

that is of consequence to us is, that it exists; if it did not, it would be our duty to see that it existed without delay.

In the same spirit it is attempted to fitter away this great enterprise, to what is styled "a New Bible Movement," to say nothing of the discourteous language they mean to represent our object as limited to a local interest; and to intimate, that with the revision of the English Scriptures, the purpose of our temporary organization will be fulfilled. I accept of no such limitation of the Union, as to time or place. Our field is the world: our mission stretches down to the hour when the church's travail shall close.

I have spoken of the accomplishment of our work, as tending to the destruction of sects, and uniting the disciples of Christ; But I am impressed with the thought that our Union to accomplish it is in itself a great step towards that result. We here cast away the fetters of sectarian prejudice, authority, and interest, and band ourselves in the league of truth and love—the allegiance of Heaven; and in pressing forward the enterprise, becoming endeared to each other as comrades in the conflict, we are one in the truth, and for the truth.

In speaking of union, and the destruction of sectarian divisions in the family of Christians, I have learned not to be sanguine beyond what the promises of God warrant us to expect. And the word of God affords us no ground to anticipate that the mass of nominal Christians in their sects and parties, will resolve into the unity of Christ's body. The heat which effects a true union, first separates those things that are dissimilar, and then unites those that are alike. And this I believe, and I think we have the mind of Christ, that the work which God has to do in this day is, first to separate and seal his sanctified ones out of all sects and nations.

This day! O this eventful day! How vainly human wisdom seeks to fathom its issues! The kingdom is full of darkness; and its wise men "grope for the wall like the blind: they grope as if they had no eyes: they stumble at noon, as in the night." They imagine that all that is going forward relates to temporal interests, and the glory of nations. They will not learn that the church which Christ hath purchased with his blood, is the grand care of Him who is overturning among the nations. But, alas! that those who profess to be "children of the day," should dream that the devices of infidel leagues, the triumphs of revolutionary chiefs and perjured usurpers, the fury of degraded masses, wading through blood, rioting in the rapine license and anarchy of civil war—are to accomplish what a preached gospel has failed to effect. Brethren I have no faith in such agencies to evangelize the world and introduce a golden age. Yet God has

a work to accomplish in that strife. And that work, as I learn by a light which shines in a dark place, is to separate, seal, and cement the servants of our God.

I look to her who sits upon many waters, drunken with the blood of saints—*Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth*—and I see that the hour of her doom and desolation approaches. But first a voice from heaven shall be heard, crying, "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." I know not the manner in which the work of separation will be conducted; but there can be no doubt as to the instrument by which, in the main, it will be performed. God has one instrument which he always makes effectual in such a work. It is His WORD, quick and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword. I will not say that this Union is the agent; but I believe it is an agent which he will honour to wield that instrument.

I begin to tread with awe upon the ground where this Institution stands pledged to the integrity of the Scriptures and the supremacy of Christ in the struggle that impends. It is the only organization on the earth bound to the purpose which, in its fulfilment, must range on one side all who worship the beast or his image, or who receive his mark in their forehead or hand, and on the other, all who reject human legislation in religion, and all ecclesiastical dictation in faith, and who follow the Lamb wherever he leads.

I behold an angel flying through the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to them that dwell on the face of the earth, and in the solemn adjuration he utters—I hear the profound reverence for the undivided authority of God, which our Union implies. "Fear God, and give glory to him."

What issues may be involved in these small beginnings! At any rate this enterprise is vast. And when I see the parent of Bible Societies placing royalty in its chair of presidency—enrolling in its membership the noble and illustrious—and disbursing from its treasury the revenues of a commonwealth;—when I see universities with the hoary honours of antiquity gracing their learning and genius; and dignified hierarchies, whom annals date back to the borders of the dark ages;—and then when I look upon the band of simple, lion-hearted men, who, with trust in God as their only strength, have bound themselves to so vast an undertaking,—do you ask, have I no misgivings? NO. I am confirmed in my confidence; for it harmonizes with all that I know of the doings of Him who saves not with sword nor with spear.

When He has a great work to perform, he raises up the weak things of this world to confound the mighty. It was so from

the beginning. The fishermen of Galilee overcame the genius and learning of Greece and Rome. And when the time came for a modern effort to give His word to the heathen, did he call profound and practised scholars from universities and cloisters? Did He find his translators among the disciplined clergy of churches, justly more proud of their erudition than their piety? No; He found them among the despised Baptists of England,—He summoned the pioneer from a cobbler's stall; and the illiterate tradesmen of rural towns outstripped the learning of the world; and did a work to shame the universities of Europe. I have faith in God that he will renew the marvel, if we will be true, earnest, and prayerful.

The schools, the rabbies, the leading men of sects, will not undertake this work. They will oppose it; for, as it unveils the Scripture of which they would be the professional expositors, and undoes the sectarian distinction on which their importance depends, they see that their craft is in danger. This is the enterprise of the people: it is to wrest God's gift from the grasp of clerical assumption. God gave the Scriptures, not to learned men, but to all men, impartially, as he has given vital air and this glad sunlight. They wrong you and insult your Father, who pretend that their shallow criticism and exegesis are necessary to bring it down to your intelligence. If there is a book in the world accessible to the common mind, it is the Bible; for God meant it to be so; and he has not failed. Chrysostom has put this point finely:—

"The grace of the Holy Ghost has caused these holy books to be written by publicans, fishermen, tentmakers, shepherds, by the unlearned; so that no one, however ignorant, might plead ignorance as the pretext for neglecting them; that the labourer, the slave, the poor widow, the most illiterate of men, might derive instruction from them. Appointed instructors of mankind at large, these inspired men have revealed all things clearly and distinctly, for the express purpose that every man might understand them for himself, without needing to have recourse to others. 'I came not to you,' said Paul, 'with excellence of speech of wisdom.'"

God speed you, Christian people. Press on ardently, resolutely, prayerfully and unitedly. God will find the instruments for the work in his own time; and let those who inconsiderately lend countenance to your opponents, Papist or Protestant; remember who hath said, "Woe unto you Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men.

But this happy and promising time, when our cause has received such an accession, must not be overcast with thoughts of op-