

let them not forget to be humbly grateful for the past, and particularly for the blessing with which it had pleased God to crown their labours in the last year. (Applause.) He would not detain the meeting farther, as he was sure they must all be anxious to hear the very cheering report of the last year, which was about to be read to them. (Applause.)

The Rev. W. Jowett then read the report of the Committee for the past year, of which the following is a brief abstract:—

The committee have much satisfaction in submitting to the members a report of their proceedings during the past year, and earnestly invoke the blessing of Almighty God upon their assembling together on the Society's thirty-sixth Anniversary.

State of the Funds.—Pursuing their usual course, the committee will first report the state of the funds. The aggregate receipts of the year stand as follows:

General Fund,	£67,691	4	2
Disabled missionary do.	630	7	6
Institution Building do.	32	18	10

Making a gross total of £68,354 10 6

The gross total of the preceding year's receipts stood thus:

General Fund,	£68,627	18	3
Disabled missionary do.	890	8	8
Institution Building do.	63	17	9

£69,582 4 8

The report then went on to take a review of the proceedings of the Society, and their progress in their several stations in the Mediterranean, South Africa, the East Indies, Egypt, Abyssinia, New-Holland, the Islands of the South Sea, &c. &c., which (with the exception of some painful occurrences in the Tinnelly mission, alluded to in the course of the meeting,) were altogether of a most cheering character. For the rest we must refer our readers to the published report itself. Any more lengthened notice of the details in that report, would trench on the space to which our report of the proceedings is, consistently with the insertion of other important matter, necessarily limited.

One circumstance mentioned in the report we must except from the rule we have just laid down, and we do so on these two grounds—first, its own importance as a feature in the progress of the Society; and next, that we do not remember to have heard it mentioned in the speeches of any of the gentlemen who addressed the meeting.

The circumstance to which we allude is briefly this,—so much interest have the proceedings of the Society lately excited in the highest quarter, that when Mr. Yate, the zealous New Zealand missionary, was last in this country, he received a command to attend his present Majesty, who honoured him with a long private audience, in the course of which his Majesty inquired minutely into every thing connected with the progress of the mission, and before he was allowed to retire, was commanded by his Majesty to write home from time to time, an account of his further proceedings. His Majesty was also pleased to direct that a copy of the Society's report should be forwarded for his inspection. This announcement in the report was loudly cheered by the meeting.

The report concluded by calling upon the Society to join in earnest and continued prayer, that it might please Almighty God to continue his divine blessing on its labours, and to raise up holy men, who might willingly devote themselves to his service, in the important and arduous duties of missionaries. (Applause.)

The Bishop of Winchester said he rose with mingled feelings to move the adoption of the report, yet feelings of satisfaction and thankfulness to God preponderated, not merely on account of the interesting details of that report, but when he considered the mighty influence which must attend such a meeting as this, and while he did so, he sunk under the responsibilities which attached to each member of it, he could not but recollect that many of his reverend brethren, around him were prepared to return at the conclusion of this memorable week to their several parishes, to reiterate with gratitude the statements they had heard, and to carry into their own ministerial work, through God's grace, something of that zeal and charity and love to God, with which their hearts would be inspired. (Applause.) He looked on each parish as a domestic circle, of which each of his Rev. Brethren was the centre, from which would be communicated the statements made at this and successive meetings; nor could he forget that in other lands our missionaries would in time read the details of these proceedings, and would bethink them that many a Christian heart, and perhaps relatives too, had been listening to the report of their labours among the heathen, and had lifted up their aspirations and praises to God for the blessing he had vouchsafed to bestow upon them; aye, and perhaps one who had often addressed such a meeting as this with a force of eloquence, and zeal, and love that could not be forgotten by those who heard him, he meant the chief Missionary Bishop of India—and glad he was that he could now call him the chief, and not the sole, but one among the many bishops of India—he perhaps at the pro-

