

nary organization is indebted to it for translations of the Word of God, without which missionary effort would be a feeble thing. Eternity alone could announce the triumph of this great Society. The work is not yet completed ; but it is progressing. From the mountain-top of prophecy we may look out beyond the present state of things, and contemplate that glorious period when all shall know the Lord—when the idols shall be abolished—when “holiness unto the Lord shall be written upon the bells of the horses”—upon the literature of the world—upon the commerce of the nations—upon the statesmanship of kingdoms, and upon the hearts of earth’s teeming millions. I come back from that excursion to the millennium to the fact of your duty and mine. Shall we send the Bible? Do we believe in it? Do we prize it? Can we say with David, “More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold—sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.” If you appreciate the Book as a revelation of Jesus Christ you will gladly send it on its mission of unmixed blessing to those who have not the more than golden treasure. O, Book of God! O, Testimony of Jesus Christ! Thou art more precious than rubies; thou comest to us from our Father in Heaven, laden with benedictions inestimable and innumerable. We think of thy history, of thy facts, of thy promises, and of the help and comfort that thou hast been to the generations which passed on before us. Under this shadow our fathers were screened from the scorching sun. At this fountain they drew the water of life with joy. In age and feebleness extreme thou wast their strength—the strength of their hearts, and when the closing scene came, they heard thy voice, and although their senses had lost the keenness of earlier years, that voice was to them as the music of the skies, as thou didst say:—“Let not your heart be troubled, you believe in God, believe also in me.” What thou hast been to our fathers thou art and will be to us their children. Let us to-night, in this holy place, offer thanks to God for the possession of this precious Book. Do any ask after all that has been said, “Why attach such importance to the Bible?” I answer:—

“This Book unfolds Jehovah’s mind,
This Voice salutes in accents kind,
This Friend will all our need supply,
This Fountain sends forth streams of joy,
This Mine affords us boundless wealth,
This Good Physician gives us health,
This Sun renews and warms the soul,
This Sword both wounds and makes us whole,
This Letter shows our sins forgiven,
This Guide conducts us safe to heaven,
This Charter has been sealed with blood,
This Volume is the Word of God.”

SEVENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

[The Committee do not hold themselves responsible for sentiments uttered by the various speakers.]

The annual meeting of this Society was held in Exeter Hall on Wednesday, May 5th. After the usual devotional exercises and the reading of the Report,

The President, Lord SHAFTESBURY, said: “It is not, I assure you, through any indifference to this great cause, or from want of sympathy with its principles and operations, that I do not detain you on these occasions with many observations. So far from feeling indifferent, I love this cause and this Society more and more every day that I live; and more and more do I see with regret and sorrow that this is now almost the only platform upon which Christians of all denominations can be brought to act together in the common service of their Lord and Master. I have always thought that when the chairman has nothing novel or special to tell, it is not right that he should