

ting the Holy Scriptures and them only. The Parent Society acting upon this principle (as is well known) was established by a very few persons, altogether destitute of political power and influence, and in times of great perplexity and distress at home, and of political struggles and convulsions abroad. It soon attracted universal attention—received support from persons of every rank and creed. And not only diffused itself over the British Isles, over the Christian world, but over the heathen nations, and is now a stupendous and glorious institution, emitting its beams over the whole globe. Its progress has been most wonderful; and to what can it be ascribed? Was it suggested, and has it been guided by human wisdom? Has it been fostered and rendered successful by worldly favour and influence? Its object is the diffusion of the pure word of God; and consequently the glory of God and the good of immortal souls; and its astonishing success in circumstances so unfavourable, answers the question in the negative.

“It must indeed be admitted, that many Societies suggested by avarice or ambition, have existed long, and spread their influence far and wide, for they were united with worldly and political interests and preserved for a time by the passions of men, but this Society is founded on principles to which the human heart is not of itself inclined. And a connection with it promotes no political, no worldly, no party interests; on what grounds then can its success be accounted for, but that it is of God and not of man.

“One great advantage has arisen from this institution; namely, that it has roused the friends of religion to adopt and pursue the best plan for restoring to the Gospel that general sense of its great value and importance which seemed to have passed away. It had been neglected and despised so much by the wealthy and fashionable—spoken, written against, misrepresented and ridiculed, by the sceptical Philosophers and their adherents, that thousands considered it of no moment. But now it rises daily in general estimation, and promises to become, as it ought to be, the universal book, while its fiercest opposers are lying in their graves their memories passing fast into oblivion, and their books mouldering on the shelves detested or forgotten. Thus the friends of religion joined in one great object, shew their strength and appal their enemies.

“Before the establishment of the British and Foreign Bible Society, there appeared among the Protestants of all deno-