

that there should be a process of broadening our spiritual character, without impairing our denominational attachment. You do not find that in loving all churches alike—nor in loving all churches so well that you cannot belong to any. I venture to state that the noble Society under whose auspices we are gathered to-night, enriches spiritual life, broadens Christian character, and yet makes the Episcopalian, the Presbyterian, a more sturdy upholder of his church views, and the Methodist more worthy of the name he bears. For this reason we find all the churches rallying around the standard of this Society—from the mitred bishop down to the humblest evangelist—from the Queen upon the throne and the Peers of the Realm, through all the ranks of Protestant society. Its Catholic and non-denominational character gives it a claim upon all the churches. The Bible Society has erected a platform of such materials, and based upon such fundamental principles that those of every denominational complexion can meet upon it; and independently of their views of doctrine and church polity, can aid in furthering the interests of the Bible Society. The Bible Society stands high and alone above all parties, and to it belongs the high honour, the great glory of bringing together, and engaging in the common work of spreading the knowledge of revealed truth, all those who receive the Bible as the word of God. It matters not to what branch of the Church you belong, there is no compromise of principle in being identified with the cause of the Bible. Lord Bexley, who was for seventeen years the President of the British and Foreign Bible Society, when reproached by a professor of divinity for uniting with Dissenters in the work replied: "So far from repenting of what I have done, I shall less and less repent of it as I approach that state where the distinction of Churchmen and Dissenters shall be no more." Side by side with the testimony of Lord Bexley we would place that of Dean Milner. "I would not for all this kingdom can bestow, have my conscience loaded with the bitter reflection that I had ever directly or indirectly been instrumental in obstructing the free progress of the British and Foreign Bible Society." Great has been the magnetic power of this Society, in drawing all sections of the Church together, and thus proving the true unity, the real oneness of the Protestant Church.

Moreover, the Bible Society is worthy of our most earnest support, because of its vital relation to the missionary organizations of the Church. One of the great purposes for which it has an existence is to evangelize the world. As the Church receives the spirit of Christ she evinces a Christlike zeal in seeking and saving the lost. But she may have men, men of Pauline culture, and men of Pauline consecration, who in the face of all the difficulties manifest in going into heathen lands and, unprotected, into the midst of hostile tribes, can say with that Prince of Gospel missionaries: "None of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself that I may finish my course with joy." But at every step in the progress of missionary work the churches are made to feel, all the churches are made to feel their dependence upon the Bible Society to furnish them with copies of the Word of God, translated into the tongue of the people sought to be rescued from the deep degradation of Paganism. There can be no substitute for the voice of the living Preacher; but what is he without the living word of the living God. All the soldiers on the frontier get their swords from the armoury of this society. Without the Bible Society the missionary operations of the Church would be curtailed to an alarming extent, and without the missionary societies of the churches furnishing through their learned missionaries material in the form of new translations, the scope of the Bible Society would be greatly lessened. They are partners, each essential to the other, and both requisite for the accomplishment of God's gracious purposes in the enlightenment and salvation of the race. As we are interested in the success of our