THE OBSERVER.

St. John, Tuesday, December 24, 1839.

New-Brunswick Auxiliary Bible Society.

The Annual Meeting of this useful Society was held on Wednesday evening, in the Wesleyan Sabbath School Room, His Honor Judge Parker, President of the Society, in the Chair.

The attendance on the occasion was very respectable; and it was so numerous that many Ladies and Gentlemen had to be accommodated on the Platform.

His Honor opened the Meeting with the following very appropriate address:—

"*Ladies and Gentlemen,*—Although public meetings have lately become more frequent among us than formerly, I believe there is still none which is looked forward to with greater pleasure, attended with more satisfaction, or which leaves more gratifying reflections behind it, than the Anniversary Meeting of the New-Brunswick Auxiliary Bible Society, which has brought us together on the present occasion.

"The crowded assemblage before me satisfies me that there has been no abatement of interest in this so good a cause.

"You will have noticed one change since our last meeting; the highly respected Gentleman who has for so many years occupied this place as President of this Society, and who brought to the discharge of its duties a lively zeal, hearty good feeling, and kindly courtesy, and took so much delight in contemplating from year to year the increasing prosperity of our association, has felt it his duty to retire; but in mentioning the loss we have sustained, it is gratifying to think that it has not been caused by any decay of bodily or mental vigour, or diminution of zeal in the cause of the Bible, and that in the place he has removed to there will be a new field open to his exertions, which will lead us, I hope, soon to hail at least one new Branch Society from the County of Sunbury.

"It is now thirty-five years since the British and Foreign Bible Society was first formed, and twenty years since it was introduced in this Province. It has been continually gaining ground, adding to its numbers and increasing in usefulness; the prejudices which at first beset it have been gradually giving way before the light of truth; and we now see eleven of the Bishops of the English Church among its subscribers; and the Queen herself has recently become a Member, having graciously assented to become the Patroness of the Windsor Ladies' Bible Association.

"I need hardly dwell upon the necessity which existed for founding the Parent Society; but it may be well to take a slight retrospect. There was a very great and general deficiency of the Scriptures in the United Kingdom itself; in several parts of Europe they were scarcely to be procured; in many portions of the world there was a total destitution; and there were various languages into which no part of the Bible had ever been translated. To mention two instances by way of example,—in Iceland there were but Fifty copies of the Scriptures among 50,000 inhabitants, and one half of the population of the British Metropolis was without them.

"Something more, it was felt, must be done; men's consciences could not rest easy under such a state of things; and in providing a remedy for the evil, it was the earnest and anxious, and I can thankfully add, the *successful* wish and endeavour, to form a Society on so broad a ground as might unite all Christians who believed that people ought to read the Bible for themselves.

"They united in this great work, because they agreed in acknowledging the indispensable obligation of supplying the deficiency which existed.

"They united, because they agreed in believing that the Bible alone contains the charter of our eternal salvation.

"They united, because, although they could not all agree as to the Missionary who might be sent to teach, they could all join in saying what should be his best, his most constant companion; and that, when asked in foreign lands—What have you most interesting to shew us? what most valuable to give us? each in producing his treasures would exhibit this one book, the Bible, *a pearl of great price!*

"They united, because they saw how desirable it was, in preparing versions of the Scriptures in foreign tongues, there should be an agreement among all parties at home as to their essential correctness.

"'We unite,' (to use the words of a highly gifted and much lamented prelate) 'because by an admixture of all denominations of Christians we obtain a greater and more concentrated power of inculcating religious knowledge than can be possessed by any separate exertions of those religious parties which compose our union; and we remove all possibility of difference as to the sort of kowledge to be diffused by confining our exertions, as a body, to the dispersion of that one Work, whose authority we all profess to venerate, and to which, as to the very throne and oracle of truth, we severally make our appeal.'

"'The result of union is more than a simple addition of those items which each could separately furnish; not only each individual does more, and does it better when aided by the stimulus of example and fellowship; but works may be undertaken, which, except by the force of numbers, it would have been physically impossible to effect.'

"'Nor is this all: great bodies have the power and tendency to multiply themselves faster than small. They attract more of the world's attention; they offer themselves to the eyes of men in a magnitude which cannot be overlooked, and attract with a zeal whose contagious example is stronger by being concentrated.'

"Such were the causes and reasons for the formation of the Society: now what have its operations been?

"Upwards of Two Millions and a half of Pounds Sterling have been collected and expended in publishing and distributing the Scriptures.

"Upwards of Eleven Millions of Bibles and Testaments have been printed and dispersed.

"The Society has printed and distributed the Scriptures, wholly or partially, in one hundred and thirty-six different languages and dialects.

"The American Bible Society, formed on the same plan, has distributed more than Two Millions and a half of Bibles and Testaments; and has now engaged in the great work about Nine Hundred Auxiliary and Two Thousand Branch Societies.