sent time, though not present in the body was so in spirit, and in thought and in prayer. Perhaps at that moment in his private oratory in India he was kneeling before God with his little but faithful band around him, entreating the blessing of God on this society at home as well as on his own increased and increasing labours. (Hear.) There were responsibilities devolving on each one present as members of the Christian Church. What were their privileges in connexion with that high title! were they not called upon to let their light shine before men, to shine as lights in the world, "holding forth the word of life?" He could conceive that that impressive text upon which the Rev. Preacher discoursed yesterday, and to whom doubtless many in the meeting had listened with feelings of satisfaction and thankfulness, had suggested to his mind the responsibility of each individual Christian as one of the lights of Christ's Church "holding forth the word of life." The very words reminded him of the Christian's responsibility. They represented the free offer of God's grace as it were beseeching men by his ministers to be reconciled to Him, and to listen to the voice of his ambassadors that they might be converted and live. "Holding forth the word of Life," a reaching forth their arms like the author of salvation all the day long, to a gaining and rebellious people, proclaiming all the word of Life, and keeping back nothing, but telling the world of a whole salvation, summed up in that one expression, "Believe, and live!" How comprehensive was that word "live." What did it not convey to the mind of the Christian? It reminded him of all his privileges,—it suggested to him the reality of light instead of darkness; freedom instead of captivity; riches instead of poverty; happiness instead of misery; knowledge instead of ignorance; all that could bring comfort, and rest, and hope, and joy to the soul, instead of all that was most abject, and hateful, and wretched. All this, and much more than this, was suggested to the mind under the idea of "life." And surely it must be a comfort to this numerous assembly to remember that there were so many missionaries—so many, and yet so few—now holding forth that word of Life faithfully, honestly, uncompromisingly, and unceasingly, to the benighted nations of the earth. But to recall himself, from these topics—upon which, if time permitted, he could discourse with increasing pleasure—to the remembrance of the motion, he would observe that the report suggested many grounds of thankfulness. It was difficult to concentrate in a few words the numerous details of the report, which must have given satisfaction to all who heard it. There was one distinct cause of rejoicing, in the fact of an increase in the general fund of the Society, during the past year, of nearly 4,700*l*. There was also another, which might appear paradoxical to some, and that was, that the expenditure was progressively increasing; but it showed that there was activity in the council of the society, and that as it was indeed declared in the report, many were crying, "Come over, and help us." Thanks to God! the cry was in some degree responded to: 42 new associations would in some measure, serve to answer for the progressive increase of the expenditure; and he trusted that the 15 ordained missionaries and catechists, which had been sent forth during the past year, would be an earnest that they were determined, through God's blessing, to do all they could to answer the affecting appeal made through William Churn, who called on them to remember that the dumb idols themselves would one day speak, and call to judgment those who had the knowledge of God, and yet did nothing to roll the stone from the top of the wells of salvation, that those who had never tasted of the river of the waters of life might come and drink freely. (Hear.) There were missions, long known to the Society, the success of which must cheer every heart. They must have rejoiced to hear of the prosperity of West Africa, and of New Zealand; and the interest taken in the latter, in a quarter where every loyal heart would wish to find it regarded. It might lead them to reflect that even for the infant Church, such as that in New Zealand, the prayers of many would be answered, by kings becoming its nursing fathers and queens its nursing mothers. (Applause.) The tone of the Report gave an assurance that the spirit of inquiry had been awakened throughout the missions; there were many encouraging details to this effect which he could not dwell upon, but they would recollect the "feet drag-

ging the unwilling heart to Church," where, through God's blessing, that heart of stone might be changed to a heart of flesh. They had heard also of those who had come to the knowledge of the two hearts, and in that might be recognized the fulfilment of the promise of God, that he would send "the shaking among the dry bones." O may there be missionaries to take advantage of the opening, and Divine grace poured out in an abundant measure into the hearts of those who are first beginning to feel where alone they can find true rest and consolation, and to look up to Him who is the "way, the truth, and the life." He should not do justice to his own feelings if he did not advert to the losses which the Society had sustained during the past year. He was conscious that this was a subject upon which he could barely venture to touch, feeling as he did, that every note on such a subject must touch a chord in their own hearts more than responsive to his own feelings. Two friends had been removed, with both of whom he had been acquainted, and both of whom, anniversary after anniversary, most of those perhaps now present, had listened with delight. With one of them, the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, who for twenty-three years was a friend and member of this Society, he, during the last ten or twelve years, had been privileged to unite in the daily work and labour of their stations; and those who knew him privately as well as publicly, could testify with him that, in losing that respected and beloved individual they had lost a father and a friend, one whose amenity of character, whose benevolence, whose zeal and devotion to his high duties had endeared him to every Christian heart, and rendered him as acceptable as he was useful in the discharge of the several functions of his office. (Hear.) He could not forget that within a very few weeks of his decease, in a conversation with him respecting this very Society, he expressed his undiminished attachment to it, and his determination to support it as long as life was given him. Thus it might be truly said was

"The ruling passion strong in death."

He doubted not that to the strength of that ruling passion, under God's mysterious providence, was owing his (for his friends, but not for himself,) premature decease. (Hear.) But, turning from these subjects, he would remind them of the encouragement which they might take, not merely from the Report alone, but from the knowledge that God's grace was able to make our weakness sufficient. That grace is free and co-extensive with the wants of man; it is diffusive, carrying with it, life, health, and salvation wherever it enters it takes possession of the heart, and we should remember that, while all things around us are perishing and changing, and that God might, as he saw fit, sweep away the fabric of this Society, and remove all the instruments which it employs, that though all is perishable and perishing, and the world is passing away with the lust thereof, yet "God is the same to day, yesterday, and forever." The success he has granted he can continue, and multiply, necessary, in abundance, yes.

"His truth is fixed; his saving power remains;
His realms shall last; his own Messiah reigns."

(Applause.) The Right Rev. Prelate concluded by moving, "That the Report, of which an abstract has been read, be received, and printed under the direction of the Committee, and that this meeting cordially and gratefully rejoices in the enlargement of the Society at home, and the growth of its pecuniary resources as means, under the Divine blessing, of extending its operations abroad.

THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY met May 4; the President, Lord Bexley, in the chair. The receipts had been greater than in any former year; expenses, £86,819; copies of Scriptures circulated, 43,523; of Bibles, Testaments, and parts of Bibles, 558,822. Among the speakers were the Bishop of Winchester, Lord Glenelg, Secretary for the colonies, and Rev. Robert Breckenridge, of Baltimore. Rev. J. P. Smith, D. D., stated that a merchant of Boston, (he did not say what Boston) had sent to India, Paine's "Age of Reason," in considerable quantities. Rev. Mr. Jackson, of New York, made one of the best speeches. Rev. Mr. Shaw, Wesleyan Missionary to Africa, made a most interesting statement of his labours.—*See Recorder.*