

close of the meeting, to two distinguished rectors of the parish, the one consecrated by the veneration of centuries as the harbinger of the Reformation, John Wickliffe, the other endeared to the present generation by fourteen years of affectionate and laborious piety, the present Lord Bishop of Gloucester, almost the whole company was dissolved in tears. Indeed it cannot but be considered as a remarkable circumstance, that a Society for circulating the Holy Scriptures only should be formed in the very town where John Wickliffe, in the year 1387, died, and whence his bones were dug up by order of the council of Constance in 1428, and the ashes scattered in the river Swift, which flows by the town, for having translated the Holy Scriptures into English, and maintained the authority of those Scriptures and their sufficiency for saving instruction. The other memorials of this great reformer's name are deservedly cherished; but assuredly no mark of reverence can be more appropriate than that of acting on the main sentiment by which he was distinguished, and which was fully recognized in this country two centuries after his death, as the great principle of the Reformation. The enemies of Wickliffe, says Fuller, thought, that by burning his bones and scattering them in the Swift, they would destroy his name and doctrine—but no; the Swift carried them into the Avon; the Avon into the Severn; the Severn into the Ocean; and the Ocean round the World.

*From His Excellency Sir Rufane S. Donkin, K. C. B. Government House, Cape of Good Hope, Aug. 31, 1820.*

My Lord,—I HAVE the honour of acquainting your Lordship, that on Wednesday the 23d of this month, a Bible Society was established in this Colony, and the first meeting held in this house. The gentlemen present so strongly insisted on my taking the chair, that I did so, though reluctantly, from a consciousness of my inability to fill it on so important an occasion in the manner in which it ought to be filled. I, however, was so well assisted by the gentlemen present, particularly by Sir Jahleel Brenton, the Naval Commissioner here, that I hope the business of the day did not suffer much from having fallen into my hands.

A Committee has since been formed, which is now employed in putting into activity the necessary arrangements for the distribution of the Holy Scriptures throughout this Colony.

I took an opportunity of assuring the Meeting, that during the time I may administer this government, no effort shall be wanting on my part to promote the diffusion of Christianity throughout Southern Africa. I am persuaded that, independently of the paramount duty by which every Christian is bound to impart the light of the Gospel to those who are unacquaint-