

the Bible agent finds protection and encouragement. I do not think it strange that a Sovereign Pontiff, in the plenitude of his goodness, wishes all his faithful children to pray for the conversion of England; as nothing interferes more with his reign than the Bible. If he could get that nation, which is doing so much to give the Bible to the world, converted to his faith, he surely would have accomplished much. No nation is doing so much to give the Word of God to men as our own. It is true, the United States of America form a great and prosperous nation, which is doing great things in spreading the Word of Life; but why should she not be great? Is she not the *first born of a great and powerful nation*? It is an inquiry now made, what is the true cause of the prosperity of that country? Some say it is to be attributed to her free Institutions; others ascribe it to the enterprise of her citizens; and many say it is to be accounted for in her excellent Common School system. But another, and a greater cause, I believe, is to be found in her *descent*! She owes more to what she brought with her, than to any thing she has got since she left the Parent State. If she was not great, and if she was not doing much for the Bible, we would disown her. If the United States had descended from old Spain, or from France, would she be what she is at present? No; it is her *British descent which makes her great*. If it was not for that, she would be like South America, or in the state in which we find the Canadian French.

The Rev. Mr. BUNFE, in seconding the second Resolution, spoke as follows:—

*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen*.—It affords me much pleasure to have the opportunity of seconding the Resolution which has now been moved, and so interestingly supported; and if, by a few remarks, I may add anything to the interest of the meeting, or give the least impetus to the operations of this Society, I shall feel myself largely rewarded.

The Resolution before us calls upon this Meeting to recognize the hand of God in the prosperity of this Society; the Rev. Gentleman who moved it has alluded to its prosperity, and shown how the good hand of God was manifest in its success. By your permission, Mr. President, I will crave the kind attention of this respectable audience to two or three remarks, showing for *what purpose* we should recognize the hand of God.

*First*, In order to appreciate his love. Next to the unparalleled love exhibited on the Cross, stands out the love of God in giving success to the various efforts put forth for the dissemination of the knowledge of Christ. This love, it is true, can bear no comparison, in the extent of its sacrifice, but the benefits which it conveys are the same. It is as necessary that the knowledge of Christ crucified should be extended, as it was for Him to die; for, without the knowledge of Christ, there is no salvation. From these remarks we may perceive the solemn and fearful responsibility under which every Christian is, to aid every such Society as purposes to put a copy of the Bible in the hand of every member of the human family.

I hope we do appreciate the mercy of God in this precious gift; but could we realize how much we are indebted to the Sacred volume—how much it has done for us—we would value it much more than we do. Suppose, Sir, for the sake of illustration, that the sun, that went down a few hours ago below the western horizon, should never more rise to chase away the darkness with which earth is now enveloped—should never again rise to delight our eyes with its enlivening rays—never again drive away the chilling frost—never again clothe our forests with beauty, and our fields with vegetation, but leave us wrapt in eternal snow, and overwhelmed with certain death, sad indeed would be our condition; but not so sad as that of the nations to whom the Bible has never been given—upon whom the light of revelation has never dawned. Could I transport this assembly to some dark heathen land, or had I time and powers of description sufficient to bring such a people before them in all the wretchedness of their condition, they would agree with me, that the language which I have employed to illustrate the condition of those without the Word of Life is not too strong. O, Sir, to see an intelligent being bow down and worship a dumb idol is a sad sight. I had often read the heart-rending reports from those dark lands, and thought I was somewhat prepared to see such an exhibition of fallen man in the darkness of Heathenism, but to look upon it is crushing to one's soul.

The Bible is a letter from God—a letter full of light, full of love, full of promise, and full of instruction the most momentous. O how great is his love, not only in removing vast hindrances, but also in giving so many facilities for publishing this letter in the multitudinous languages of man. Here we must pause one moment, and consider our position as members of the Church of Christ, or as members of this Society. The Bible, we have said, is a letter from God; the Church of Christ (to carry out the figure a little farther,) is his Post Office, for transmitting this letter to the ends of the earth. Now suppose, Sir, that some of Her Majesty's subjects, and your fellow-citizens, were drawn suddenly into some act of rebellion, for which they were condemned to die; but our beloved Queen, in her clemency, resolved to send them all a reprieve, and accordingly letters were despatched in haste conveying her Royal pleasure; that these despatches would have arrived in good time, but for the neglect of the Managers of our Post Office, who, engaged in their amusements and pleasures, delayed to forward them until too late to save the unfortunate ones from execution. What penalties would such men incur? I ask not for an answer, for, Sir, in this supposition, I fear too many of us may see our own position. God has committed to his people a letter of pardon to the guilty—of reprieve to the condemned—with a command to give it to "every creature," and yet there are now about thirty millions passing every year into eternity, who have not heard of this act of mercy—who have not heard of the Saviour.

Again, we should recognize the hand of God in order to glorify him, by increased effort to occupy