"Besides these there are Bible Societies in most parts of Europe. Of all these the British and Foreign Bible Society may be considered the Parent. And furthermore, those persons who retained conscientious scruples as to the comprehensive plan of our Society, felt that they could not be idle; and have instituted other associations, which are actively engaged, though on a smaller scale, in carrying on the great work.

"I shall not attempt to estimate the good that has been done; much we know; more, perhaps, we may not know; let not this trouble us—let us cast our bread upon the waters. We have the assurance of God himself 'that his word will not return unto him void.'

"But we must never forget, that although much has been done, much remains to be done; although the Bible has been sent to tens of thousands and millions, there are tens of millions and hundreds of millions to whom the blessed truths of the Bible are yet unknown:—'There are millions who have lost the knowledge of the one true God amid a multitude of false or evil deities; who bow down to stocks and stones; who propitiate their senseless idols with cruel and bloody sacrifices; who lose sight of their dying friends with no expectation of again beholding them; and who go down to the grave themselves in doubt and trembling ignorance, without light, without hope, without knowledge of a Saviour.'

"Let us always, with hearts full of gratitude to the Author of all Good, remember how different our state is from theirs; and while, in our support of this society, formed for the purpose of extending the light of God's truth to every creature, we are banded together in the *unity of object*, there is another unity which without any compromise of opinion we may and ought sedulously to cherish and cultivate,—the unity of Christian Charity."

After the above speech, the 100th Psalm was sung, and the Report was then read by the Secretary.

Among the several interesting local points of information, we were much pleased to find it mentioned that His Excellency, Major General Sir John Harvey, had freely consented to be the Patron of the Society.

After the Report was read, the following Resolutions were severally moved and adopted:—

1st. Moved by Rev. Mr. Tupper, and seconded by Rev. Mr. Desbrisay,

Resolved, That the Report, now read, be adopted, and printed under the direction of the Committee.

2d. Moved by Rev. I. W. D. Gray, seconded by Capt. O'Halloran, of the 69th Regiment,

Resolved, That the remarkable success which has attended Bible Society operations abroad, and especially in France, through the means of those humble messengers, the Colporteurs, calls for the most fervent expression of gratitude to the Divine Author of the Bible.

3d. Moved by Rev. Mr. M'Gregor, seconded by Rev. Mr. Carey,

Resolved, That the goodness and mercy of God in still employing the feeble efforts of this Auxiliary to further the cause of Christ in this Province by the diffusion of the Scriptures, be acknowledged with devout and humble gratitude.

4th. Moved by Rev. Mr. Dimock, and seconded by Mr. John Tennent,

Resolved, That this Meeting most cordially join in the meed of approbation expressed in the Report to the Ladies' Bible Associations at St. John and Richibucto, and earnestly entreat a continuance of their warm and zealous support.

5th. Moved by Rev. Mr. Williams, and seconded by Rev. Mr. Harrison,

Resolved, That the cordial thanks of this meeting be given to the Branches at Grand Lake, Long Reach, Milkish and Wickam, for their continued efforts in the Bible cause.

6th. Moved by Rev. Mr. Andrew, and seconded by Mr. Humbert,

Resolved, That the following Gentlemen be the Committee for the following year:—

Samuel Huyghue, John Kinnear, John Wishart, Noah Disbrow, Jun., Richard Whiteside, Nathan S. Demill, Esquires; Messrs. Henry Hennigar, Gilbert T. Ray, Zebulon Estey, William Ewing, George A. Garrison, George Sears, William Whiteside, Adam Jack, John Smith, Joshua Bunting, William Small, Robert Reed.

For Portland—John Owens, John Duncan, J. W. Smith, Esquires; Messrs. Ruddock, Charles Waterbery.

For Carleton.—George Bond, Isaac Olive, Esqs.

The collection at the close, was greater than that of any preceding anniversary, being £16 13s. 8½d., exclusive of a liberal donation of £5 from Captain O'Halloran.

We have much pleasure in giving insertion to the following SPEECHES, by the Rev. I. W. D. Gray, and Captain O'Halloran, 69th Regt. on moving and seconding the second Resolution. The speeches of the other Gentlemen were not received in time for the present paper.

The Rev. Mr. Gray spoke as follows:—

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have listened with great pleasure to the Report which has just been read to us, particularly that portion of it which relates to our domestic concerns. This, Sir, is new to me. The rest of it is not so. Having attended the annual meeting of the Parent Society, in May, I of course have had the general operations of the Society previously brought under my notice. Still I have had much satisfaction in hearing them recurred to this evening. They comprise a variety of delightful topics which will bear to be repeated again and again. It is impossible for the Christian to renew his reflections upon them, without finding fresh cause for rejoicing and thankfulness. And, indeed, Ladies and Gentlemen, I shall have to presume upon this being the case, while speaking upon the Resolution, which the Committee have called upon me to move, this evening. I refer to the Foreign operations of the Parent Society. These you have already heard adverted to in the Report, and in the observations that have been made upon it. It will be necessary for me, however, to touch upon them again, in order to impress them upon your memories, and to do justice to the Resolution entrusted to me.—(See second Resolution, above.)

