since been occupied by runaway negroes and hostile Indians, was completely destroyed by our troops on the 27th ultimo. Mr. Hughes, the bearer of col. Clinch's letter to governor Mitchell, and who accompanied the detachment of our troops on that expedition, states, that the celebrated chief M'Intosh, with a considerable number of Indians, had reached the Fort and commenced an attack upon it, (which had continued several days) before the arrival of colonel Clinch's detachment. The fire was returned by those in the fort, but no injury sustained on either side. While colonel Clinch was erecting a battery to play on the fort, three of the Gun Boats from New Orleans arrived below it. In ascending the bay, 7 men who had landed from one of these boats, were attacked by the negroes and six of them killed; the seventh made his escape by swimming. The Gun Boats having been brought up (by order of colonel Clinch) opposite the Fort, commenced firing on it with heavy ordnance.

After the proper elevation of the gun had been ascertained by three or four discharges, a hot shot was fired, which penetrating 100 barrels of powder, created a dreadful explosion which our informant supposed must have killed more than an hundred, the others were taken prisoners without making further resistance.

C of a letter from Lieutenant colonel ncan L. Clinch, to his excellency vernor Mitchell, dated

"*Camp Crawford, Aug.* 4, 1816.

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I have the honor to inform you, that on the 28 h ultimo, the Fort on the Apalachicola, in East Florida, defended by one hundred Negroes and Choctaws, and containing about two hundred women and children, was completely destroyed. I have the honor to enclose you the names of the negroes taken, and at present in confinement at this post who say they belong to citizens of the State of Georgia. I have given the chiefs directions to have every negro that comes into the nation taken and delivered up to the commanding officer at this post, or at Fort Gaines."

Postscript to Cobbett's Weekly Register—No. 14.

The Prince Regent was bro't to town seven days ago. He has held, what is called *a Court*; but nobody besides the Ministers have *seen* him, with the exception of the *Recorder of London*. It is, as I said some numbers back, *Dropsey* which he has.—The *fright* has had an effect upon his mind, long become feeble, snd tainted, perhaps, with hereditary insanity. What a sight is here for a people like the English to behold! How ashamed must every man of sense and spirit feel at this sight!—What a warning for the people of America? Surely these things cannot be long tolerated!—This man expends, *on himself and immediate associates*, more every WEEK than the President of the United States is allowed for a year. His STAY MAKER and *milliner* receive more out of the English taxes than Mr. Madison receives out of those of America. And yet, the Cossacks of New England said that they would prefer the British government, *monarchy and all*. Really if they should still be of the same opinion, and will but just move over to Nova Scotia, or go up to New Brunswick, I do not know but we might consent to their having some of our hopeful race to reign over them.—Not the Regent! oh, no! He is too precious an article for us to spare.——Suppose we resign the Duke of York and Mrs. Clarke to them? They are both subscribers to the Bible Societies in London, and I dare say, that under the influence of the Cossack Priesthood they would make a most Royal Pair.

FROM THE OHIO MONITOR.

VERY SWIFT COMPOSITORS.

We mentioned in our paper, a few weeks since, the performance of a large day's work by one of our apprentices.—On Wednesday (the 24th July) a younger lad, E. J. Griswold, brother to one of the editors, composed from manuscript copy, 9,144 m's, and on Friday following, he composed 12,000. This raised the ambition of the lad, whose day's work we mentioned before, and on Friday last he composed 13,082 m's.

Extract of a letter from a lieutenant of the American navy, attached to the Mediterranean squadron to his friend in Virginia.

"U. S. SHIP WASHINGTON,
Gibraltar Bay, July 6, 1816.

"I wrote you on the morning of our arrival, when I supposed we should not remain here more than 12 hours——some days, however, have elapsed, and we are still in Gibraltar. The Java arrived yesterday, and we are momentarily expecting to see the Constellation and Erie; this I presume accounts for our delay.

"Our minister Mr. Pinkney, is treated with much attention by the Governor, &c. and has dined on shore. The English officers seem disposed, on all occasions, to be very attentive; and I hope there is no desire on our part not to reciprocate the feelings.

"The Dutch fleet, under Admiral Van Capell, consisting of four frigates & one sloop of war, is laying in the Bay; he has been off Algiers, but failed in the negociation, and is now waiting the arrival of a reinforcement from Holland, when he contemplstes a second visit. The Dutch officers have also been very civil, and profess great friendship for the United States.

