

the treasure which God has thus bestowed—everywhere to hold on high the banner of the Word of God—everywhere to call all men to submission to its authority, and to acknowledgment of its power and its truth. And it will not call in vain. The more the Bible is spread, and the more the Bible is studied, the deeper, the profounder the thought that is spent upon it, the more earnest the inquiry bestowed upon it, the more careful the criticism, the closer the examination—all the more shall stand out, conspicuous before the spiritual nature, the marvellous power which breathes through all its pages, and tells mankind of the truths which it contains. I fear not any examination to which it may be subjected; I fear not any criticism of its history, or any investigation of its source; I fear not any examination of the details of its meaning. Still I know that, whatever else shall go, this will stand.”

THE REV. DR. MURRAY MITCHELL.—

My lord, and Christian friends, I have been somewhat suddenly asked to take part in the services of this day; but I have not felt at liberty to refuse the invitation. Although I have not had time properly to collect and arrange my thoughts, yet I have lately seen the work of this society in foreign lands; and I venture to hope that the simplest possible statement of facts which I have witnessed with my own eyes may be interesting and useful. I have, just a day or two ago, returned from the East. I have seen the work of this Society and of kindred societies in Japan, and in China, and in India, and, on the way home, in Italy; and I am sure that if, in the short time to which I must restrict myself, I could only state what I have seen, every member of this Society would feel encouraged, and pour out his heart in thanksgiving to God for success in the past, and would again go forward with the assurance of fresh triumphs in the future.”

MR. G. T. EDWARDS.—

“I hope, my lord, we all feel that on these occasions we meet to promote a great practical object. I am afraid that this is what some of our critics would hardly allow. They would say, ‘If you were met to establish a hospital, or to found an infirmary, that is something practical, but to circulate a book, to try and impose your opinions on other people, may be very well intentioned, but it is not practical.’ I, however, apprehend, my lord, that broken bones, and lacerated limbs, and gout, and fever, and rheumatism, are not the only ills from which men are suffering. Are not man’s deepest sorrows within? ‘A wounded spirit who can bear?’ If the Book we circulate can do anything to soothe those sorrows, I apprehend our object is somewhat practical. Now, I maintain as a fact—as certain a fact as any fact in science or history—you may account for it how you will—the Book we circulate has a marvellous power to dry up tears, to bind up broken hearts, to smooth sick and dying pillows, to fill men with an unutterable peace passing understanding. If that is what we are doing, then I think our object is eminently practical. If it be asked, ‘What is the Bible Society doing to meet all the attacks that are being made upon God’s Word?’ I reply, ‘We are not spending any of the money that is entrusted to us in printing defences of the Bible, but we use all the money in printing the Bible itself.’ I apprehend that this is the noblest defence we can make.

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“The Bible Society defends the Bible by circulating it. What a wonderful defence it is! It found the world with, perhaps, five millions of Bibles; it has given to it now, you hear, more than ninety-five millions—nearly a hundred million copies. It found the Bible in fifty languages, it has sent it out in two hundred and fifty, not always the whole Bible, nor do we mean to say all these versions are now in actual circulation. How wonderful, my lord, when we think of forty of these languages specially reduced to writing to give the people speaking them God’s Word. Here are forty languages, that eighty years ago were only spoken languages, and now men are reading