The Resolution speaks of two things—the success which has attended the operations of the Society, and the gratitude we owe to God for that success.

In reference to the first of these points, I fully agree with the terms of the Resolution—The success of the Society has been very "remarkable." To prove this, it might be sufficient to refer at once to the aggregate statement of their receipts and distributions, during the year. What has been the amount of their *Receipts*? No less a sum than £145,000 Sterling, being an excess of £8000 over the previous year. And what have their *Issues* amounted to? To 658,000, being an excess of no less than 63,000 over the previous year. Here, Sir, is an adequate proof of their successful operations.

But their success has *extended* over a large portion of the globe. It has not only been great in the aggregate, but *widely diffused*. The compilers of the General Report, do not indeed represent their success to have been in every instance co-extensive with their efforts. With their usual candour they tell us of several exceptions. China, for example, is one of these exceptions. With regard to China, we cherished a few years since the most pleasing anticipations. Providence appeared to have opened a door for extensive circulation of the scriptures amidst the population of that country. But now that door is, for a season, closed. The difficulties that have presented themselves have compelled the Society to withdraw their Agent from it. Yet even, with regard to China, sir, a gleam of hope still dawns upon us. We are told that at Malacca, a country which is not indeed immediately in contact with the Chinese dominions, but still, I presume, connected with them by commercial transactions, there are, at present, six native Chinese Missionaries, men of zeal and piety and information, truly devoted to the cause of Christ, who are travelling through the interior of the country, preaching the Gospel and disseminating the scriptures. On their last excursion they took with them 7000 volumes for distribution. This circumstance, Sir, appears to me to offer us some encouragement, even at present, in regard to China.—Spain is another exception adverted to in the Report. From that country the Society have been compelled to withdraw two zealous Agents. But even here again, a ray of hope presents itself, for we find that the past efforts of the Society have kindled a flame in that country which opposition cannot extinguish; and such has been the demand for Bibles that one of these Agents has been induced to return to the scene of labour. There is indeed, Sir, one country mentioned in the Report, over which an impenetrable cloud appears to hang, and where the impediments to circulating the scriptures have of late been greatly augmented: and that is *Italy*. The Report says—"Every opportunity has been embraced of sending the scriptures to Italy; but your committee grieve to say, in the words of an esteemed correspondent, difficulties and obstacles of every description increase in number and intensity every day." This is a fact, Sir, worthy of attentive consideration. It will be well for the friends of Bible circulation, to whatever denomination of Christians they belong, to note it in their memories.

