

let us cry, "O Lord, may Thy bright beams rest upon this work, and do Thou grant that Thy blessed word may have free access and be glorified throughout all the nations of the earth : " We are to advance the work of the Bible Society because of its glorious reality. Wherever we go we find that it is the path that is to guide us home. I do not know what others think ; but I for one believe in the absolute plenary inspiration of God's eternal truth, and I look upon that Bible as absolutely, verbally inspired by God the Holy Ghost ; and as regarded in this light I consider that we are to learn many lessons from it. I have no sympathy with that wretched school that would bring down man's greatest blessing to the level of the human and the worldly, the transient and the ephemeral. Now, dear friends, let us look at the blessed Lord, and with this reflection I will close. I would direct you to look at our blessed Redeemer, and ask you to notice how in his daily life the one controlling power with Him was the awful sanctity of the word of God. When he came under the power of his enemies, when he was tempted and tried, he never deflected from the path, because he said, "How then can the Scriptures be fulfilled ? " On one occasion he said, " If it be possible let this cup pass from me, nevertheless not my will but Thine be done." He saw his whole pathway, from the cradle of Bethlehem to Calvary, and from Calvary to glory, marked out in that blessed book. It was the itinerary by which He trod the whole weary way ; and I ask you to contrast the awful, sublime respect which the Lord Jesus Christ ever placed upon the Word of God, with the cold, impudent, blasphemous assertions that are made both by clergymen, professors and others belonging to the higher criticism. I ask you to notice how they differ from His awful words, who was Himself the way, the truth and the life ; and after I have sat at the feet of Christ and heard His estimation of His own word, this arm will lose its cunning, and this voice its power to speak, before I will give up one hundredth part of an inch to all the schools in Christendom from Dan to Beersheba. (Applause and laughter.) Dear friends, we live in troublous times. The clouds are mantling round about us, and I would say to you, " Be earnest about the best"—that is, in fostering the study of God's Holy Word. Bring it into your schools ; teach it to your children ; teach it to the young ; tell it to the old ; scatter its truth everywhere ; build up your people upon this revelation ; and remember that if this be forgotten—if you substitute for the Bible the doctrines and the maxims of men—the end will show the awful irremediable mistake that you have made ; but with this resolution before us I would conclude as follows :—If you go to Scotland you will find, as a general rule, people that are strong in their faith, and why ? Because, perhaps, in Scotland more than anywhere else the Bible is taught to the young from their earliest infancy—(Hear, hear, and applause)—and you meet a strong, free, splendid people, not built up by statute and law, not built up so much by the power of man, but strong in the liberty wherewith Christ has made them free, in the blessed heritage of the inspired Book of God. With this address I beg to move, however humbly I may have done it, this resolution which asks our continuous joy in the progress that is being made in the circulation of the inspired Book of God. (Applause.)