

His Excellency Sir Bartle Frere took the chair at the annual meeting held in Cape Town, on November 28, and the leading ministers of the neighbourhood were present.

The special circumstances through which the colony had passed were thus referred to in words of much faith and wisdom by Dr. Hole at the annual meeting :—

In conclusion your Committee desire to remark upon a very cheering feature of the past year's transactions. Looking at the season of trial through which the colony has passed in the two previous years, they confess that it would have been a matter of no surprise to them if this year the funds contributed by the Branches had diminished in amount. They rejoice to say that the contrary is the case. The instances in which there is a slight falling off are quite exceptional, while, as a whole, the contributions of the Branches have been larger than usual. They regard this circumstance as one of happy augury for the future of this land. We here represent, and own for ancestors, two nations—the Dutch and the British—who occupy a unique position in the world's history, having acquired a standing among nations, and exercised an influence in the world altogether out of proportion to their numbers. Doubtless God gave them personal characteristics which have been largely subsidiary in producing these results; but this meeting will, without question, agree that the secret of their greatness is to be found in the fact that they stand alone—and shoulder to shoulder—among the civilized nations in the sacrifices they have made for the truth of God and for the assertion of the rights of conscience; and, above all, but necessarily connected with these labours, are they characterised by respect of the Word of God and efforts for its universal circulation. And do not the encouraging features of the past year justify your Committee in indulging the hope that these characteristics are being perpetuated in this, our new country, so that as it grows in population, in power and experience, making its history for the inheritance of posterity, its advances will be made on the old lines of respect for, and acceptance of, the moral and spiritual supremacy of the Book of God? In this case your Committee dare to say that its future will be glorious. It will be a country united, prosperous, great, and free, for “Happy is that people that is in such a case; yea, happy is that people whose God is the Lord.”

X. THE HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH BIBLE.

(Continued from March Number.)

THE AUTHORIZED VERSION.

BY THE REV. W. F. MOULTON, M.A. LOND., D.D., EDIN., HEAD MASTER OF THE
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When James I. succeeded to the throne in March, 1603, he found the southern part of his dominions in a state of great uneasiness and disquiet in consequence of the difference between the Puritan party and their opponents in the Church of England. One of the first events in his reign was the presentation of the celebrated “Millenary Petition,” subscribed by some hundreds of Puritans, praying for alterations in the Church service, and for greater strictness of ecclesiastical discipline. The king, by no means unwilling to play the part of moderator, resolved to convoke an assembly in which the discordant opinions of the rival parties might be stated, and be submitted to free discussion. Thus originated the famous Hampton Court Conference,