But, success, Sir, notwithstanding these exceptions, has widely attended their efforts. On our own Continent and the adjoining countries, much has been effected. In the *West Indies* we have some delightful proofs that the land so lately emancipated from temporal slavery, is beginning, through the instrumentality of Bible circulation, as well as Missionary exertions, to participate in the spiritual freedom of the Gospel. Among the French Roman Catholics in Canada, we find that the Bible is beginning to be welcomed. The Montreal Auxiliary has circulated more than 4000 copies in the past year. "Upon the cheerless coast of Labrador, we are told, the converts from Heathenism find the Word of God truly a lamp unto their feet and a light unto their path. It is the cherished inmate of their rude dwellings; the favorite companion of their peculiar journeys; the source of daily comfort and edification to them, while absent from their spiritual instructors; the greatest treasure which they carry with them into their moveable tents, or into the still less enduring snow-huts, which are occasionally their places of shelter."—But passing by a variety of interesting details that regard America, let us glance, for a moment, at what has been effected in Asia. The anniversary meeting at Calcutta was full of interest. "The Lord Bishop, we are told, presided, and advocated the cause of the Society with his usual ability. The Report contained details of operations which display a zeal and activity, equal if not surpassing the best days of the Bible Society in heathen India." At Madras, 50,000 copies of the scriptures have been distributed, which is double the number that has been circulated in any previous year. But the important testimony in regard to that country, is summed up in a few emphatic words—"The people are prepared to receive the Word of God, and are disposed to hear it. Men of talent and learning are found ready to afford their aid in forming acceptable versions. Agents are not wanting to distribute widely and judiciously. Missionaries are rising up on every side to explain the written word and enforce it on the conscience. Nothing is now required but a simultaneous effort on the part of those who possess the silver and the gold." Such is the testimony in regard to that country, and shall the silver and the gold be wanting, my friends, while the professed followers of Christ have them at their disposal?—Some gratifying intelligence is given us in regard to Africa. We hear of 5000 copies of the scriptures being circulated in Egypt, and along the coast of the Mediterranean to Algiers and Morocco, of which more than 4000 have been *sold*. But it is in Europe that we are to look for the principal scene of the Society's operations. And what is the fact in regard to Europe?—We are not authorized to say that every country in Europe is cordially receiving the scriptures, for I have already pointed your attention to some exceptions that must be made upon this point. But we are warranted in asserting that all the different classes of Europe's inhabitants, that all the different denominations of men within its limits, whatever religion they may profess, are, in some part or other of their possessions, affording it a hearty welcome. It is received among the followers of Mahomet. More than 8000 copies have been circulated at Constantinople, Smyrna, and other places; circulated not *gratuitously*, but the sum of £739 stg. has been received in return for them. It is welcomed among the members of the Greek Church. The Agents of the British and Foreign Bible Society, as well as of the American Bible Society, are labouring with great success in Greece. "Learn for your joy, (one of them remarks,) that with the strength of God I have opened the way into the mountainous districts of the Peloponnesus, so that above 5000 copies of the Holy Scriptures will hereafter be distributed among Christians who have never before in their lives seen a translation of the Word of God. And I venture to say with certainty, that they do not know what the words Old and New Testament mean." Similar exertions are making in other parts of the Greek Church. At Petersburg 11,000 copies of the scriptures have been distributed, and we are told that there is an immediate demand for 80,000 Testaments to be circulated in Finland alone. In Germany too, where Neological doctrines have lately gained such a footing, where human reason has been exalted in opposition to Revelation, until the great fundamentals of revealed religion have been explained away by an unhallowed criticism, the Bible is regaining its influence. The central Society at Frankfort alone, has issued 48,000 copies of the scriptures, 11,000 of which were for Roman Catholics, and members of the Greek Church, and 2000 for Jews and other denominations. But, Sir, it is in France, that the most interesting scene of Bible circulation presents itself. And is it not a delightful reflection that such should be the case; that we can now take our stand in the midst of that country, which for so many years has been the centre, the stronghold, the garrison, the very citadel of Infidelity, and see on every hand springing up and flourishing around us, associations for disseminating the Scriptures? Yes, Sir, strange as it may appear, such is the case. The Agent of this Society, has distributed in the past year in that country, 121,000 copies of the Scriptures, being an increase of 31,000 over the preceding. From the single depôt at Paris, in one month, more than 12,000 copies were issued: and this is entirely independent of the large circulation by the French Bible Society and the Evangelical Society, which are formed for the same express object. And it is worthy of attention that the greater part of these distributions has been among the Roman Catholic population of that country, and to shew the value they attach to the books, the important fact is noted, that "they are not given away, but sold at a gradually increasing price." It appears, Sir, that out of 84 departments, into which France is divided, 52 are now visited and blessed by the Agents of this Society, and the remaining departments, it is hoped, will be brought under the same influence in the course of the ensuing year.

But the question here presents itself, what are the apparent *effects* of this distribution of the Scriptures? What are the present *results* of it? Some persons are in the habit of telling us, there is no utility in all these efforts; that the Bible thus circulated, will do no good, without Missionaries or commentaries to expound it, that it will be laid upon the shelf and left there to moulder in oblivion. But, Sir, we have the refutation at hand. The Report before us this year affords demonstrative proof of the contrary. We find there most interesting details of its powerful and blessed effects. In some parts, as in Greece, it has given rise to warm discussions upon vitally important subjects, respecting the paramount authority of the scriptures as the rule of faith. In other places it has been attended with opposition, which has been overruled to increase the circulation, and called into exercise the patience and fortitude of believers. In others, it has been found that numerous conversions have followed the reading of it; conversions, Sir, not merely from one creed to another, not merely from one class of professed Christians to another, but "from darkness to light, from sin to holiness, and from the power of satan unto the living God." In a letter from M. De Pressense, the Society's agent in France, he remarks, "The Colporteurs not only serve to convey the Bible into places where without them it would not have arrived, at least so soon; but also, in the hands of God, they are the instruments of very numerous conversions to the Divine doctrines of the Book of life." In another, speaking of two of the Colporteurs, he remarks, "their simple addresses were so much blessed by the Lord, that ten persons were induced to read the sacred volume, and to the glory of God be it said, the perusal has been made instrumental to their conversion. This is a delightful proof of the efficacy of the Holy Scriptures." Yes, Sir, it is indeed a delightful proof of that efficacy, and were it not for the fear of detaining the meeting too long, I could appeal to many other proofs of it, from the same Report.

