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"Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, good will toward men."

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CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Concluded.

The Bishop of Calcutta moved the next resolution, which thanked the Rev. Dr. Singer for his sermon in behalf of the society, the noble president, the vice-president, and friends of the Church Missionary Society. The Right Rev. Prelate said, he could not sit down without expressing his satisfaction at the visible improvement that had taken place in the finances of the society. He trusted that the funds would be increased every year, so that the society might be enabled to repeat to numerous missionaries the command given to the children of Israel—"Go forward."

The Rev. G. Hazelwood rose to second the resolution. He was sure, that the individuals referred to, in his motion, had already received the satisfaction which arose from a connection of their good deeds, which was the best thanks that could be offered to them. With respect to the country to which he belonged (Ireland), the parochial clergy there could all bear testimony to the blessings produced by the labors of the missionaries of that society. In the church of Ireland, missionary feeling had now begun to display itself, and the meeting would be gratified to learn, that the cathedrals had been opened for missionary sermons.

The resolution was put and carried.

The Rev. Dr. Singer returned thanks in behalf of the persons named in the resolution, and gave a brief and forcible sketch of the good effected by the society's labourers in the cause of the Gospel, particularly in Ireland.

The Bishop of Winchester moved the next resolution, remarking, that he feared no declension of the missionary spirit that had now gone forth: he grounded this opinion on the increased interest, which the subject had excited in the minds of the present generation, but principally on the indication of a most fervent feeling, that all that is done is to the glory of God. Let but the missionaries remember the divine promise made to the Apostles, "I am with you always, even to the end of the world," and they would assuredly prosper. The resolution was as follows:—

"That this society desires to render its special acknowledgments to Almighty God, for the signal blessing vouchsafed to the labours of the society's missionaries in Timuevelly, and for the encouraging indications in the New Zealand and North West American missions.

The Rev. Mr. Sibthorp, on seconding the resolution, remarked that notwithstanding the nature of the resolution, and the great successes to which it referred, he might be allowed to observe that, in his opinion, we should not rely too much on, nor forget altogether, the gratifying announcement as to the state of the funds. He thought that the fact should be forgot as a local triumph, or a matter of pride, but it should be recollected as an encouragement, and as an assurance that God was the shepherd. The resolution referred to distant parts of the earth. In one part there was a rank and luxurious soil overgrown by weeds: in the other part there was a harsh and barren soil, but both had been subdued by the same instrument. The plough of Christian Civilization passed over both, and the great instrument by which the success had been achieved was the preaching of the Gospel of Christ, and the showing to those who stood in darkness the power of God unto salvation.

The resolution having been passed,

W. Wilberforce, Esq. then moved the following:—

That the trials encountered from year to year in carrying on the operations of the society in its different missions, and particularly during the last year, in Northern India, and in the island of Antigua, should impress on the minds of its friends our entire

dependence on Almighty God, who, while he exercises our faith and patience, encourages us to hope, that even adverse occurrences shall be overruled for the ultimate good of his church.

The honourable gentleman commenced by observing that, in moving the resolution, many considerations pressed strong on his mind: The trials and difficulties which we meet in our progress through this world, as well as the obstructions which the society found in its progress, were such as must be expected. Much that had been stated this day was gratifying and satisfactory. How delightful must such accounts be to the missionary in a foreign country, deprived of the blessings and comforts arising from the society of relatives and friends.

Though unsuccessful in his own labours, he might feel that other labourers in the same field were repaid by more immediate signs of success, and he would be taught to wait patiently until the dawn of a brighter day arose. In all undertakings of great moment it should be considered, that there was a great spiritual enemy carrying on a contest for this world, and that we must not expect uniform success. On a subject in which he had at one time taken an active part, he meant the abolition of the slave trade, he might state that the friends of that measure never thought themselves further from the object they had in view, than when that object was near being obtained. This showed the value of patient perseverance, and many other facts might be stated equally encouraging. The Moravian missions to Greenland were continued for thirty years, before they were attended with any success. The inhabitants were dispersed along the coasts for the sake of greater profit, and some persons conceived that on this account, the mission would never be successful.

