

when danger looms in the distance it is our duty to ourselves, our country, and our Queen, to be prepared to meet it. I have been looking forward for some time to the present occasion, when everything connected with this establishment would be placed under the parental care of the corporation. That day has arrived, and I have now the satisfaction of proclaiming that the library and the museum are open to my fellow-townsmen and others, be their religion or politics what they may. This is the neutral ground. To see this building consecrated to public good is most gratifying to me, and consummates my utmost wishes and desires. To you, Mr. Mayor, I now deliver it over, for the perpetual benefit of the public, and especially my fellow-townsmen, earnestly wishing that prosperity, happiness, and every other blessing may attend you one and all.

The Mayor said he considered it one of the highest honours which had devolved upon him during his mayoralty in taking part in the proceedings connected with the opening of the noble building which Mr. Brown had just presented to the town for the purposes of a free library and museum; but he knew well that Mr. Brown required no thanks at their hands, for he had the far greater feeling of happiness in his own mind. His worship, after congratulating Mr. Brown and the town generally upon the completion of the noble institution, said he on behalf of the aldermen and burgesses accepted his princely gift; and tendered him, as their official representative, a gold medal, which on one side bore a portrait of himself (Mr. Brown,) and on the other a view of the building.

Mr. Brown having briefly acknowledged the present, Lord Brougham said that in the view of facts and deeds, words and eloquence were of no avail whatever. They had the greatest eloquence that man could boast in the fact and deed of Mr. Brown's gift, not only to Liverpool, but to the world.

The Bishop of Chester, said he would never shrink back from joining, even with the feeble power of his voice that day, in doing honour to William Brown for his munificent gift to the town; and he could assure them his heart had been lifted up in prayer that the building might have God's blessing, and that it might fulfil every object of social improvement for which it was designed. He hoped whatever the working classes and others might read in that library, the books would have the effect of enlightening their minds with true knowledge, and foster in their hearts sentiments of humanity, patriotism, liberty, and obedience; and that in this way it would be a blessing for Liverpool, and the whole community for generations to come.

Mr. James Brown, brother of the donor of the building, having briefly spoken, Lord Brougham said it was a testimony, in the first place, to the good government of the town, and in the next place to the police; but, above all, it was a testimony to the people themselves that 400,000 persons of all ranks and of all ages had been gathered together, and without one single, not merely breach of the peace, but without one single word, or motion, or sign of discontent or ill-humour. He had seen many multitudes—he would not call them mobs (a laugh)—but he had seen many multitudes in his time, but such a sight of order and propriety, of good feeling and good manners, as he had witnessed in Liverpool he had never seen in his life.

The Rev. Dr. Raffles announced that the Local Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society had agreed to present to the institution a copy of each of the translations of the Scriptures.

Mr. William Ewart, M.P., said that was a proud day for Liverpool to see opened that magnificent building, which, if properly used, would have a permanent civilizing and christianizing effect upon the community. It would scatter the blessings of peace and religion; and in what place could peace and religion more naturally abide than in a great commercial community?

Sir R. Peel, M.P., who was passing through the town, and who was observed among the spectators, said he had witnessed the ceremonies of that day with intense satisfaction and admiration for the character of Mr. Brown. He could conceive nothing more noble and nothing more honourable on the part of a citizen of this country than to find himself the subject of so much well-merited applause from his fellow-countrymen. Recollect this was a period when individuals were gaining distinctions in different parts of the world by the force of arms and military genius; but no distinction or renown was more honourable than that of a citizen who devoted a large portion of his fortune to promote the social well-being of his fellow-townsmen. He hoped this great institution, dedicated to the welfare of the commercial metropolis of England—to the welfare especially of the humbler classes of the district, would tend to promote their happiness and social well-being.

BANQUET IN ST. GEORGE'S HALL.

In the evening a grand banquet was given in St. George's hall in honour of the occasion, his worship the Mayor occupying the chair. It was attended by about 850 individuals, and among those present at this banquet, which presented a beautiful *coup d'œil*, were Mr.