And it is instructive to mark the *instrumentality* by which God is effecting these important results. In some instances it is, the Rich and Powerful. We have mention made of the King and Queen of Wurtemburg; of the late venerable Landgrave of Hesse; and of a Gentleman, sir, whom you as well as others in this community, remember with feelings of regard. I refer to Lieut. Col. Gawler, who during his residence in this Province, was respected, not only as an officer in the British army, but as a soldier of Christ, and who has gone to his new Government in South Australia, laden with Bibles, to disseminate among the subjects of that rising colony. But, in general, Sir, it has been "the poor of this world," that have been the chosen instruments of this beneficial effect. The Colporteurs, who are employed in circulating the scriptures in France and in other parts of Europe, are indeed humble instruments, they are taken from the lower walks of life, but they are patient and persevering instruments, they are highly honored and successful instruments—after commenting, in beautiful terms, upon the faith and zeal and devotedness and wisdom and prudence, by which they are distinguished, M. De Pressense remarks—"Nor is it a degree of vain glory which leads these our agents to embrace the calling of a Colporteur, for they are all Christian men, who have emanated it may be from some ignorant little village, with no other idea than that of prosecuting their work, never dreaming of being mentioned in a printed Report. Only let the Word of God, the Gospel of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, be disseminated, received and believed, and I care for nothing else, is the language of one of my Colporteurs, in which his fellow-workers would cheerfully join, for it is the same spring of action, which arouses all these humble servants of the Lord." So true is it, Sir, that "God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and weak things of the world to confound the mighty, and base things of the world, and things which are despised, has God chosen, to bring to nought things that are." And why? To teach us that "no flesh should glory in his presence;" that is, that none should glory in an arm of flesh, but that all should glory in the arm of God.

And hence we see the propriety of the concluding words of the resolution before us, which call upon us while tracing the useful labours of these humble instruments, to offer a fervent expression of gratitude to God. This, Sir, is undoubtedly our bounden duty upon such an occasion. For any temporal blessing upon ourselves or others, we, who are miserable and fallen sinners, without any claim whatever upon the bounty of heaven, owe our thanksgivings to the author of our happiness; how much more then for blessings which elevate the soul to God, and make us happy in Eternity! And were it only a single society or a single individual that had received these spiritual mercies, *that* should call forth our warm expressions of gratitude. How much more then, when it is not a single individual, or a single society, or a single nation, or a single quarter of the world, but the World itself almost every nation and kindred & tongue and people under heaven! We should be grateful, Sir, for the powerful encouragement thus afforded us to go forward in this cause. We see abundant proofs that God is with us. We see that he employs the agency of this Society, notwithstanding all the opposition it meets with, to effect the most important results, to carry the everlasting Gospel to the ends of the earth, and thus lay the foundation for the millennial glory of his church. And seeing all this, shall we withhold our grateful acknowledgements or stay our hand from supporting this Institution? No, Sir! we will bless God for its establishment, bless Him for its increase, bless Him for its preservation and usefulness, and pray Him to enrich and extend it, till every nation and every tribe and every family and every individual of our species shall possess the treasure of God's Word.

Objections, Sir, to this Society, I often hear, but the simple statement of its operation is the best answer to them all. They tell me the machinery is imperfect. I say look *how it moves*. They tell me it is useless. I say, look at its effects. They tell me we must send out Missionaries. Sir, I agree to the proposal. We ought to send out Missionaries, and to send them in far greater numbers than we ever yet have done. We cannot however send them, unless God disposes their hearts to go. Most sincerely do I pray that He who has at his disposal the hearts of all, may prepare many for this arduous work, and incline their hearts to enter upon it. But in the mean time, send them the Bible. Send them the Missionary that is at all times prepared for the work. Send them the Missionary that can encounter all climates without injury to the constitution, that can tread the burning sands of Africa without being scorched, and traverse the Polar snows without being congealed. Send them the Missionary that now speaks all languages of the earth, and speaks them with effect, because it speaks to the heart and speaks with the power of God. Send them the Missionary that can associate with every form of human government, without interfering with the political rights of any; associate with the limited Monarchy of France, the Imperial power of Russia, and the Republican Institutions of Greece and America. Send them the Missionary, that without ceding one principle of truth, can wend its way among the people of all religions, telling the Pagan to renounce his Idols, the Mahommedan to give up his false Prophet and his Koran: the Jew to turn to the despised Messiah; the Greek to relinquish his Images; the Romanist to trust in the only Mediator; aye and the Protestant, not to think it sufficient to protest against error, but to embrace and exemplify "the truth as it is in Jesus." Send them, I say, the Missionary, that can thus traverse the length and breadth of this fallen world, speaking to every class of men, the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth; that can do all this, without ceding one essential tenet, or renouncing one valuable principle, but remaining, like its glorious Author, unchanged and unchangeable, "the same yesterday, to-day, and forever.

May God, sir, bless the Institution that sends forth such a Missionary! May the people of this community, and the people of our nation universally, be willing to contribute their labour, their money, and their prayers, for the promotion of this exalted object!

Capt. O'Halloran, in seconding the Resolution, said:—

Sir—In giving my support to the resolution of the eminently pious, and eminently talented gentleman, who has just preceeded me, permit me in palliation of what may appear forwardness, to remark, that I would gladly have avoided the conspicuous position of a speaker, feeling in all humility, how little my profession and habits as a Soldier qualify me for such a task, and being loth to occupy a place that might be so much more advantageously filled by another; but it has been requested of me as a favour, that I would consent to take an active part in this night's proceedings, and having sincerely at heart the furtherance of the object for which we are met, and relying upon His blessing whose strength is made perfect in weakness, (and whose servant I feel it a great privilege to be permitted thus publicly to avow myself,) I have ventured upon these grounds and considerations to meet the wishes of the Committee, and it only remains for me to add, that the few observations which I have to offer, will apply rather to the general question of the diffusion of the Gospel, and our obligation as professing Christians to take a lively interest in the work, than to the particular resolution, which it has devolved upon me to have the honour of seconding, and which has been so eloquently, feelingly, and fully considered by the Rev. Mr. Gray.

