

the Bible Society, and contend with us for a free Bible! In whatever else we might differ with them, gladly would we welcome them to take part with us in the circulation of the Word of God. And what a glorious fact it is that such a Bible Society was formed in Rome, and under the very shadow of the Vatican. A national Italian Bible Society is one of the great facts of this year, and from every lover of the Bible will rise the prayer, God bless the Italian Bible Society.

Old Spain, long sunk into the most abject degradation, has awakened—the Bible is circulating through the Peninsula, and we look for results far more glorious than the mere revival of her old genius.

Here then our duty lies before us. The Bible rings out clear and bold upon the world a mighty trumpet-note of hope through all its prison-houses of sorrow and fear—of pity and succour through all its lazar-houses of moral disease—of peace over all its wide battle of tumult and wounds—of victory through all the valley of death. Oh for redoubled energy, enlarged liberality, more hearty consecration! Oh for mightier prayer! Our labour is only as the building of the altar and the preparing of the victim—unless the fire from God descend the enterprise cannot be crowned with success. Let there be a practical recognition of this truth. Be always abounding in prayer. God speed the day when the intelligence, the energy of Europe shall all be exalted and sanctified—when Asia shall bring forth her fruits of holiness in tropical profusion and beauty—when Africa shall be redeemed and ransomed through the blood of the Lamb—when this great continent of America shall shine under the radiance of the Sun of Righteousness—when the Isles of the sea shall lift up their voices together and sing—and the Globe itself shall be vocal with continuous melody to the rightful King!

The Resolution was seconded by Mr. PUNSHON, who said:—

I cannot, Mr. Chairman, do anything as gracefully as my friend, Dr. Taylor, but one thing I can do gracefully, and that is to express the pleasure I feel that the first public meeting held here since the dedication of this church, should be in aid of the Upper Canada Bible Society—a Society so comprehensive, embracing all—so catholic, it goes out in affection for all—so charitable, it fain would succour and save all, giving to all the Word which is the Gospel of Salvation.

I rejoice in our meeting this day, and feel that honour has been conferred upon this sanctuary, in that such an institution should hold its anniversary here; the first, I trust, of many similar gatherings to be held within these walls. At this late hour I would hardly venture to detain you long from the opportunity of making those liberal contributions which is to be afforded you, shortly after I am done.

There are two points in my resolution to which I would allude. *The character of the Bible, and the active government of God to preserve it, and to make it strong.* It is ours to-day to recognize and vindicate the Divine authenticity of the Bible. We who believe the Bible to be from God, and who commend it with authority to the belief of others, must not complain if we are challenged to show the credentials which accredit the book, and that its light is light from heaven. The demand may come—does often come—from the capricious and the carnal, neither of whom have any intention to believe, be the evidence ever so ample; but the counsel of ages, and the example of our Lord require that evidence be given. *The Counsel*—“Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you, a reason of the hope that is in you.” *The Practice*—“Go tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the Gospel is preached.” And in this matter we would not be niggard; every draft on this bank can be promptly met, and there are abundant treasures behind. Every assailant contributes, in baffled rage, to show the strength of the bulwarks against which his Parthian arrows fly. Miracle, prophecy, history—the dead past, the living present—