

the West Indies, were spoken of with feelings of affection and esteem. The report next adverted to the trying circumstances in which several of the Missions in British North America were placed;—circumstances which rendered it extremely desirable, if not indispensably necessary, that they should be assisted by a deputation from this country, and the Rev. Robert Alder, one of the General Secretaries (accompanied by Mrs. Alder,) had cheerfully undertaken to revisit the scene of his former labours, for the purpose of carrying into effect such arrangements as the present state of things imperatively require.

The Rev. Dr. L'ATON, of New York, then presented himself, and said,—Mr. Chairman, I will endeavour, in the address I am now about to make, to combine two qualities, which will, I am confident, be commended by this vast assembly. In the first place, I will endeavour to speak so as to be heard; and if our friends will keep up their applause, I shall have time to think. (Laughter.) In the second place, if I am not too much interrupted by applause, I will endeavour to be short. (Laughter and applause.) I am exceedingly happy in being permitted to stand here to-day, as the representative to this body from a kindred association in America, which, by the blessing of God upon its extended labours, has gone on uninterruptedly, and with increasing prosperity, from year to year, to the present hour. Even when the darkening clouds of providence overshadowed our country, and commercial distress rolled heavily through our metropolis, and indeed throughout the land, though our society was compelled for a little moment to pause in its onward course, yet it received a fresh impetus—it gained new accessions of strength. (Hear.) It is now again prosecuting its march; our watchword is "Onward;" and onward, I doubt not, we shall go, till, by co-operation with this and similar associations in England and in other Christian countries, there will not be found a solitary continent, or a portion of a continent, or an island, or a tribe of men, that will not have preached to them the glorious gospel of the risen Saviour. I am happy in standing here on another account. May I not be permitted to say that myself and my honoured co-adjutor, who will also address you, stand here as the pledge of peace. (Tremendous applause, which was repeatedly renewed, and prolonged some minutes.) In stead of bristling bayonets, we come to represent warm hearts. (Renewed applause.) We came to tell you, that we consider the conquest of this world, and its subjugation to Christ Jesus, a far higher and nobler enterprize than disputing about a few sticks of timber. (Hear, hear; and loud applause.) If I could give vent to the feelings of my heart, I should have much to say, for where shall a man know when to stop who advocates a cause like this?—a cause involving, in fact, the interests of the globe, and which ascribes glory to Him by whom the worlds were made. The last honourable speaker, certainly unintentionally, has stolen one part of my speech. (Laughter.) He closed his address by the very sentiment with which I intended to commence my observations, (renewed laughter,)—congratulating you upon the part of your report which announces that you are in debt. (Laughter.) I have however, the happiness of seconding his congratulation, (increased laughter,) knowing that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established. (Laughter and applause.) I am happy that the honourable gentleman has left me some reasons for congratulating you, which, in his kindness, he did not absorb. (Renewed laughter.) I will, with your permission mention one or two of those reasons. It will be remembered that it is a philosophical maxim, upon which we are all agreed, that nature abhors a vacuum; and we have gone so far in christian hope and experience, that we know equally well, that christian

benevolence, a thousand fold more abhors a vacuum. [Much laughter.] But I will mention another reason. I do not know how it is in this country, but in ours we have found out that those steam vessels work the best that work the returning stroke upon a vacuum; we have steam for the direct stroke, and the vacuum for the returning one—that is the way our steam vessels get a-head; [laughter;] and that is also the way we get a-head with our benevolent institutions. [Renewed laughter.] We come up every year, and tell the people what a large vacuum there is in our funds, and the people have learned to abhor the vacuum so much that they throw in their contributions, until we are almost compelled to cry, "Hold, there is enough!" [laughter and applause.] I feel inclined, with your permission, to make a pledge on behalf of the committee. You know, my friends, we are all beggars; [laughter;] but then, let it be distinctly understood that this society are none of your common kind of beggars. [Renewed laughter.] We have no notion of coming to-day and saying, "Oh only help us this time and we will never trouble you again;" (laughter); oh no; you shall have no such begging as that. [Laughter and applause.] But, on behalf of the Committee, I will put my pledge on the form of this petition: "If you will only pay up the £9,500 we are in debt, we solemnly pledge ourselves, that, whenever we get into trouble, we will come to you directly again." [Loud laughter and applause.] Now, Mr. President, if you don't like that, you may just consider it as so much idle wind; and, as you have been so kind as to establish a ferry-boat between England and New York, if when next you want the missionary cause pleading, you will slip a two-penny post letter across, we will endeavour to send you more men, a thousand times better than ourselves, and will help you to beg again. (Laughter and cheers.)

The Rev. Dr. BRAMAN (the other delegate from America) said—Mr. Chairman, I am not included in the list of speakers appointed to take a part on this occasion; but I cannot resist the call which has been made upon me, to bear my testimony in favour of that amazing enterprise in which you are engaged. I came into this assembly, as I supposed, a stranger from a far distant country; but I am impelled by my own feelings to acknowledge that I find in this meeting I am quite at home. (Applause.) I have had the honour of being, for some years, a corporate member of the Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in the United States of America; and, as their representative, I rejoice to meet your society on this occasion. (Hear, hear.) Although I am not myself a Wesleyan, my heart beats warmly on the subject of foreign missions, and I sympathize deeply with the movements of this society. There are two or three points to which with your consent, I will allude. It will doubtless be in some measure gratifying to this audience to be informed, that I attended the last meeting of the Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in my country; and I rejoice to inform you, that the same heavenly pulse, excited by the same divine Spirit, which I believe influences your hearts on this occasion, beat high at that meeting, as it does in this. Though our country was labouring under deep and heavy commercial depression, there was in that meeting but one feeling—that sacrifices should be made adequate to the occasion, and that our watchword in the great work of glorifying God in the world's salvation, should be, "Onwards! onwards! till victory shall crown us with success." (Great applause.) I felt, with great force, the statement in the Report of this morning, that many emissaries are sent abroad by the Church of Rome. (Hear, hear.) A considerable portion of our own country, large and extensive as it is, is still missionary ground; its population is thinly scattered,