Christianity, Sir, in all ages, has called her professors to a state of active services. The important and instructive admonition, "Give an account of thy stewardship" cannot be too frequently in our thoughts; and it must not be lost sight of, that the more exalted and influential our station in society, the more eminent our abilities, and affluent our fortunes, there will undoubtedly attach to us a corresponding degree of responsibility for the application we make of these our respective talents, as instruments of usefulness in promoting the glory of God. Honoured indeed, and privileged above their fellow-men should *they* account themselves, who are permitted to be fellow-workers with the Lord Himself in the advancement of his Kingdom. For such a purpose, Sir—for such a rational, exalted and holy purpose are we this night assembled, and it is my earnest prayer that He who disposes the hearts of men as it pleases him, will so dispose our hearts to His service, not in glowing words and unprofitable acclamations, but in silent, grateful, effectual deeds, that the funds collected on the present occasion, may give new vigour to the exertions of this benevolent Society, and furnish an example worthy of imitation to our Christian Brethren in other parts of New Brunswick and the Sister Province.

We are met, Sir, to advance His sacred cause, of whose unspeakable love to us, the Apostle makes mention in the following moving words, "Ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who though he was rich, for our sakes became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich." Oh may that grace shed its influence, abundantly and irresistibly upon our hearts, this evening, that we also may be moved to follow in his track of universal love and mercy!

"Honour the Lord with thy substance," says Solomon, "and with the first fruits of all thine increase, so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."

And oh, my friends, how can we so acceptably honour Him, as by consecrating to His service some portion of that abundance which we have received at his hands; how can we so honour ourselves as by becoming fellow-workers with Him in publishing his scheme of Redemption.

We daily pray "Thy Kingdom come," but does our zeal for the Lord, as exhibited by our actions prove the sincerity of this our petition? That which we earnestly desire in a temporal sense, do we not make earnest exertions, aye, and palpable sacrifices too, to effect its accomplishment?—what self-denial can we practise if poor in circumstances—and how lavish are we of our substance, if wealthy, to promote the worldly interests of a relative or friend!—our professions of regard for our fellow-man unaccompanied by corresponding actions, would be regarded not only as valueless, but insulting; and shall God alone, think you, be mocked with words? Shall the Omniscient stretch forth his hand to gather fruit in the vineyard which he himself has planted and watered—shall He ask of those who call themselves his disciples, for proofs of love, and find nothing but the fig-leaves of barren and deceitful profession? Oh, my friends, if the love of the Redeemer and of his Kingdom were as warm in our hearts as the success of almost the least of our daily temporal concerns and speculations, the scanty rills of contribution which now water the vineyard of the Lord, would swell into mighty streams, bearing down and overwhelming the opposing barriers of Papal craft, and heathen superstition; and the knowledge of the Lord would inundate the face of the earth, as the waters cover the sea. We have the sure promise of God that thus it shall be at the appointed period, but who can regard that period as possibly near, and be indifferent to the means for expediting its accomplishment? How can we be cold and unconcerned in a matter involving the eternal safety and happiness of millions—how can we deny to the wants of perishing souls, that which we deny not to the gratification of our most ordinary appetites and affections—to wit, a good dinner—a luxurious but unnecessary piece of furniture—a waistcoat or gown of rare pattern, or a pretty shawl or bonnet—are these the trifles to outweigh in our hearts the claims of redeeming love? Are these the considerations to be permitted to rise paramount to the spiritual necessities of our fellow-men, and to the approbation of our God? The embroidered waistcoat and tasteful bonnet may obtain us admiration in the streets of St. John, but what sort of a covering will they make for our naked sinful souls in the courts of the Most High; there is but one garment that will elicit praises there, and that is the spotless robe of the righteousness of Christ. Our feast of good things upon earth, will form no title of admission to the feast of love in heaven—neither will the luxurious Ottoman which adorns our drawing-rooms, render easier to us the repose of the grave.