"I was this morning introduced to the above Admiral, who appeared to be well acquainted with my character, as he said, from English accounts. He expressed much surprize to find me so young a man, saying, 'it was no use for the Americans to go to sea to acquire their profession, for it appeared to be their birthright.'

"I should infer, from all I can learn, that a war, either with Spain or some of the Barbary powers, is by no means an improbable event: and that too at no far distant period."

MONTREAL, (Can.) Aug. 17.

On Thursday last, a gentleman arrived in this city, from Sault Ste. Marie, with very disagreeable reports from the Red River Settlement, of which so much has been said and written, for a while past. It is said that a dispute had arisen between the Indians and some of the Hudson's Bay Company's officers, about an escort of provisions; that the parties came to blows, and that in the contest 21 of the Hudson's Bay people were killed, including the Governor, Mr. Semple.

As this melancholy report is given variously, we forbear saying any thing farther on the subject, until we get intelligence in an unquestionable shape, and from a pure source. There is also another gloomy report of a party of Hudson's Bay traders, twenty in number, having gone last winter to Arathepascow Lake, where seventeen of them perished for the want of provisions—the other three were saved by getting to *one* of the posts of the North West Company. It is reported too, that Mr. Duncan Cameron, one of the North West Company's agents, has been made a prisoner by one of the Hudson's Bay Company's officers, and carried to York Factory. Such are the disagreeable rumors now in circulation.

MEMORABLE FACTS.

It is now discovered and proved that the butcheries and proscriptions commited on French Republicans by *Robespierre*, were caused by the secret agency of the emigrant Royalists at Coblentz—Louis the Eighteenth particularly: it is now known, and will ere long appear in history, that many excesses of the French Revolution were produced by the emissaries and gold of England, in order to blacken the fame of a Republic.

N. Y. Paper.

Mr. JOHN SCOTT, late of the city of Edinburg, chemist, has bequeathed to the corporation of the city of Philadelphia, 3000 dollars of the three per cent. stock of the United States, to be applied to the same purposes as Dr. Franklin's legacy, and the further sum of 4000 dollars of the same stock, the interest of which to be laid out in premiums for the discovery of useful inventions. We are informed that this very laudable and liberal bequest has recently been received by the Treasurer of the Corporation.

Phila. paper.

BOSTON, Aug. 2

GUADALOUPE OPEN.

A letter received at Newburyport on Thursday last, from Guadaloupe, states that on the 25th July, the French flag was hoisted there, and that American vessels were permitted to enter.

LATEST FROM ENGLAND.

Sunday evening, 9 o'clock:——The Courier, Capt. Prince, has just arrived from Liverpool, in a passage of 35 days. Our London papers, by this arrival, are to the 17th July, 11 days later than before received. Nothing materially interesting.

A telegraphic despatch from St. Malo (says the Courier of July 16) announces, that the English are determined to send an expedition to destroy the town and government of Algiers, which refuses to listen to any terms: the British Funds had advanced 1 per ct, and a general confidence returned among the mercantile classes of society; attributable, chiefly, to the general state of peace, and the prospect of its long continuance; no failures had taken place in the city for the last 10 or 12 *days*; Lord Exmouth had not left England—but would sail for the Mediterranean the last of July. The French flag, (and the only one in Europe) is respected by the Barbary powers.——The Mercantile House of Messrs. Bruce,

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* Ch. 66, vol. 13th. page [illegible]

† There are in New Hampshire 2 Bible societies—Massachusetts 8; Rhode Island 2; Connecticut 2, Vermont 10; New-York 25; New Jersey 5; Pennsylvania 13; Delaware 1; Maryland 5; Dist. of Columbia 1; Virginia 13; North Carolina 1; South Carolina 2; Georgia 1; Ohio 6; Kentucky 1; Tennessee 2; Louisiana 1; Mississippi Territory 1; Indiana Do. 4; Missouri Do. 1; Illinois Do. 1.—Whole number in the United States is 108." See joint Report of the Bible Society of Delaware, page 16. Since the publication of this report the American Bible Society has been formed, also a society intended embrace the Eastern Shores of Virginia and Maryland.