

The Attorney General.

“ Mr. Chairman—I do not rise for the purpose of attempting to strengthen, by any thing I can say, the conviction which must prevail in every pious and well ordered mind, of the great importance of the benevolent work to which, according to our ability, we are lending our humble efforts. If we are Christians more than in name, we must think and feel as Christians, and if we have brought ourselves to think and feel as Christians, we shall never be backward in acting as Christians.

“ I take it for granted that our assembling here is a proof of the sincerity of our Christian profession, and I congratulate the Society that in this infant Colony, so lately redeemed from the wilderness, adequate evidence is afforded of the same holy zeal which is at this moment engaging the Christian world in one common cause.

“ Indeed it is matter of surprise by what arguments those can satisfy their consciences who abstain from uniting in the pious work of distributing the Holy Scriptures. To most or certainly to many other charitable and benevolent institutions, objections may be raised plausible enough, and to a certain extent, just, in some instances. It may be said, and is often urged, that by too readily relieving want, we are encouraging idleness; and often no doubt the exertions of the humane have only the effect of tending to prolong an existence, which crime or disease has rendered miserable or irksome; but surely it is not questionable whether good or evil results from disseminating the treasures of divine knowledge. The Scriptures are given to man as his guide to eternal happiness, if therefore our exertions to place that instruction within every person's reach are *at all* successful, that success is infinite in its value. If one soul be saved by it, it is saved from the endurance of eternal misery, If one soul be made blest by it, it is made blest in the enjoyment of never ending happiness.

“ The object is beyond all price. It may be said all this we know—we feel the necessity of religious instruction, we know the good that may be done by extending it. Then let us remember that it is said in the Holy Writings “ If ye know these things happy are ye if ye do them,” and let us take to ourselves the inevitable consequence if we know these things, *guilty* are we if we do them not.

“ But among the most important temporal benefits that may be expected from the zealous union of different Christian nations in spreading the Gospel through all lands, is the community of Christian feeling which such exertions must produce. The Gospel they are thus extending is the Gospel of peace, and may we not, must we not believe, that in this general awakening of the Christian world to this pious duty, we see the visible operations of God accomplishing the prophecy of that blessed time when nation shall no longer rise against nation, nor shall there be war any more. It may tend perhaps in some degree to this happy consequence that all who join in this Christian work should express their hope that such may be one blessed effect of their exertions; and I therefore move that the Society express their conviction, That the religious communication which the distribution of the Scriptures promotes between Christians of different nations, may, under the blessing of God, produce the happiest and most important results.”

Doctor Strachan, in seconding this motion observed, “ That it was evident to every person who took the trouble to examine the state of Christianity twenty years ago, that a mighty change was effecting. That already much had been done, and the foundation laid for the most important revolutions in the religious opinions of the heathen. In the East, a spirit of enquiry has been awakened among the natives, and they are becoming eager for instruction. Persons recently returned from that distant portion of the