I trust, my friends, that I shall not be misunderstood—my strictures are only intended to shew that we must not indulge in worldly comforts, refinements and pleasures, to an extent which may deprive us of the power of attending to the weightier claims of the Gospel, and that we must endeavour to restrain the hitherto undiminished tide of selfish expenditure, if we find ourselves cramped in contributing, as our conscience dictates we ought to do, in the cause of God. No one can admire more than I do the spirit of active and lavish benevolence which marks the character of the wealthy merchants, the high public functionaries and the professional gentlemen generally of the city of St. John—indeed I have had recent personal experience of it in behalf of a poor widow; and were it not that I might cause pain to some who are perhaps present and listening to me, I would furnish their names. A want of generosity is by no means the national failing of New Brunswick. I would only suggest a mode for its application, which is not I fear sufficiently considered, and which would ensure a rich return of treasures in Heaven. I would say let your rivers of bounty flow less in the channels of solicitation cut out by the world, and more into the vineyard of the Lord. Were you required to contribute to any scheme which had for its object to place the City of St. John, in its political and commercial relations in a position of advantage—how would the love of country burst forth and manifest itself in the promptness and largeness of your donations? Were there funds wanting at this present moment to repel any threatened invasion, let us suppose the invasion so long, and so insolently threatened by the State of Maine; how would the brave and hardy sons of New Brunswick respond to such a call? At such a call, how unsparingly would the old men pour forth their treasures, and the young men their blood. And yet, Sir, funds are wanting for a far more important purpose than to ensure the political and commercial advantages of the City of St. John; funds are wanting to repel the encroachments upon our territories of a far more daring and implacable foe than Governor Fairfield; the City to whose prosperity, (not political but spiritual) I would direct your contributions is the City of the New Jerusalem—the foe to be repelled is not Governor Fairfield, but Governor Satan; extensive indeed are his dominions, and hourly on the increase his power and his sway. Funds are wanting sir to oppose the light of the Gospel to his devices—funds are wanting to raise on high the Cross wherever it may be confronted by the banners of the powers of darkness.

It is the Lord himself who is the originator of the scheme, and he who graciously condescends to make his power perfect in weakness is graciously pleased to accept of mortal means to carry out his purposes of love and mercy. It is the Lord himself, that Lord who has declared that a cup of cold water given in his Name shall not be forgotten, He it is who deigns to accept of your services. He deigns to accept a return of some of that abundance which he himself has poured upon you—no blood is required—*that* he himself has shed—he asks not even of your necessities but of your superfluities. He who esteemed the widow's mite, more than the contributions of the wealthiest, invites you now to testify your love, and that not by the largeness and ostentation of your gifts, but by the spirit in which they are offered. Oh! my friends, implore him from whom alone proceedeth all holy desires and all good works—implore Him to incline your hearts unto his testimonies and not unto covetousness—implore him both to regulate your oblations in their amount, and to receive them with an eye of favour, and be not satisfied with this one sacrifice of praise and gratitude, but make them annual. Become all of you subscribers, Annual Subscribers to the Bible Society, so shall you become irreconcileable enemies of Satan, and servants of the living God.

I have been a Soldier, Sir, of my Queen and Country for many years, and I have sought for happiness as the world usually seek it, in the paths of gaiety and dissipation; but until I became a Soldier of the Cross, I knew the unsubstantial object of my pursuits—happiness—only by its name. The lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eye, and the pride of life—these did not confer it.—I will not say that there was not honey in the cup which the world presented to my lips, but there was a sting also—the sting of conscience which told me that man was created for more exalted purposes and nobler ends than to be the slave of an existence merely animal, or intellectual. I can truly say that I knew no real peace or joy, until I felt the peace and joy of believing—until I preferred the Temple of my God to the hall of revelling and the bower of fashion—until I could say with the Psalmist "Lord I have loved the habitation of thy house and the place where thine Honor dwelleth, the place of the Tabernacle of thy Glory."

I have travelled many countries, Sir, East and West, and fair and pleasant some of them are accounted, but I have found no land so fair and pleasant as the land of Canaan. On discovering the beauties of that land by the assistance of my Bible, I experienced the force and truth of the Psalmist's words, "The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places, yea I have a goodly heritage," what wonder then that I should be anxious to point out the road to others—and this I feel I cannot do so effectually as by contributing my cordial and earnest support to Bible and Missionary institutions.

If, Sir, we esteem the Gospel an unspeakably precious gift, and are truly interested in its diffusion, let us prove our sincerity on this head towards God, as we would be expected to redeem our professions to our fellow men. Permit me to revert to the case just now supposed of an invasion threatened by Maine.—Who would respect the cold-blooded and unnatural Citizen, that in such an emergency would seat himself quietly down by his fireside, and contribute merely his hearty good wishes to the cause of his country. Who would value a patriotism that exhibited in the hour of need, no nobler fruits than these?—And ever so my friends must our sincerity in the cause of God be tested, and judged of. It is in vain to implore his blessing upon efforts which are accompanied by no sacrifice—it is in vain to pray him to extend "his saying health unto all nations," and to rest satisfied with a mere cold and heartless form of words, as if the Gospel were to find its way to the cottage of the uninstructed poor, and the land of the distant and benighted heathen, by some supernatural manifestation of the Divine power.—No my friends, the days of miracles are gone bye—it pleases God in the present advanced state of Christianity to work by human means—and we have the means, if there is only a corresponding will, of carrying his gracious purposes into effect in our own hearts. He has blessed this City with wealth and resources which are daily nay, almost hourly increasing; make then my christian friends an oblation of your first fruits unto God—let the fervent expressions of gratitude which we are called upon to offer up to the Divine author of the Bible, by the resolution which I have the honour to support, be indeed fervent in their character—let them be expressed in characters of silver and of gold, according to our respective abilities.—Consecrate unto the Lord, some portion of that abundance which you have received at his hands, and he will open the windows of Heaven, and pour out a blessing upon you, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

