

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING,

HELD IN
THE WESLEYAN CENTENARY CHAPEL, ON THURSDAY EVENING,
JANUARY 3, 1856.

His Honor Judge PARKER, President of the Society, in the Chair.

The Meeting was opened by singing the following Hymn:

O Thou, whose glory and whose grace
Celestial hosts proclaim,
Look down from heav'n, thy dwelling place,
Teach us to fear thy Name.

Within the volume of thy word,
We pass our early youth,
Learn of our Saviour and our Lord,
The Way, the Life, the Truth.

Thy Word displays the concord sweet
Of fear and Holy love:
Mercy and truth together meet.
Descending from above.

O Lord! thy glory and thy grace
Whilst now our lips proclaim,
Come to our hearts, thy dwelling place,
And make us fear thy Name.

The President then rose and delivered an Address, of which the following is the substance.

He congratulated the meeting on the assemblage once more to celebrate, what perhaps might without much impropriety of language, be called our great Annual Protestant Festival. A few years ago all the world seemed to be at peace, and we were rejoicing to think how much that happy state of things would conduce to the extending the great work of the British and Foreign Bible Society. But a mighty change had come: we were now engaged in a great and destructive war, which had been so overruled in the wondrous providence of God, that the very hostilities we were called on to encounter had opened new and unforeseen channels for the diffusion of the Holy Scriptures. War was doing what peace had failed to do.

He next remarked, that he did not think he could occupy the few minutes he had to address them more profitably than by stating a few striking facts, which might easily be retained in the memory, and would tend to remove any doubt or indifference which might be felt as to the support to be given to the Bible Society.

1. Taking the number from the last report of the Parent Society, up to May 1855, and knowing how the work was continually going on since, it might fairly be assumed that full ~~many~~ millions copies of Bibles and Testaments had been issued at the close of the year. What had become of them? They had gone everywhere where an entrance could be found. But see what was done in England. It was calculated after making every