

able problems that are perplexing them (and I sympathise with them from my soul in their struggles for light) have their answer in that neglected Book. God grant that it may be neglected no longer! Take these signs and let them encourage you. See in the past year not only our progress, but the marvellous rally round the Book of Life, as shown in decisions of powerful School Boards and the general movement of public opinion. This time last year who would have thought that everywhere the Bible would be insisted upon as a book to be taught in our schools? Some even of the stout-hearted amongst us were a little trembling when we saw the desperate secular influences arrayed against us. Ah! it was a want of faith. Thank God, we are now reminded that the Word of God endureth for ever. Ay, in the fullest sense of the word. I know not whether we may not in thought go beyond the dim present, gaze into the far world, and realise by many a mysterious passage that the Word of God doth abide even there for ever; that the redeemed will hereafter sing the words of inspiration—ay, sing the song of Moses, the man of God. Wherefore, dear friends, let us take heart in these things. Many forces are against us; but let us band ourselves together; let us show daily more faith, more energy, more confidence in the power of the blessed Spirit of God, the Holy Ghost, and so go forward cheerful, peaceful, and confident.”

The Rev. Dr. DUFF—“My Lord: I have been requested to second the resolution which has been so admirably proposed by the Right Rev. Bishop. In so doing, I must cast myself on the kind indulgence of the audience, as I am suffering from a complaint in the throat, but will endeavour to do my best to be heard. This Report needs no commendation. It may well be called a self-luminous, a self-recommending Report, and I think that the one feeling in the audience will be to carry it by acclamation, so that it may go forth into every household throughout the whole land. It has been my lot to listen to many Reports; I know not that I have ever listened with more thrilling interest to any Report than to that to which I have listened this day. I feel that it would be diluting a really grand and noble product to dwell upon its details; but I would take up this one point. The Bible that we have all been accustomed to regard as the best book in the world, which it pre-eminently is, I am sorry to be obliged to add, is, so far as I know, at this moment the best abused book in the whole world; and therefore it becomes us to rise in defence and vindication of that Book of Books, as it has been justly termed. It is nearly twenty years since I last spoke in this hall, but it is thirty-five years since I was first privileged to speak in it; and I feel that it is a rare felicity that on the first occasion on which I am privileged to open my lips here again after my last, and, I may regretfully add, my final return from India, the land of my adoption, and around which are still entwined the warmest sympathies and affections of my heart, I have to speak in behalf of the British and Foreign Bible Society, in some respects the greatest, and, in one respect especially, the most catholic of all our great religious societies, seeing that its design is not to send forth the Bible as interpreted or as embodied in the creeds or confessions of any particular Church, but to send forth the Bible itself without note or comment, leaving the interpretation to the understanding, the heart, and the conscience of all men, under responsibility to God alone, who is the sole Lord of conscience.

Since I first addressed an audience in this hall I have been, in the course of duty, called upon to traverse many lands, and come into contact with many peoples in the four quarters of the globe. In so doing I have also come into contact, and into conflict too and sharp encounter, with almost every variety of anti-Christian and anti-Biblical opinion; and if I can do nothing else this day, it would cheer my heart to be privileged to testify that, so far from this fierce encounter weakening or abating my convictions with regard to the authenticity, the plenary inspiration, the Divine authority, and unchanging power of the Bible, those convictions have been intensified more than ever.”