

comfort him in his declining days. Our readers will cordially unite with us in thanking him for the pleasure and instruction which this product of his pen cannot fail to produce.

B——, April 27th, 1871.

MY DEAR SIR,—Your request for me to write is courteous, and the topic for treatment is attractive, or years of affliction would deter me from the attempt, for once only, to make my neglected pen public.

My mind is revelling in Bible reminiscences of other days long past, in a small island of beauty and of beneficence, where the fragrant hedge-rows are well nigh interminable, and Miss Cook's "butter-cups and daisies" are in every meadow, and the skylark rises high from the green sod; the seraph songstress of the morning. In that land the British and Foreign Bible Society was founded; there the Bible and the Sabbath are supreme; there the religious and benevolent institutions are massive; and there is many a Christian heart that cannot be satisfied until the area of Bible activities and blessings, by Divine power, shall extend from pole to pole.

I often think with growing pleasure of Bible meetings I attended, and officers and advocates of the Parent Society in that land. The meetings in those days were unsectarian and very select,—a Lord, Baronet, or, usually, other influential gentleman presiding. I do not forget, one forenoon, meeting Owen, the Churchman, and James Montgomery, the Moravian, in a post-chaise from Sheffield, just arriving at the town of my youth, to hold a meeting in our Assembly Room,—Owen, co-officer with Hughes, the Baptist—the first permanent Secretaries of the Parent Society. Owen's black eye on the platform struck you, but much more his classical taste, lucid business statements, and his passion in appeal. Hughes was calm, logical; and when his facts had informed, you were soon persuaded to act. Then I heard Steinkopff, the Lutheran; he was artless, affectionate, evangelical, and I wanted to hear him again. Then there was Dudley, a chief and valued agent of the Society, tall and gentlemanly in person, without the orator's trickery, but tranquil and comprehensive on the Society's proceedings; and then his suavity and frankness took many auditors captive, and they loved the Bible more, and their disturbed penuriousness less.

As to Montgomery, I see him yet on the left of the Chair, a fragile being, with long pale face, and snow-white neckerchief loosely adjusted. His modesty rather tinted his paleness on rising, and his half-poetry for some moments bubbled like nectar from a bottle too much inverted in pouring; but the longer he spoke the more I imagined his thoughts came from an inexhaustible fountain of light, tenderness, and catholicity.

I think of Leigh Richmond's round, mild face, and portly frame, and evangelic, spiritual utterances; of Robert Hall, his look piercing, and his mind's formations magnificent, etherializing; of Dr. Robert Newton, a noble person, with a superb voice, poor and rich, on hill and dale, having hastened to hear his Gospel oratory; of John Angell James, with gentle soul, and words full of Scripture and love; of Theophilus Lessey, with a heart fraught with truth from St. Paul, and a glance and a pathos few could resist. I will not omit Dr. Raffles and his cordial countenance, who was never happier than when, with elegant and winning periods, he added to the friends of Christ; nor James Parsons, who was sublime whenever he touched this prayer,—
"And let the whole earth be filled with His glory."

These, and more, I was honoured to see and hear; yet how many more agents and advocates have I only heard or read of, and they of many countries and tongues,—men of sanctified spirit, enlightened intellect, and convincing eloquence. I was going to say, the Society has for her pleaders the princes of Christendom.

I rejoice in the progress of the Ontario Auxiliary of the Parent Society, and in the publication officially of the welcome *Bible Recorder*, received from our intelligent Branch Secretary. My simple testimony to the Inspired