

mous conclusion that the Society had been most providentially guided to a gentleman worthy of their entire confidence, and well qualified, under the Divine blessing, to render service of high and lasting value. Dr. Phillips was therefore requested to accept the office of Agent on behalf of the Bible Society, in Wales. From that date till his death he was the loyal, faithful, zealous and popular representative of the Institution with which his name became so familiarly identified, and for whose prosperity he toiled with rare self-denial and unflinching zeal.

The qualifications possessed by Dr. Phillips, and which years and experience strengthened and matured, were in their nature and tendency precisely of the kind which the work of the Bible Society required. His mind was eminently practical and suggestive—not hasty in its plans nor premature in its decisions, but calm in its survey of facts, clear in its calculation of results, and, as a consequence, usually sound in its judgments. He had no ordinary tact for organization, and ever felt that permanent results much depended upon having things commenced according to some well-defined principles and method. Hence, while not disparaging isolated action in support of the Bible Society, it was his aim to initiate system over the length and breadth of the wide field assigned to his superintendence; and he lived to see results far in excess even of the glowing anticipations he had indulged when he entered upon his work, and which he never reviewed without deep humility and profound gratitude to God, who had so graciously accepted and honoured his instrumentality. Everything was done by him, as a matter of conscience, regularly, in the proper season and place, yet not in a formal or perfunctory spirit, but with a view to efficiency and the economy of time; and thus the amount of labour he accomplished was surprisingly great. The high and absorbing conception he formed of the grandeur of the object which the Bible Society proposes to accomplish, made him feel that his office was in the fullest sense a sacred office,—that his work was work for God's glory and the salvation of men. All his thoughts, purposes and desires were centred in the Society he so dearly loved. To advance its interests, as a means of advancing the knowledge and triumph of Divine Truth, was the "one thing" which gave a beautiful unity to his life, and regulated alike his correspondence, actions and intercourse. To become a competent exponent of the Society's principles and the advocate of its claims, he felt it indispensable to make himself thoroughly versed in all that pertained to its constitution and operations, and there were few who had a more complete and accurate knowledge of the history and growth of the Society, at home and abroad. * * * The genial and loving spirit of Dr. Phillips gave him special adaptation for creating an influence in all circles in favour of the Society he served. As that Society acts irrespective of ecclesiastical organization, and seeks to win the sympathy and help of all who hold to the Holy Scriptures as the record of Inspired Truth, its action must be governed by a true-hearted catholicity. In this respect Dr. Phillip was a faithful representative of the Society. * * * The spirit of love and forbearance by which he was distinguished made him very successful in dispelling prejudice, removing difficulties to united action when angry feelings had been aroused, and bringing into fresh harmony those whom some misunderstanding had unfortunately separated. So great was his success in dealing with disputes and reconciling the disputants, that he was generally known by the name of the "Peace-Maker;" and often has the soothing influence of his tender words put an end to variance and strife.

* * * Wales was from first to last his chosen sphere of labour, although he sometimes extended his visitation to other parts of the kingdom. But for Wales he felt responsible. As the suggestion of a Welshman inspired the thought that gave birth to the Bible Society, Dr. Phillips endeavoured to make Welshmen feel that to them, especially, belonged the honour and responsibility of sustaining its funds and extending its operations; and as Welsh was his own vernacular, though