

him away to the holy river, when to their great surprise he refused to go, saying, bring the Bible, and read that to me. I desire not to die by the river's side. I believe in Jesus Christ, the Saviour whom the Christian's Bible has made known to me. O, Sir, could this Society know how many cases like these there are scattered about through that vast country; they would feel every encouragement to proceed with increased energy in this labour of love.

In moving the third Resolution, the Rev. Dr. I. W. D. GRAY remarked,—

That when he came to the meeting, it was with the hope of finding a Brother Clergyman there, who, if present, was to have moved the resolution he was about to propose. He could not but regret, that it devolved upon him to commend it to the meeting, without having been able to devote sufficient time to the previous consideration of the topics it embraced. But, having been called upon, he should not shrink from the discharge of the duty, having long made it a rule not to refuse his services in the cause of the Bible Society. The Resolution assumed that these Societies were effectual instruments in counteracting the efforts made to exclude or obscure the light of the Gospel. They undoubtedly were so. Facts proved the assumption to be true. The primary reason was, that *God's blessing* was with them. Under that blessing, wherever they were planted, some friends were sure to come forward to sustain them: some might oppose or despise them, but there were always others, to whose judgment and regard they would commend themselves. Fitting instruments too were sure to be raised up to carry out their designs. Witness those humble and honorable men, the Colporteurs, who had braved every danger, encountered every difficulty, and surmounted every obstacle, in circulating the Scriptures. And then the important fact was, that when circulated, they were sure to produce blessed results. It was truly delightful to reflect upon the *sameness* of these results wherever they were sent. Send the Bible to the European, the Asiatic, the American, the Malay or the African, the effects were the same. The man who reads it in faith becomes humble, holy, a lover of Christ, a benefactor to his specie, a candidate for the skies. A striking instance had lately occurred in the Ionian Islands, where a gentleman connected with the local government, had circulated and encouraged the reading of the Scriptures among the members of the Greek Church. The result was that many, and among them, some destined to the priesthood in that church, had become vitally pious and truly enlightened. Persecution was soon raised against them and the leaders of this little band were dispersed, but no doubt many a copy of the sacred volume had been left behind to be read and profited by in private. He called upon the meeting to reflect how much good might be done by even a single copy of the Bible, how long it might last, how many instruct and lead to heaven. The old Bible out of which he had read to them the 67th psalm, at the beginning of the evening, he had obtained in England more than thirty years ago.

It was given to him by an old man, who had valued it and wished it to go into safe keeping when he was gone to his rest. It had been given to him by an older person, a relative, who had read it, and prayed over it many a day; and when he turned to the title page, he found it had been printed in the year 1639, in the days of Charles the first, just when the troubles of that monarch were coming to their height. The old Bible had outlived those troubled times, and the times of Cromwell and another Charles. It had outlived the days of James II, of William, of Anne, of all the Georges of another William; and still survived, under the reign of our gracious sovereign Victoria, (long may she live) with the same sacred truths still legible upon its pages, and as able as it was in the days of Charles I. to point the enquiring sinner to Him who is "the way, and the truth and the life," "the desire of all nations," "the hope of all the ends of the earth." That old Bible then, by its very antiquity, read a lesson to the meeting tonight. It told them how much good might result from one single copy of the scriptures. The resolution affirmed that, at no period of our history, have we had more abundant cause for thankfulness, than at the present time, that Bible Societies have been raised up to stem the torrent of opposition to the truth. Certainly we never had, looking to the opposition presented by hordes of Neologian writers in Germany, by the prohibitory laws in Roman Catholic countries, and by the attempts, in England, to substitute patristic writings and opinions in the place of the inspired word, we must feel convinced that the opposition to the diffusion of sacred truth was never more determined and systematized; and under the impression we could not but feel the vast importance of these Societies which stood like the bold forelands projecting into the sea, rolling back the surges of infidelity, and superstition. And as these Societies were more needed now than in previous times so were they more united by the facilities presented for their efforts. The extension of commerce, the rapid communication between distant nations, even the very excitement and speculative spirit of the age, afforded scope for their agency. A letter he had received a short time since from that land of golden promises, California, described the City of San Francisco as all in motion. There were processions of moving, music playing, platforms erected, speeches making; and what was all this, for? It was not because a new mine had been discovered, but because an old one was rightly appreciated; it was not because California was admitted into the States of the Union, but for the admission of a little band of followers into a more sacred fellowship; it was to distribute Bibles amongst the Chinese inhabitants of San Francisco. And these Bibles were thankfully received, and, under God, we might hope would prove a blessing to the receivers. These simple but intelligent persons had gone thither for worldly riches, and they found the true riches, the unsearchable riches of Christ; they went for the gold that perisheth, and they found what "the old Bible" said was "better than gold, yea, than much fine gold, sweeter also than honey and the honey