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SPEECHES DELIVERED AT THE ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF  
THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY, 5TH MAY, 1886.

PROFESSOR SIR M. MONIER-WILLIAMS said :—

“ I feel that I am very unfitted to take the place of the American Minister in proposing the first resolution ; and yet there is some fitness in my being asked to address you to-day, for I have been during more than a quarter of a century the holder of perhaps the only Professorship in Great Britain which has for its object the conversion of the natives of India to Christianity by disseminating among them the Holy Scriptures. The late Colonel Boden, who was of the Honourable East India Company’s service, bequeathed the whole of his property to the University of Oxford for the promotion of the study of Sanskrit, being of opinion—I give you the very words of his will—‘ that a more general and critical knowledge of the Sanskrit language would be a means of enabling his countrymen to proceed with the conversion of the natives of India to the Christian religion, by disseminating a knowledge of the Sacred Scriptures among them more effectually than all other means whatsoever.’ You see that this good Colonel Boden, like many other military men, I am happy to say, in India—men who have been the salt of our Indian Empire—was a soldier and servant of Christ ; and valuing the Bible more than any other earthly possession, he believed that it was the duty of this country, to which God has committed a vast Indian Empire as a sacred trust—it was the duty of this country to give back to our Eastern peoples that most precious of all treasures which we have received from the East, our own Holy Bible, translated into their own vernaculars. He knew, too, that Sanskrit was the sacred language of the Brahmins, the language which is the key to all the spoken dialects of India, and the key to the religious thoughts, the customs, and the superstitions of the natives ; and he knew that a translation into Sanskrit was more likely to commend itself to the learned natives of India than any other translation.

“ Well, then, if God has committed to us this sacred trust, this vast East-