

spread abroad, in every soul, the spirit of the Bible, which is just the spirit of philanthropic expansiveness, of noble-minded self-denial, of large-hearted benevolence, of open-handed and liberal beneficence. O Spirit of the Lord! come and infuse into our souls the mind of Christ, — the mind of Him of whom the Bible testifies, that we may all be as living Epistles, read and known of all men. Blessed, thrice blessed Jubilee! who would not long to see that day? Who would begrudge any toil or self-sacrifice that its arrival might be accelerated by a single hairsbreadth? Who would not pray that that vision beheld by that mitred minstrel who, erewhile, sung so sweetly of Greenland's icy mountains and of India's Coral strand, were speedily realized—that glorious vision wherein wrapt into future times, he beheld the stream of gospel blessings rise, and gush, and roll onwards till it embraced every land, and circled every shore, aye, till like a sea of glory it spread from pole to pole?

JUBILEE OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

The chair was taken at twelve o'clock by the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury. The following is a list of some of those by whom his Lordship was surrounded.—The Bishop of Winchester, the Earl of Carlisle, Lord Teignmouth, the Duke of Argyll, Lord Charles Russell, the Rev. Dr. Carr, late Bishop of Bombay; Sir T. D. Acland, M.P.; the Canon Stowell, Canon Villiers, Canon Champneys, the Hon. and Rev. W. B. Noel, the Rev. Dr. Marsh, the Rev. R. Bickersteth, the Rev. J. W. Canningham, the Rev. J. A. James, the Rev. Dr. Henderson, the Rev. W. Arthur, the Rev. J. H. Gurney, the Rev. Dr. Hamilton; T. Farmer, Esq.; S. Gurney, Esq.; the Earl of Chichester; George Hitchcock, Esq.; Samuel Gurney, Esq.; R. C. L. Bevan, Esq., &c., &c.

The Rev. Mr. MILLER opened the meeting by reading the sixty-first chapter of Isaiah.

A letter was read by the Chairman from the Prussian Minister, Chevalier Bunsen, in which, after expressing regret at being unable to attend in consequence of the pressure of official duties, his Excellency stated that, with the concurrence of his Prussian Majesty, the Berlin Bible Society proposed to hold the jubilee meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society on Sunday, the 18th instant, in all the Protestant churches of the monarchy whose committees of the Society existed. It was also mentioned, as a remarkable fact, that similar jubilee festivals would be celebrated all over Europe, so far as civil and religious liberty extended.

The CHAIRMAN said—My good friends, we are now at the commencement of the fiftieth year of the life of the British and Foreign Bible Society; and most thankful we ought to be to Almighty God, who has permitted us to see and to enjoy an event the like of which, until this day, has never been known in the history of the Christian world. (Cheers.)—A society from the smallest beginnings, and with the slenderest means, but with the highest design—the design of spreading over the surface of the whole habitable globe the

Word of God, in every tongue and for every nation—has passed through half a century of continuous progress; and now, with many friends and affiliations in almost every country of the world, finds itself another and mistress of more than 8000 societies—the mother and mistress of them, I say—not as having dominion over their faith, but as a helper of their joy. (Applause.) Now, it will be necessary on this day to set before you the result of fifty years' anxious and arduous labour; but this will be done, not in a spirit of boasting or of vain glory, but that you may see what has been accomplished and what may be hoped for—that you may derive encouragement to your faith from the retrospect of the past, and may prepare, under God, for greater and more vigorous efforts in future. (Applause.) [Here follows a brief outline of the proceedings of the Society.] Now it is an immense honour which has been put upon this country by Almighty God, in making it the earthly depository of his truth, in order that it may flow forth thence in refreshing streams to all the nations of the earth. It is a great and mighty honour, I say, that he has thus bestowed upon us; and we must endeavour to rise to the height of our responsibility. This Society combines within itself all the great leading questions of the day. It is a Free Trade Society; it is a Reform Society; it is a Peace Society; it is a Defence Society—it is "the cheap defence of nations," that which binds us by indissoluble links to all the sympathies, and all the affections of most of the nations of the Continent. (Cheers.) I can hardly believe that the great and good men who, under God's grace, were the founders of this Society could have conceived, when they met few in numbers, and in a retired locality, that their faith would remove such mighty mountains. I can hardly think that they ventured to imagine that they were then instituting the greatest effort that ever was made by uninspired men for the temporal and eternal welfare of the human race.—But so it is, and gainsayers may say what they will, but the event of this day will prove that whether man be regarded politically on this earth or spiritually in the world to come, his last and greatest happiness will have been attained, when the "Word of God" shall "have free course and be glorified." (Cheers.)

