

respective missionary organizations, let us support more strenuously that Society so vitally related to the missionary work of all the churches.

In the next place, the simple but sublime design of the Society places obligation upon us to aid it. It is to put into the hands of every human being on the face of the earth a copy of the Word of God. But what does that mean? What is done in doing so? It is to furnish a statute book for the government of the world, especially in the higher realm of being. Such is the effect of obedience to the law of this Bible that with David each may say of the laws:—"More to be desired are they than gold, yea, much fine gold, sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb." It is to supply the race—the morally hungry race with the true bread—the bread from heaven. They who eat of it look up and say "Lord evermore give us of this bread." It is to invest the human family with wealth which forbids the possibility of poverty. The wealth of the Book is that of the unsearchable riches of Christ. It is to illuminate all mankind with the wisdom which cometh from above. It is to place before every man an infallible guide to happiness, holiness, and Heaven. Such is the aim of the British and Foreign Bible Society. There is inspiration in the design, which lifts the soul to a higher altitude of faith, hope, and thought. No petty boundaries limit the movement of this great Society. God is in its plans; therefore all the race must be before our eyes and in our benevolent purposes. No other organization has so sublime a purpose as a motive to noble deeds of consecrated service.

Further, because of the certainty of ultimate and glorious success. There has been success, but very much remains to be done. There is no doubt about the future of this Divine cause. It is as certain as if the prophetic had already become the historic. I am not unaware of the mole-hill difficulties and mountainous antagonisms which seek to impede the progress of the Word of God. I know how vulgar Infidelity prates against the Bible, and cultured Scepticism insinuates the ice-berg atmosphere of doubt as to its inspiration, while condescending to admire its morality and extol the perfection of its teaching on many points. The present is a mixed state of victory and defeat, of pleasure and pain, of joy and sorrow, of light and darkness, of hope and desponding. But let us climb those Alpine heights of prophecy, and survey the prospect which those refreshing mountain-tops afford. And what a prospect it is! Shall I tell of the visions unfolded from those glorious heights,—the coming of the time when statesmanship shall bow before Him who is King of Kings,—the coming of a time, when learning shall fall in lowly reverence before Him in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge,—the coming of a time, when "Holiness unto the Lord" shall be written upon the literature and commerce of the world. Yes, ye friends of the Bible, there is an era coming when there shall be light everywhere and darkness nowhere, peace everywhere and war nowhere, worship everywhere and heathen superstition nowhere, when instead of the crescent shall be the cross; instead of the Koran shall be the Bible; and instead of the reign of sin there shall be the reign of Him whose right it is to reign, from the rivers unto the ends of the earth. To the realization of all this the British and Foreign Bible Society is contributing a large share.

Finally, because of the Book itself we should support this society with an ever increasing liberality. The Book itself furnishes the best argument for the Bible Society. What a Book! What a history it has had! It claims authorship in God, the Holy Ghost, and bears upon it the image and super-scription of the Divine. It comes laden with unexhausted and inexhaustible treasures of redemption and salvation. Like its Divine author it is no respecter of persons. It knows no restrictions by reason of colour nor of clime, nor of station in life. It comes to man as man. It has lived through all the forms of opposition. It fears not the hammer of the geologist, nor