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THE BIBLE SOCIETY.

Every great society that has justified its foundation you may be quite sure is founded upon good and sound principles. Such we claim for the society that has brought us together this evening in such magnificent force. Its fundamental principle is, the Word of God for everyone in his own tongue. I want you to observe, if you will, that all along the history of the human race that great principle has been in existence. It was no new discovery. It was the great principle upon which the mighty Governor of the universe proceeded, in His administration of all the affairs of this world from the very beginning. Step by step that great principle is unfolded and exhibited to us, clearer and clearer in every successive stage. Now, the first era began with the beginning, and stands the period before writing was invented. God during that period recognized this great principle, that His Word was for every man in his own tongue. He addressed our first father; he gave him instructions; he founded for him institutions which exist to this day, and upon which our civilization is built and established. His word was conveyed in like manner to the patriarchs. He conferred upon them a great longevity, enabling them to converse with one another, so that one man, Methuselah, standing between Adam and Noah, could preserve the communications of his day. Four men standing between Adam and Moses could overlap in their preservation and transmission of the words which God addressed to His creatures in those early days. The weak part of this arrangement, if so I may say, was the breaking up of the world afterwards into nations, and the confusion of tongues which took place at the Babel; and this brings us to a new era with new methods. It pleased God, in order to meet these difficulties, and to perpetuate the provision that His Word should be the inheritance of every man in his own tongue, to separate for Himself one nation from all the nations that were then multiplying in the world. To that one people He gave His law. Writing had now become an art. He inscribed His great words on the imperishable rock of Sinai. He delivered voluminous instructions to that people touching all things pertaining to life and godliness. He commanded that these should be written