

so this world-apostle was raised up and enabled, through all the providential course of his early training, to turn himself to the three great civilizations upon which the world was founded, and to address *every one in his own tongue*. Thus you remember he saved his life from violence by turning quickly to the chief captain and speaking to him in Greek. He stilled the rage and tumult of his own people as he stood upon the stairs by speaking to them in the Hebrew tongue. "And when they heard that he spake to them in the Hebrew tongue they kept the more silence." And he understood, and he answered completely, the charges that were made by the Roman orator who thundered against him in the great Latin tongue of the empire that then bore rule over all the earth. Here was God's man; here was the universal apostle; he could say, "I labored more abundantly than they all; I preached Christ where He was not named; this gospel has come unto you, as it has in all the world—it is preached to every creature under heaven, whereof, I, Paul, am made a minister." Through all those changing ages, through all those years and years, you see the principle appearing and re-appearing again and again, and asserting itself in all time—the Word of God for every man in his own tongue wherein he was born.

Now I come to the final period, that which claims our attention particularly—the period during which, under the wonderful providence of God, the foundations were laid of this Society—the greatest organization for spreading the Word of God among the people in their own tongue that the church had ever discovered. Like all great eventualities, the way was prepared and the events of the world were leading up to that time. The eighteenth century, you know, was one of dullness and deadness. The atheists were abroad, and men lived voluptuous lives and were given to pleasure and utter godlessness; and all those terminated in that frightful outburst of blasphemy and blood that we look back upon whenever we read the sanguinary story of the French Revolution. That had its effect upon our own country. Through all that century of darkness and dullness and deadness she suffered, though not to the same extent. It is almost impossible to believe it, as now we look back over a hundred years, that England during that eighteenth century was in a state of almost semi-barbarism. Of the inhabitants of the country—one-half of what now they are—one in every three could read and write. The people were given to pleasure; duelling pervaded the land; blood was lightly thought of; the seas were covered with pirates, the roads with robbers. There were