

Church which has set in the very foreground of her Book of Articles this dogmatic and unalterable declaration that nothing whatsoever is to be required of any man to be believed that cannot be clearly proved thereby. In the second place, sir, I make this affirmation, because I hold most strongly that that other book which is so dear to us as Churchmen, namely, our Book of Common Prayer, reflects not simply the broad, general, and more than any other in existence, tone and spirit, but represents the *ipsissima verba* of the Word of God itself. From beginning it is full of these utterances and these words; moreover placed there on the very principle on which the Bible Society is founded, namely, the Bible without note or comment. In the third place, sir, this statement of mine is capable of vindication because when I look for one moment across the broad Atlantic I find that the parent Society, the British and Foreign Bible Society, is in a very peculiar sense a Church of England Society. It numbers, and has always numbered in the past, among its patrons the loftiest offices and dignitaries of the English Church. And I find, moreover, on examining the constitution by which it is governed, that that constitution requires that nearly one-half of the membership of the working committee of this grand old Society is to be composed of clergy and laity drawn from her ranks. While speaking in this connection I cannot omit to mention one fact which is of very grave and happy significance at the present moment. Not merely the Church of England, but the whole of Christendom, has been called within the last few months to deplore the loss of one of the greatest and best of men that ever filled the Chair of St. Augustine. Tears have been shed for his death from multitudes of eyes that never perhaps have opened our Book of Common Prayer. Is it not a very significant fact that when Archbishop Tait was called to preside over the Diocese of London his very first and foremost official act was to give in his loving, loyal hearty adhesion to the cause of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and thereby proclaim to the world at large as with trumpet voice that however widely we may differ on certain ecclesiastical views and theories, however true it may be that as yet and possibly for some time in the future there are barriers which prevent us worshipping exactly at the same altars, yet down deep beneath all these variations of theological thought and sentiment we can discover one common ground where all who love the Lord Jesus Christ in truth and sincerity can meet together, look in one another's faces as brethren, extend to one another the hand of Christian-fellowship, and stand shoulder-to-shoulder co-operating in one and the same, the grandest of all causes, the circulation of the Word of Divine Truth, from which the Church of England, Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians and all others who own the name of Christ in common draw the convictions which they hold so dear. (Applause.)

Coming more especially from these to the terms of the resolution which has been placed in my keeping, I desire to call attention for a few moments, and not at any great length—in fact, sir, I felt as the Rev. Dr. Hall took his seat that the interest of this meeting would have been better consulted had it come to a close just then, in order that the deep and pregnant impressions produced by his great and weighty words of counsel might go with every member of this congregation, and bear ripe fruit for the Society and for the glory and honour of God in the future. At the risk however of, what I might say causing a temporary forgetfulness of those impressions, trusting that they may come back and remain with you permanently, I desire to call your attention for a moment to the ground on which this resolution makes an appeal to Canadians in behalf of the Bible, in order that they may be quickened and roused to greater interests in its behalf, and to a greater desire to send it to the teaching of others whom as yet it has not reached. That ground is, the temporal and spiritual blessings which we Canadians are already in possession of. Now, sir, that brief statement opens up a grand