

"I believe that there is armour spoken of in God's Word which is far more potent for defence than any which man can devise. * * * If we have on us the girdle of truth, the shield of faith, the helmet of hope, and if, as in this great Society, we have, though last not least, 'the sword of the Spirit,' I believe that our defence is secure. Because this great Society is one of the chief arsenals from which the weapons of our warfare are to be drawn; because we have within the boundary of our own little island this grand treasure-house of light,—I believe that we should support the Bible Society as one of the surest defences against infidelity and Papal aggression, and one of the best pledges that England is true to her Bible and to her God."

The Rev. ROBERT MOFFAT, in seconding the resolution, said—"My Lord, Ladies, and Gentlemen: I believe those who saw me before in this position nearly thirty years ago, never contemplated seeing me here again; and had I not been both drawn and driven, I should have been to this day with my beloved people in Africa. It is now nearly thirty years since I had the honour of standing on this platform and adding my testimony to the utility and vast importance of the British and Foreign Bible Society. It was prosperous then, and though thirty years have gone by, I do not see a single wrinkle on its brow nor one grey hair on its venerable head, and we shall hope and believe that it will renew its youth and continue until 'the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ.' During that period of thirty years I have been, as you know, engaged in the interior of Africa, and that addition to a man's life, after having laboured twenty years before, makes a very great change. I feel the effects of it. The furniture of an over-wrought brain is worn, much worn, but for all that I am still engaged in the work, and hope to be engaged in it. It is a work in which one cannot tire. When I was last here I was carrying through the press the New Testament in the Sechuana language. On my return, the next thing I undertook was a translation of the Old Testament. I remember on that occasion Dr. Livingstone—whom we expect some of these days to see—was present, and I asked him if he did not think it was best to translate integral portions. 'No, no,' said he; 'my opinion is that the best thing is to begin at the beginning and end at the end. Begin at Genesis, and end at Malachi; you will never repent it: however much labour it will give you, depend upon it, it is the best way.' That settled the question. I need not tell you, my Lord, nor my learned friends that it was an arduous work poring over a translation into a language only lately formed, after collecting words suitable for the occasion, and comparing one translation with another, in order to find a sentence more easily rendered into the language than another. However, the work prospered. My fellow-labourer, with native compositors, attended to the printing department, and at the same time rendered me very valuable assistance in translation. That edition of the Old Testament, and some 7,000 copies of the New, have long since been distributed. At present there is not a single copy either of the Bible or Testament to be found amongst the many stations occupied by missionaries—no, not a single copy to be had for love or money. I am now engaged in carrying through the press a new edition of the Bible, so greatly wanted, for besides the stations and out-stations of our Society, there are other numerous stations belonging to the missionaries of the Hanoverian Society, which is rapidly extending its efforts, some of the Reformed Dutch Church, and one or two belonging to the Wesleyans. Though they are far from one another, leaving each other sufficient room to labour, all speak the same language and read the same books. It is natural, therefore, for me to feel anxious in carrying this work through the press. It occupies all the time I can possibly spare. I had a letter only a few days ago from a valuable missionary of the Wesleyan Society, who says, 'It is painful for me, day after day, to send away those who apply to me for a New Testament or a Bible.' Now, when are they to have a supply? It remains to be seen. If I had all