

to them that sit in darkness, and to guide your own steps into the way of peace.

The Resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

WILLIAM COTTON, Esq.—My Lord Mayor, when I look around me, I am very sensible that the Resolution, which I hold in my hand, would have been confided with more effect to many a gentleman now present. But there is no one who can take a more lively interest than I do in the object of it; and which, my Lord Mayor, is an expression of gratitude to your Lordship for having convened this Meeting, and for the use of this magnificent Hall. Ladies and Gentlemen, the Resolution would have been better placed in the hands of that individual who was the Chairman of the Committee which made the arrangements for this day; but, as I have been requested to propose the Resolution of Thanks to his Lordship, I will do so, because it gives me the opportunity, at the same time, of expressing our obligation to the gentleman who filled the Chair of the Provisional Committee, Mr. Franks. Not only has he given his time—and time effectually spent—in calling together such a Meeting as we have seen in this Hall, but, by his individual exertions, he has induced two Companies, over which he presides as Chairman, to come nobly forward and contribute 100*l.* each towards the objects which he had in view. It also gives me the opportunity of expressing our deep obligation to those gentlemen who have acted as Honorary Secretaries to the Committee,—the Rev. Mr. Child, and the Rev. Mr. Povah. And, Ladies and Gentlemen, it may not be known to you, but it is to me, that it is a very onerous duty to perform the office of Secretary for such an object; and that much of the success of a Meeting depends in making all the proper arrangements, together with the zeal and intelligence of the gentlemen who act as Secretaries to the Provisional Committee.

Having expressed my gratitude, (and I am sure I shall have the cordial cooperation of this Meeting, in the vote of thanks to your Lordship,) allow me to say only a very few words with reference to the object of this Meeting.

It would ill become me, at this late hour of the evening, and after the power of eloquence which has been displayed,—it would ill become me, who have no power of eloquence,—no power to express my feelings in a becoming manner,—to trespass long upon your attention. But, my Lord, circumstances have brought the position of this Society particularly to my knowledge. I have been one of a few laymen who, in 1845, were appointed a Committee to investigate the financial position of the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts. Supported as we have been by an honourable Member of that ancient Corporation, it has been our anxious desire to consider in what way the funds at its disposal could be most effectually applied to the objects for which the Society was established. I do not believe that there is an individual present but must feel great anxiety for that object, namely, the propagation of the Gospel in distant parts of the world; and I will not believe that there is any body present who so lightly estimates the value of his own greatest of all privileges, as not to be most anxious, to