

occupy the time of those who have come here, many of those appearing on this platform being persons of high note and eminence, and others having come from a distance to give an account of transactions in remote parts of the civilized world. I have but one fact to communicate, and I hope that that will be agreeable to those who are here present. On Monday last I, as the representative of this great Society, in conjunction with some of my colleagues, attended in Bunhill Fields for the purpose of uncovering a memorial of one of the founders of this Society, the Rev. Joseph Hughes—one who devoted his best and noblest energies to the inauguration of this great work, but whose largest conception could, I am sure, never have led him to form a notion of the magnitude at which it has arrived under the special blessing and grace of Almighty God. I have nothing further to say, except to call upon one whom I am confident you all rejoice to see upon this platform, to move the first Resolution—His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury.”

The Arch. shop of CANTERBURY: “The Resolution which I have been requested to move is this:—‘That the Report, an abstract of which has been read, be received and printed, under the direction of the Committee.’ When I received an invitation, my lord, to attend this meeting and to move this resolution, I felt that there was a call upon me which it was impossible to resist. I believe that it has been the custom of my predecessors, and it certainly is mine, not to take more part than necessary in public meetings of this kind, as our attention has to be directed to other matters which more distinctly belong to our office and particular province. But I could not help thinking that there were special reasons on this occasion why I should obey the call of this Society. Some think that the Christian Church throughout the world is at this time approaching a great crisis. I don’t know that we are approaching any of those sudden revolutions which often come on persons when they least expect them, and produce great and vast outward changes. But there are revolutions and changes in the social condition of mankind and in the civilization of the world which often come very silently, and which are, when they are accomplished, more complete than even the changes which arise from great political revolutions. And comparing the state of things now with that which I remember to have existed a few years ago, I cannot help thinking that the great cause which this Society has in hand has difficulties to contend with now which were not known then. No doubt our fathers were exposed to perils quite as great as any which threaten society now. But in the years which passed during my youth things had become quieter. The great French Revolution of the last century had apparently cleared the air, and men were settling down calmly into the old beliefs and the old state of affairs. Again the symptoms of great changes among the nations are to be heard and seen—again new modes of thought are making themselves felt among intelligent men, and no one who looks carefully at the present state of public opinion can doubt that a more determined set is now made against a simple belief in the power of the Word of God than any of us can remember to have been made forty or fifty years ago. Therefore, I say, this is a time for all men who love the Word of God to cast aside, so far as they may without compromise of principles, the differences that keep them asunder, and rally together for the defence of that Christian faith which, thank God, we all rejoice in, and that Word of God on which the doctrines of the Christian faith are built; to know as few distinctions as possible between those who are in the service of our common Lord, and who take the Word of that common Lord as their rule of life and as the charter of their hopes for eternity. Therefore, my lord, I, for my part, think it wise that we should in these anxious days as much as possible join together hand-in-hand in a cause which so completely and so naturally unites us in feeling, as that in which the Bible Society has been engaged in for so many years. I say that there are now great dangers as regards the reverence which we all desire to see paid to the Word of God. Great—I will not call them insidious, because they are, in fact, very open—great efforts are now made to persuade