William Brown, Lord Brougham, the Earl of Huntingdon, Lord Stanley, the Bishop of Chester, Sir J. K. Shuttleworth, Sir James E. Tennant, the Hon. Algernon Egerton, &c. There were also about 150 ladies present.

The usual loyal and constitutional toasts having been proposed from the chair, and duly honoured,

The Mayor said the next toast on the list was one which he felt peculiar pleasure in proposing. It was that of the health of the respected guest of the evening. (Cheers.) The town of Liverpool had that day received from Mr. Brown a gift which in the annals of the town was unequalled in munificence. Gifts were of various kinds, and in general these are more or less estimated in value by the benefits they will confer on the community. Received in this light, we prize highly, and are entitled to prize highly, the wisdom and liberality of that gift which will to all time associate the name of William Brown with the most liberal benefactors of our town. (Cheers.) It is, continued his worship, at once my duty and my pleasing privilege, to inaugurate this evening the marble statue representation of Mr. Brown which now adorns this hall. It, by a happy adaptation of the sculptor's art, presents us with the likeness of that venerable and benevolent gentleman to whom we owe the occasion of our present meeting. It is not that we of the present generation require to be provided with his likeness that is engraven on our hearts (cheers)—but it is desirable that we should be able to transmit to our children and our children's children a faithful likeness of their fathers' friend. (Loud and long continued cheers.)

THE DONOR'S VIEW OF THE VALUE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Mr. Brown, on rising was received with deafening cheers, which continued for some time. On silence being restored he proceeded to say,—I have looked forward with some solicitude to the period when we should be able to open the Free Library and Museum, and I assure you it has given me very great pleasure this morning that my wishes have been fully consummated in my being able to hand it over to my friend, our worthy Mayor, to be placed in the hands of the corporation, a permanent body, which secures to it the advantages of the management and control in perpetuity of gentlemen whom my fellow-townsmen from time to time are pleased to elect for the superintendence and regulation of our local affairs. Although it is impossible for me to feel otherwise than gratified at the general approbation that my conduct has met with, considering the position in which Providence has placed me in this increasing and prosperous community, I have done nothing more than what I considered my duty in giving assistance to build the museum and library. When the representatives of my fellow-citizens deemed it right to ask me to sit for my portrait, and that marble statue now presented to your view, and when numerous addresses were presented to me from various literary, scientific, religious, scholastic, and other learned societies, so totally unexpected and unlooked for, they were really almost enough to turn my head. I, however, trust and hope that I have had ballast enough to maintain my equilibrium, and that those honours have neither made me presumptuous nor vain. Although my mind is not stored with that literary lore which is possessed by many of the noblemen and gentlemen present, and although I have not the tact, the talent, nor the memory to bring forward such arguments and illustrations as will impress upon the minds of all the inestimable value of knowledge, I, nevertheless, feel strongly that the cultivation of our intellects by every means in our power contributes to our happiness and makes us more respected and more useful to those around us. Idleness is the greatest misfortune that can befall any man; but those who are fond of reading, if they have no other pursuit, never can be idle. We ought to encourage boys to read well-selected, moral, and amusing books. It is of much importance, as it leads them to look to biography, travels, and history, and paves the way to a taste for the arts and sciences, every step in which gives pleasure and prevents listlessness and idleness. The want of invigorating and rational amusements at proper seasons, and useful employment, too frequently leads to immoral and vicious pursuits, and I think we must all feel that a well-selected library aids in preventing these evils. No matter in what position in life a man's lot is cast, the better informed he is the more he is respected, and the more he influences the circle around him. What would the power and social position of England be without our commerce? Where would commerce be without some knowledge of political economy, the aid of the chemist, the botanist, the mechanic, the engineer, and others, who, with persevering industry, cultivate the arts and sciences? Civilization is greatly indebted to those gentlemen. Without their aid we should be little better than the untutored Indian, who lives from day to day on the precarious resources of the forest, and who knows nothing of the comforts and conveniences of a civilized life. When I had the honour of addressing you in this hall, on the day of laying the foundation stone of the library, I expected we were on the eve, through the means of the Atlantic telegraph and science, of being brought into hourly communication