

loads the mountain top with gold ; at the noon of life it pours down its glorious effulgence, quickening the heart, strengthening the spirit, and inspiring the soul to manly conflict and endurance ; and at the eve-tide it speaks of an unending future, and a bright and beautiful world beyond. Therefore, we say : God speed the Bible Society !

Again—we recognize the Bible as the ground of Christian unity. Chillingworth said, "The Bible, the Bible alone, is the religion of Protestants." We say, "The Bible, the Bible alone, is the ground of Christian unity, the rallying ground of Protestants." We cannot all join hands on any one of our theological systems ; we cannot all work within the limits of any one of our ecclesiastical polities—but we can, and *do* all come together around the Bible, and put our hands on it as on the head of one who is being ordained to the ministry, and say : "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." And it goes forth and endows the legislator with judgment ; the philosopher with wisdom ; the merchant with right principles ; the workman with content and patience, and all who believe it with the knowledge of God and our Lord Jesus Christ. And we all rejoice in what is done.

We see it changing the face of empires and the character of nations, through the light and love and life it brings to individual hearts—drawing them all close to the living Word, Christ Jesus—and with one voice we cry : multiply the copies ! increase the circulation ! enlarge the commissions of the Colporteurs ! sow the seed thick on the land ! For we know that whatever lives and flourishes, the Word must.

"*Ichabod*" may be written on literatures, arts, sciences, empires, and the growth of empires, but never on the Word ; that will shine for ever. "All flesh is grass, and the glory of it is as the flower of the field ; the grass withereth and the flower fadeth, but the word of the Lord endureth for ever." Has any book been tried and tested as the Bible has ? It has survived the weighty burden of the traditions of the Rabbins, the persecutions of the Roman Emperors, the darkness of the middle ages, the fires of the inquisition, the confederacies of Jesuitism, the atheism of France, the rationalism of Germany, and the blight of British infidelity—and shall survive all errors and evils that shall arise throughout all time. The rock, therefore, on which we stand united, never moves.

Again—*We believe it to be the only Word that can minister to the spiritual necessities of man*—that can meet the demands of his higher nature. It satisfies the hunger of his heart, the deep cravings of his soul, the questionings of his conscience. It is the tree of life, whose leaves are for the healing of the nations, growing on the plain within the reach of all, so that a child may pluck the leaves from the boughs. It is a living spring leaping from the base of the mountain by the wayside where the traveller may drink, and lave his heated brow, where the weary may rest and be refreshed. It is the voice of God speaking peace to all men by Jesus Christ. The Bible Society, therefore, must never die.

Oh, beloved, if we could tell all the blessings the 42,414 copies of the Word have ministered throughout the year—the captives they have set free, the broken hearts they have bound up, the sorrows they have dispelled, the hopes they have inspired, the fountains of joy they have opened, the peace they have brought, the life and gladness they have conveyed—it would fill us all with rapture and rejoicing—but this we cannot know. Now is the seed-time—soon will come the harvest home, when all who have been blessed by these copies of the Word will be crowned and glorified for ever.

I have much pleasure in moving this resolution.

The Rev. Mr. BODDY, in seconding the resolution, said :—

MR. CHAIRMAN,—When I consented to take part in the proceedings of this meeting I was under the impression that I was to act as the representative of the English Church, but on looking at the list of the Society's officers, it seems