

have not been falsified. We are confident, because we trust in the same resources which have supplied us with strength and with success. And what a ground of glorious anticipation is open for us, when we recollect the progress of opinion, and of the human mind, during the last thirty or forty years! Since the commencement of the reign of that most venerable and beloved Sovereign, whose virtues [*acclamation*]*—*well do I see, my Lord, that this Assembly anticipates what I was about to say.—At the name of that beloved Sovereign we have but one feeling; and what adequate expression can I find for such a feeling? But since the commencement of the reign of our present Sovereign, whose example, whose virtues, whose piety, have so materially contributed to the promotion of the best feelings, and the best Institutions, within the last forty years; and, though it be true that he cannot now witness the effects of his conduct, yet let us not fear that he will be without an ample reward—but we, I say, are now enjoying those happy effects,—enjoying them in the increased knowledge and virtue of the age; enjoying them in the multiplied institutions of charity that surround us; enjoying them this day in the presence of that August Person who has honoured us with his presence. During the period I have mentioned, how rapid has been the progress of the best institutions! We have seen every species of enlightened charity established; we have seen the noblest plans of benevolence realised; we have seen crimes, which for centuries had been the disgrace of this country and the scandal of our holy faith, abandoned as by a common impulse of the whole people; and to that glorious work when I advert, can I fail to advert to my distinguished friend near me, whose exertions and whose eloquence achieved at length the abolition of the Slave Trade? Or can I fail again to advert to the royal person present, to whom that great cause is so deeply indebted, and who, in strict consistency, follows up the support of that cause by his support of the Bible Society. Let me, indeed, tell that illustrious individual, that it well becomes him to appear in this place, after he has contributed to the emancipation of Africa. I say, this well becomes him; and he will forgive the freedom of the expression, if I say further—it is consistent with a sentiment of the deepest respect—but I must be permitted to say what I am sure he himself feels,—that to appear in this place is not so much to confer honour as to receive it.—Amidst all those Institutions however that have been rising up during the last century, it is curious to remark in what period at last the Bible Society has appeared. We had distinguished ourselves by charities of various kinds; by improvements in political institutions, diffusing happiness over distant quarters of the