In conclusion Sir, permit me to remark, that the prevailing reproach by men of the world, against those who in a measure separate themselves from the world, is, that they preach but do not practise—give us, they say, one act by way of example, and that will go farther in producing imitation than ten thousand pages of precept. Influenced by this consideration, and earnestly desiring to promote the practise of the doctrines which in much weakness I have endeavoured to advocate, I think I cannot do better, to prove my own sincerity in this matter and thereby afford an example of imitation to others, than by requesting the Secretary to the institution to put my name down as a subscriber in the sum of Five Pounds; and may the Lord be graciously pleased to accept of this my unworthy offering and to cleanse my heart of all other motive, save his glory and the establishment of the Redeemer's Kingdom.

With these remarks Sir, I beg to second the resolution proposed by the Rev. Mr. Gray.

The Speech of Governor General Thomson, at the opening of the Upper Canada Legislature, will be found in another part of the paper.

We have also inserted an important Dispatch from Lord John Russell, Colonial Secretary, to the Governor General, regarding the future Government of the Colonies, and the tenure of office of certain Provincial officers. The plans of his Lordship, while they will doubtless please a large portion of the colonial population, will also meet the most decided opposition of perhaps an equally powerful party.

Congress.—On Saturday, 14th inst. the House of Representatives agreed to ballot for a Speaker, all the New-Jersey members except one, being debarred from voting. The other members of the House were all present, amounting to 235—necessary to a choice, 118 votes. On the first ballot, J. W. Jones, (Van Buren,) had 113 votes; Mr. Bell, (opposition,) 102—scattering votes, 20.—Five subsequent ballots took place, without coming to a choice; at each ballot the votes became more scattering. The House adjourned over to Monday the 16th.—Two weeks of the session have thus been consumed in *agreeing* to vote for a Speaker, and it is not improbable that another week may be occupied in electing that officer.—The President's Message will not be communicated to Congress until the House of Representatives is regularly organized.

A fire broke out in a large dry goods warehouse, No. 45 Cedar street, New-York, on the night of the 14th inst. which communicated to the adjoining warehouse, No. 47, and both buildings, with nearly all their contents, were entirely destroyed. They were five story brick stores, occupied by several dry goods importers. Loss estimated at nearly half a million of dollars.

The Weather.—Such a delightful season as we are now enjoying has never been previously known. Indeed Sam Slick uttered nothing but the truth when he asserted that we have a long piece of summer tacked on to our *falls* to make up for the shortness of our *springs*. Christmas is just at hand, but we have had no snow, and scarcely any cold yet.—*Halifax Recorder, Dec. 21.*

The above is precisely the description of weather we are enjoying in St. John. This is Christmas Eve, and there has not yet been any sleighing in this vicinity, and but little cold weather.—Such a remarkably mild season has not been experienced in very many years.

Boston was visited with a heavy North East snow and rain storm on Sunday the 15th inst. The wind blew with great fury for several hours—in the evening it increased to a hurricane, blowing with more violence than had been experienced for years. The *Mercantile Journal* contains a long list of vessels wrecked and damaged by the gale, on the coast near Boston; a large number of lives were lost.—The British brig Susannah drove up to Quincy; and Br. sch'r Henry Davenport, of Annapolis, ashore on Hospital Island.—The wharves, &c. at Boston and other ports, received much damage; and the Worcester rail road was entirely obstructed by snow.

In Glocester harbour *twenty-two* vessels were totally lost; *thirty-two* dismasted or otherwise damaged, and *twenty* lives lost. About twenty vessels were driven ashore at Cape Ann.—The vessels were principally coasters.

The gale extended as far as New Haven.—The New-York Journal of Commerce of Monday the 16th does not mention the gale; it is therefore probable it was not felt there.

Fishing Draft.—The Freemen of this City and others entitled to a draft in the Fisheries, which takes place on Monday the 6th January, are reminded that their names must be inserted in the Book which is now open for that purpose at the City Court Room in the Court House, and which will close at six o'clock on Saturday evening next.

The Stalls in the New Market House in the Market Square were sold on Saturday last, and yesterday morning the Butchers moved to them from their late temporary market in King's Square.

A Company of the United States Troops, consisting of sixty or seventy men, passed through Bangor, on the 14th inst. on their way to Houlton.

Quebec, Dec. 11.

The weather still continues quite *unseasonable*, the wind came round to the south west yesterday morning; the thermometer to-day is between 40° and 45°. The fields are mostly bare. All, we believe, are displeased with this *reform* of the Canada winter.

We understand that Capt. C. W. Douglas, of the *Canada* steamer, has been appointed to the command of a boat in Mr. C