The Rev. Mr. COLLINSON, one of the Secretaries, then read some extracts from a review prepared by the Committee, of the history and operations of the Society. [This we shall give in our next.]

The Bishop of WINCHESTER moved the following resolution:—"That this meeting welcome the Society's year of jubilee, hailing it as a fitting occasion for commemorating the Divine goodness, so abundantly vouchsafed to the Society in its origin, early history, and subsequent progress; for bearing a renewed public testimony to the Divine character and claims of the Bible, and to the right of every individual of the human family to possess and read the same; and for promoting, by new and vigorous efforts, the widest possible circulation of the Scriptures, both at home and abroad." We have been reminded that this Society first sprang into existence in the year 1804. If ever there were a period in the history of the world when such an institution would appear less likely to find a sphere of labour than at any other, that was such a period. The power of Napoleon had then culminated to its zenith; the ports of the

Continent were hermetically sealed against us; and yet it was at that period that the seed was deposited which was to grow into a tree, the leaves of which were to be "for the healing of the nations." When at length the Continent was opened by the downfall of the French Emperor, the agents of the Society penetrated into all the nations of the Continent, and carried forth peace instead of war. Another remarkable circumstance connected with the history of the Society is to be seen in the conflict, the controversy, carried on within and without its walls. I am reminded by the resolution that this Society has ever borne public testimony to the Divine character and claims of the Bible. It would be strange indeed had it not. We might have expected to find the supremacy of God's Word the motto of the Bible Society. Those who have been in the habit of reading the reports, will bear me out in the assertion—that there has never been a time in its history when it has not been its marked distinction to hold up evangelical truth in clear and distinct language. (Hear, hear.) There has been no compromise on this subject. True it is that we cannot accompany our Bibles with note or comment—we do not desire it—but, what is better, we can accompany them with our prayers; we can and do so that our agents are men of God; and we deliver a standing testimony against infidelity, and latitudinarianism, and Popery, and nominal Christianity, under whatever form and phase, throughout the countries of the earth.—(Cheers.) I would remind my friends, that there is this difference between this Christian jubilee and the jubilee of the Israelites of old. The Jewish jubilee cancelled debts; this jubilee doubles ours. (Hear, hear, and cheer.) It reminds us of our past obligations, &c. imperfectly discharged; it reminds us of our obligations with respect to the future.—Let this be the use of our jubilee; let there be an offering for the past as well as for the present. (Cheers.)

The Rev. J. A. JAMES, who was announced as the Secretary of the first Auxiliary Society formed in England, said—I rise, my Lord, to second the resolution which has been moved with such chastened eloquence, such Christian piety, and such true catholicity, by the right reverend prelate, with whom I have long had the honour and the happiness to be associated in this "work of faith and labour of love." (Cheers.) I have been invited to this jubilee as one of the earliest, and, therefore, one of the oldest of the Society's friends, and if forty-seven years' service, spent in promoting its interests, with something of the homage of a lover and the fidelity of a servant, are to be taken into account, it is no injustice on my part to claim this distinction. I can assure you that I regard it as one of the richest glories that could light on my brow to be looked upon as one of the patriarchs of the British and Foreign Bible Society. (Hear, hear.) Birmingham was once designated by Edmund Burke "the toyshop of Europe;" he might have added that it was its armoury.—But we have something to boast of besides the manufacture of jewels for the fair and arms for the brave; Birmingham has the distinction of having given birth to John Rogers, the proto martyr of the reign of Mary, and I think it was meet that it should be the first to form an auxiliary to the Bible Society.—(Cheers.) We look round with tender affection upon all our younger sisters in this holy family, rejoicing to meet them on this