Subsequently however it furnished an instance of extraordinary success. In the Island of Hayti, too, great opposition and hostility was at first offered to the labours of the missionaries, but those difficulties were ultimately overcome, and they now had access where before they could not enter. The great obstruction to the progress of Christianity in India, appeared to him to be, that the day set apart for the worship of God in other countries, was a day occupied in the labour of the fields in India. However, looking at the signal instances of God's favour which the society had already received, there was no doubt that its missionaries in India would be cheered by the greatness of the task they had undertaken. The account which the meeting had heard of the effects of the society's exertions in Ireland were also most gratifying. He believed, that nothing could be more expedient, as well as useful and meritorious, than the promotion of missionary labours in the sister kingdom. Much as had been done, however, much still remained to do. A wide field was opened for the exertions of the society in India, where barbarous customs kept the female sex in a state of miserable degradation. There could be no doubt, that those who were engaged in missionary labours had much to encounter, and many hardships to submit to: but they had also much to reward and cheer them, for it was a labour full of hope.

Men made exertions for the acquisition of fortune, and similar objects; and surely those who went forth to perform the service of God, need not dread to endure those hardships, and submit to those privations, which men encountered who were merely actuated by little and mercenary motives. Men submitted to the most nauseous remedies to obtain health, and when the object that was to be obtained was everlasting life, and the work in which they were engaged was for the glory of God, how much greater ought not the resolution to be? Appealing to his personal experience, he might be allowed to say, that the progress which the principles of the society had made within his own recollection filled him with delight. Not very many years ago, an opinion prevailed in the highest places, and in ecclesiastical places too, that there ought not to be

any interference with the religious prejudices of other countries. He blessed God that different, and, as he conceived, more exalted views, had now found their way into the hearts of men, and that those views were accompanied by an increase of mutual love and Christian feeling. Men differing in nation and in feeling were united by societies like this, and carried on their operations in different parts of the globe, like detachments of the same army, which, how ever different the courses they pursue, had all the same object in view. Let all the friends of this great cause co-operate zealously, but humbly, and there was no doubt that God would prosper the work. Every individual should feel, that when he endeavored to forward the cause with spirit and zeal in his own sphere, his exertions were not unacceptable to God. He had said so much on this subject, because he feared that some objections which had been made, though in a truly Christian spirit, were calculated to make some hearts sad which the Lord had not made sad.

He entirely concurred in the observation, that by every person's retrenching some little enjoyment, a great addition might be made to the funds of the society, and a great extension of benefits would follow. In conclusion he expressed his confidence, founded on experience, that the longer they were engaged in the great work, which it was the object of this society to promote, the more they would rejoice at the result of their labours; and when they advanced to the close of their lives, they might look back on those exertions with joy and gratitude to the "Giver of all good things."—(Loud Applause.)

Matthew Gisborne, Esq. of Calcutta, seconded the resolution. He observed, that the chief reason which induced him to address the meeting was, that he, having recently returned from India, might bear testimony to the great value and importance of the society there—to the zeal and perseverance with which their labours were conducted—and to the happy fruits which had already been derived from those labours. The cause of the heathen had been already so powerfully pleaded that day, that any thing he could say on the subject would only weaken the effect of what had been said before. The society might be compared to a fountain in the desert—it afforded health and refreshment to those who approached it. It had been beautifully said, that there was a fabled alchemy which converted even the basest materials to gold. This was the blessing of God, on the actions and efforts of those who truly meant to serve him. With that divine blessing, he trusted the society would go on until its great end should be accomplished. Then "shall the earth bring forth its increase, and God, even our own God, shall bless us." The resolution was put from the chair and carried.

The Rev. L. Bickersteth, the secretary, here rose to acquaint the meeting, that the Bishop of Luccafield and Coventry had written to express his inability to attend the meeting.

The Rev. Joseph Penn (the society's missionary at Travancore) said, the resolution he had to propose was—

"That the encouragements which it pleases God to vouchsafe to his church in the present day, and the trials with which he permits it to be exercised, call on this meeting again to urge on the friends of the society the duty of earnest and unceasing prayer, for those gracious influences of the Holy Spirit, whereby alone the object of this and of every Christian Society can be attained."

He was sure the meeting would agree with him in the great necessity at all times, but more especially at the present, of humbly imploring the blessing of God, and the influence of the Holy Spirit, upon all their labours. They had to be grateful for the gracious protection which was heretofore evident in their progress, and for the fact, that many serious obstacles which had hitherto existed to the progress of Christianity in India, were gradually removing. One most important step had been at-