

special pleasure, President Allen, in welcoming you and the Bible Society to our city on this occasion.

RESPONSE BY PRESIDENT WM. H. ALLEN, LL.D.

Mr. President of the Pennsylvania Bible Society : On behalf of the American Bible Society, I thank you for the fraternal welcome you have given us. During this year, Philadelphia is the centre of attraction, not only for the United States but for the civilized world, and it has seemed appropriate that our Society should be drawn to this birthplace of liberty, both by motives of patriotism and cords of love ; love to your city of Brotherly Love, and love to your Society, which, I believe, is the oldest Bible Society on this continent, and from which the American Bible Society has received liberal contributions and active support. We rejoice to learn that you have accomplished so much of the enterprise which you undertook some two years since, to place a copy of the word of God in every destitute family throughout this great commonwealth. This honourable effort of Christian philanthropy will be a lasting honour to your Society, and conduce to the moral elevation of the people of Pennsylvania. We have heard also, with pleasure, that you have erected a pavilion on the centennial ground for the sale of the sacred Scriptures in the languages of nearly all the people who may be expected to visit the Exposition. Your thanks and ours are due to the Centennial Commission for conceding this privilege without premium or fee. We also tender our thanks to the committee of your Society for the judicious arrangements they have made for these anniversary exercises. The cordial reception which you gave two years ago has encouraged us to lean again, with confidence, on your Christian kindness.

INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT, IN THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

Ladies and Gentlemen : On this, its sixtieth anniversary, the American Bible Society greets you. This large audience is proof that the Bible cause has a living interest in the minds and hearts of the Christian people of Philadelphia.

The world has been invited to Philadelphia to witness the progress which our country has made in a century in material wealth and the arts of civilized life, also to exhibit for our inspection the products of the industry and skill of other nations. This evening we invite our friends to witness what our Bible Societies have done and are doing not only to save the country from moral and political degeneracy, but also to elevate it to a higher standard of Christian morality. If we believe that the Bible contains a revelation of the will of God and the truth of God, we must admit that it is the base-line of all moral progress in the world-wide conflict between good and evil. It is therefore our plain duty to do all in our power to place a copy of the Bible in every household that will receive it. And while we send abroad the light of truth over our own country, we do not ignore the claims of those who sit in darkness in other lands. Our Bible Societies are cosmopolitan : they recognise the brotherhood of mankind. Our eloquent friend and brother from the Dominion of Canada has informed us that the British and Foreign Bible Society has distributed in foreign languages thirty-six million of copies of the Bible—about one-half of all it has published. Is not this a recognition of human brotherhood ? The British and Foreign Bible Society and its younger sister, the American Bible Society, have printed the word of God in more than two hundred languages, and have distributed throughout the world more than a hundred millions of copies of the sacred volume. Visitors to the Exposition will see an exhibit of the work these two Societies have done. *The Bible in two hundred languages* ? grand and glorious monument of Christian enterprise, liberality, and scholarship. All this is an achievement of the nineteenth century ; more than had been done in that direction in the eighteen centuries which preceded it. Well did our Quaker poet say,

"Life greatens in these later years ;
The century's also flowers to-day."