

we cannot also help side by side to circulate those Scriptures. I am not certain that all the members of the revision Commission do support the Bible Society; but I feel strongly that sitting side by side at the same table to revise the same book, and doing what they can to make that book more perfect, I think they might. I have no fear of the result. Some people think the Bible will come out worse than before. I believe nothing of the kind. I believe it will be a far better book than ever, and be the means of drawing us nearer to one another. The closer we get to the Word of God the more likely we are to cease our miserable divisions and to work with one heart and mind for the circulation of the Bible throughout the world. In conclusion Canon Ryle moved:—

“That this meeting desires to acknowledge with deep thankfulness the goodness of Almighty God in providing the Society with means to prosecute its labours at home and abroad, and, having regard to the enlarged opportunities before it for extending the knowledge of God’s Word, appeals to all who love the Bible for sustained and increased support.”

The Rev. W. G. LAWES, F.R.G.S., of the London Mission, New Guinea, in seconding the resolution, said: I am here to speak for one department of the British and Foreign Bible Society’s work, to which only a passing reference has been made this morning. I represent the barbarous races who possess no written language, but who are perishing for lack of knowledge. The resolution which I have the honour to second speaks with thankfulness of the work accomplished through the grace of God by this Society at home and abroad. One of the most remarkable illustrations of its foreign work is to be found in that most interesting pamphlet which contains specimens of the 215 languages into which portions of the Word of God have been rendered by this Society. But another, if it could be published as a companion volume, would be even more full of sad and painful interest—if we could have printed in every language into which the Word of God has not yet been translated, some such verse as this, “Where there is no vision the people perish,” it would make a great volume, and we should be amazed at the amount of work yet to be done before the whole world has the Word of Life. I have recently returned from mission work on the largest island in the world but one, in which no portion of the Word of God is yet possessed by the people. Only six years ago the first Christian teachers landed on the south-east coast of New Guinea. Separated from our great Australian possessions only by Torres Straits, we have there some 300,000 square miles, over the whole of which the cloud of heathenism rests, and where the Word of Life is unknown. Enriched with many of the choicest gifts of God, this great fair land with the golden name is inhabited by an immense number of men belonging to different races, speaking many and divers languages, but all degraded by gross ignorance and by cruel superstition. In going among a people like these we have to pick up the language from their own lips. In this way a knowledge has been obtained of two of the languages spoken, and books have been printed in them, besides two languages spoken in the islands of Torres Straits connected with New Guinea. These books contain an epitome of Old and New Testament history in simple language. They are the foundations of a literature. The next step will be the translation of one of the Gospels, and I hope that, before long, some of the languages spoken in New Guinea will be included in the list of those published by the British and Foreign Bible Society. But can the Word of God be faithfully rendered into these barbarous and uncouth tongues, and can the natives of lands like these appreciate and understand the sublime truths of Revelation? May I briefly answer these two questions by referring to my own experience on a small, lone island in the South Pacific? In every field of inquiry and research we are accustomed to try, on a small scale, experiments for results which are to be of universal application. Savage Island is a small island in the South Pacific, on which lived one of the wildest specimens of savage men the world has ever seen. A weird wild set of leaping, yelling savages repulsed the great Captain Cook,