

should spring merely from what our friend has already said. I shall say very little indeed upon it because it does so legitimately follow from what he has given to us.

I shall say a word in regard to the first thought in the resolution, that is, that the Sacred Scriptures form the basis of Christian unity. It is a matter of great pleasure to stand upon this platform, where all the branches of the Church of Christ are represented, and it shows the wondrous drawing power of this Word of God that it has done what naught else could accomplish, and that we, instead of *speaking* merely about the unity that our blessed Saviour so earnestly prayed for, are *living* it in such a meeting as the present. I therefore like this portion of the resolution which speaks of the Christian unity, and gives to us as the ultimate standard of a common Christian Faith the Sacred Scriptures. We stand upon this platform, the strongest position, the really true position of every church, representing that which is common to all, this standard which we have, and, amidst all the uncertain and ever-changing standards of the world, it is well that we should circle around the one unchanging and only to be depended upon standard in the world.

Now, as the result, I say, of the resolution that has just been moved and seconded, there follows this, that it is the duty, especially of the English-speaking Churches, to spread those Scriptures from which so many of their own blessings have been received. I should have preferred the word *privilege* there, to the word "duty," and allow me just in a few words to emphasize what I believe to be, not the duty, but the privilege of those who have followed Dr. Hall in his address, and who believe in the truth of what he said. Is it not the duty of the English-speaking Churches to spread abroad this knowledge? And just let me come down to a little prosaic talk upon this subject. I am not just at the moment going to speak of the spreading it abroad in the far-off lands that have been referred to, but I do very earnestly ask that we shall take away from the meeting this thought and this inspiration, that, in the days of old in dealing with God's people, whenever they had the Bible opened and followed its precepts, then they were strong, then they were true, then they were happy, but when the book became disused or closed, then the days became dark and black and captivity resulted. Oh, friends, I believe that it is as true to-day as it was in those old days with God's people, and I rejoice to see the earnest interest displayed in our city in this wonderful book, by such a meeting here, to listen to what God has done, to take fresh encouragement to begin a better and truer year—and perhaps many of them—in spreading abroad this book. I say, first let us see that we strike home, that we have our Bible more in our own hearts than we ever had it before; let us see that we follow this advice. Go and take it into our business, and into our professions, and into our daily walk; let us see that we raise in and through God's Word, the standard of Christianity, so that any one who bears that name shall need no other character and no other recommendation; let us see that we more and more live this Bible life, and more and more diffuse its principles. I remember the Rev. Marcus Rainsford, at one of the Mildmay Conferences, bringing out a truth that has impressed me much—it was this, "Friends, we do not do the world justice. It does not read the Bible, it does not open its pages, but it reads you and it reads me, and this great world says, if that is the Bible, the less we have of it the better." Let us resolve that this evening shall be one from which we shall endeavour more and more to spread in the best and truest way these Sacred Scriptures by bringing the great principles and truths into our everyday life and business, as we walk through the busy world.