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THE WORD OF GOD, LIVING AND ABIDING.

*A Sermon preached in behalf of the British and Foreign Bible Society, on the 2nd of May, 1876.*

BY THE BISHOP OF GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL.

*"The word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."—1 PET. i. 23.*

"THE word of God, living and abiding"—for so run the words in their most accurate form—the Word of God, quick with enduring life, operative both in the Church and in the individual, through the ever-indwelling power of the Holy Ghost, is the subject to which, dear brethren, I now invite your thoughts at this close of our anniversary service of prayer and praise. In choosing such a subject, I humbly feel persuaded that I am placing before you the one subject which now, consciously or unconsciously, is occupying the whole foreground of our thoughts. Met together as we now are in this noble house of God, this heart and centre of the very world's true civilization, to commemorate the mighty mercies that have been freely vouchsafed along the whole course of the seventy-and-two years during which the British and Foreign Bible Society has been bearing the Book of Life to all lands—met together as we now are to bless and praise God, for a diffusion of His Word that is in itself one of the spiritual miracles of these latter days, and to pray to Him for a still brighter and more prospered future—met together as we thus are, what other thought can now be present with us than this—the living and abiding power of the Word of God!