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"SPEAK UNTO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, THAT THEY GO FORWARD."—Exodus xiv., 15.

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Religious Intelligence.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

We are indebted to the Supplement of the *Bible Society Reporter*, for the amount of proceedings at the Jubilee meetings held in London in March last. We give extracts from the speeches delivered at the Special Public Meetings, as largely as our limits will allow:—

On March 7th, 1853, at eleven o'clock, the first Meeting to celebrate the commencement of the Society's Fiftieth Year was held at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate Street, in the room where it was established in 1804; the Right Honourable the Earl of Shaftesbury, the President, in the Chair, succeeded by the Right Rev. Dr. Carr, late Bishop of Bombay.

The proceedings were commenced by reading the 97th Psalm, after which the Noble Chairman alluded to the extraordinary circumstances under which the Committee and friends of the Society had assembled.

The Jubilee Secretary read interesting letters from several distinguished friends of the Society, from the officers and Committees, of Foreign Bible Societies, and of other Institutions; and some resolutions were made.

On Tuesday, March 8, at twelve o'clock, the Special Public Meeting was held at Exeter Hall, in the Strand. The Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, President, in the Chair, was well supported by the attendance of several Vice-Presidents, and unusually large number of Ministers and others, who occupied the platform, while the body of the Hall was thronged in every part.

On Wednesday, March 9, a Sermon, commemorative of the establishment of the Society, was preached in St. Paul's Cathedral by His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury. The text chosen for the occasion was Isaiah xxxii. 20, "Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters," &c.

SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING.—The noble Chairman, after reading a letter from Chevalier Bunsen, expressing deep interest in the Society, and referring to the celebration of the Jubilee in the Churches of Prussia on the 13th March, then said—We are now at the commencement of the Fiftieth year of the life of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and most thankful ought we to be to Almighty God, who has permitted us to see and to enjoy an event the like of which, until this day, has never been known in the whole history of the Christian world. This Society, from the smallest beginnings, and with the slenderest means, but with the highest design—a design to spread over the surface of the whole habitable globe the word of God in every tongue and for every nation—has passed through half a century of successful progress, and now finds itself with many friends in almost every country in the world, and is the mother and mistress of more than 8000 Bible Societies. The mother and mistress, I say; not as having dominion over their faith, but as helpers of their joy. Now, it will be necessary this day to set before you the results of many years of anxious and arduous labour; but it will be done, not in the spirit of boasting or vain glory, but that you may see,

by what has been done, what may be done, so that, from the retrospect, you may derive strength and encouragement to enter upon far greater and more vigorous efforts in the future. The Scriptures have been rendered into 148 languages or dialects; all these have been reduced to printing, and of these 121 had never before appeared in type. The combined Societies of England and other countries have circulated not less than 43,000,000 copies of the Holy Scriptures, in whole or in part; and thus the records of Inspired Truth, it is believed, have, within the present century, been rendered accessible to about 600 millions of the human race. There is one matter to which I must call your special attention, because it has struck my own mind and heart with more force than, perhaps, any other incident in the Statement that will be set before you. Of those languages so reduced to printing, upwards of twenty existed only in an oral form, had no alphabet, and were not reduced to writing until such time as they were worked upon by the intellectual power of Christian Missionaries and others. Let this fact be treasured up by those who are talking much of intellectual improvement, and of the march of intellect; and let them tell me if in the whole range of intellectual power, there is any thing that shows more of mind, of thought, and of capacity, than must have been expended in reducing those twenty-five languages to a written form, which were thus made the means of giving thousands of minds access to the word of the living God. So much for our acts. I think we can say no less for our principles. Now, it is an immense honour that has been put upon this country by Almighty God, that it should be the earthly depository of His Truth, to flow forth in refreshing streams to all the nations of the world. It is a great and mighty honour that He has conferred upon us, and we must rise to the height of that responsibility. I can hardly believe that the great and good men who, under God's grace, were the founders of this Society, could have imagined when they met, few in numbers, and in a retired locality, that their faith would remove such mighty mountains. I can hardly think that they ventured to believe that they were then instituting the greatest effort that ever has been made by uninspired men for the temporal and eternal welfare of the human race. But so it is; and gainsayers may say what they will, but the events of this day will prove, that whether we regard man politically on this earth, or spiritually in the world to come, his lost and greatest happiness will have been attained when the word of the Lord shall have "free course and be glorified."

The Rev. J. A. JAMES. I have been invited to this Jubilee Feast as one of the earliest, and therefore one of the oldest, and I claim, also, to be one of the warmest, friends of the British and Foreign Bible Society. After a period of forty-seven years spent in promoting its interests, with something of the homage of a lover and the fidelity of a servant, it is no injustice on my part to claim the distinction, nor any usurpation to wear it. I can assure the assembly, that, among the highest objects of my desire, and what I consider to be one of the richest glories that can lie upon my humble brow, is to be regarded as one of the patriarchs of the British and Foreign Bible Society. Birmingham was once designated by that great philosophic statesman, Edmund Burke, "the toy-shop of Europe," and he might also have added, its armoury. But Birmingham has other things to boast of besides the manufacturing of jewels for the fair, or arms for the brave: it has the distinction of giving birth to John Rogers, the proto-martyr in the reign of Mary. It is therefore meet that Birmingham should erect perhaps the most appropriate monument to his memory, by being the first provincial town in the kingdom to perceive the advantages of this noble Institution, and to organize in its support. It may be permitted, perhaps, to one like myself, who has almost reached the period of senility, to be a little garrulous, perhaps a little egotistical, on the present occasion. It is one of the most precious, and therefore cherished recollections of my humble history, that the very day after I was ordained to the pastoral office according to the rites of Protestant Dissenters, I attended the first Public Meeting in the town of Birmingham for the formation of an Association in support of the Bible Society. On the first day I bowed with reverence at the altar of truth, and pledged myself before God and many witnesses to preach the faith as I understood it; and on the next day, with no less reverence, I bowed before the altar of charity, and pledged myself before other witnesses to be a minister of love. It was the conviction of my youth, and which still cleaves to me in maturer age, that the chiefest homage that can be paid to truth is to offer it the sacrifice of love; and indeed he is but an imperfect Minister